

CE News Notes

Fall 2025 • Vol 46 The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



Commemorating 50 Years with Camarillo



Christian Edition Men's Chorus participates in the 50th Anniversary services at Camarillo SDA Church on January 4.

By David Mitchell,
Baritone



Life milestones such as birthdays and anniversaries bring joy as we commemorate them. Particularly meaningful are the silver and golden varieties, such as the 25th and 50th anniversaries. However, these celebrations aren't unique to our individual personal lives. They also apply to remembering the wonderful blessings that come to brothers and sisters in church families as they grow and serve together. One such happy occasion brought Christian Edition to the Camarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church on January 4, 2025, where the congregation gathered that Sabbath morning to remember the building and opening of their

new church facility 50 years prior, on that very day in 1975.

As a Camarillo member since 1981, it was indeed joyful to recall fond memories and familiar names. Many of the original 50 founding members have passed on and wait for the return of their Savior to take them home, but a few were actually in attendance. Long-time friend and former Pastor at Camarillo, Lonnie Melashenko, was there to help the congregation reminisce and reflect on how God had led in so many indisputably divine ways. Stories were told about His guiding hand during the acquisition of the property, the way the finances were worked out to be manageable, and how certain permitting licenses were eventually approved

Continued on page 3

From the Keyboard

By Michael Spencer,
Director



In the summer of 2023, Christian Edition took one of our most ambitious trips in recent years – a week-long excursion to upstate New York. In the nine days we were there, we crisscrossed the state, singing at camp meeting, churches, and in hospital rooms. In between these appointments, during our “spare time,” we were fortunate enough to visit two very special sites significant to Adventist history and shoot video footage for several songs from our most recent recording project.

To stand on Hiram Edson’s farm in the barn, or by the edge of his corn field, to sing atop the rocky outcrop on William Miller’s farm where our early church members waited on October 22, 1844, for Christ’s return, were deeply moving experiences which we recorded to share with our friends online.

As we were shooting the original footage, we made coverage choices supporting a particular way of looking at the songs. We spent time going over and over songs in different locations and from different angles. We had a drone flying over us. We had rain. When our editor, Michael Molina, began sending us his edits of the songs, he gave us a fresh perspective on what we had sent him. Thanks to the talents of Mr. Molina, you can see us singing on both farms, and if you look very carefully, even singing in the rain in a few shots. Finally, two years later, we are able to share this remarkable experience with you.

To see the videos, visit the Christian Edition YouTube channel at [YouTube.com/@christianedition3192](https://www.youtube.com/@christianedition3192). Our new videos will be the first four in the list.

I’ve mentioned here before how the editing process reminds me of God’s work in our lives.

In this case it’s like the old expression, “If you want to hear God laugh, just tell Him your plans.” God takes what we bring Him, and sometimes turns it not only into something better than the sum of the bits we gave Him, but also into something entirely unexpected.

May God grant you joy and surprise in your life today.



The New Album Has Arrived!

Our newest and long-awaited album, *You Will See Your Lord A-Coming*, is finally available for purchase and/or download! Please visit our store at ChristianEdition.com for ordering and purchase options.



Commemorating 50, continued from page 1

by the City Council when there were previously thought to be insurmountable challenges to that process. These stories continued about how the Adventist Media Center came to the area, and with it familiar speakers and musicians such as the Voice of Prophecy, It Is Written, The King's Heralds, and Del Delker. The presence of so many physicians, dentists and allied health professionals trained at Loma Linda University who shared our faith's unique health message also contributed to the outreach to the community.

On a more personal level, this church is where I learned about Seventh-day Adventists. I joined by profession of faith in November 1981, married my wife Tami in December 1983, and dedicated each of our two sons in July 1988 and December 1993, respectively. Tami became Children's Ministry Director, leading out with His Kids Youth Choir and the Adventurer Club, while watching our sons and their friends grow to know Jesus. Perhaps one of the more entertaining stories shared over the celebration Sabbath was Pastor Melashenko's telling of his getting to hone his early ministry baptism skills with Tami as his "guinea pig" in her Camarillo home's backyard swimming pool!

Enjoying the long-standing tradition of musical excellence singing with the Camarillo church choir and male chorus, it was such a gift to learn at the feet of Wayne Hooper (former King's Heralds baritone, hymnologist, and prolific quartet music arranger), as well as alongside Liz Remboldt (choir director and organist), and George Swanson (also choir director and arranger). This is just another example of the

Lord's leading. Ironically, it was at Camarillo that I was able to have the opportunity to hear Christian Edition in January 2018, though I knew of them from singing in men's chorus festivals back in the early 1990s. After the program, I met with then CE director, Calvin Knipschild, to inquire about possibly joining the group and then began practicing with them at San Gabriel Academy. Following an audition a few months later, I was happily invited to become a member.

Christian Edition's invitation to come and participate in the 50th Anniversary high Sabbath included providing selections during the worship hour like "Joy!" and "What a Beautiful Name." We enjoyed the church's hospitality with a delicious potluck luncheon, then got to do what we really love doing – singing about Jesus' wonderful love and

amazing grace. The afternoon vespers program musically capped off a day filled with reflecting on God's providence in the lives of this church community in the "Pleasant Valley" of Ventura County.



Photo Album

Palm Springs SDA Church – February 1



Glendale Filipino SDA Church – March 15



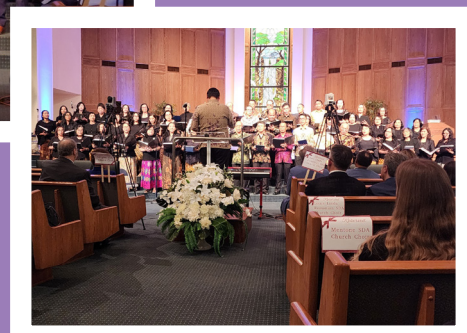
Friendly Valley Community Center – March 15



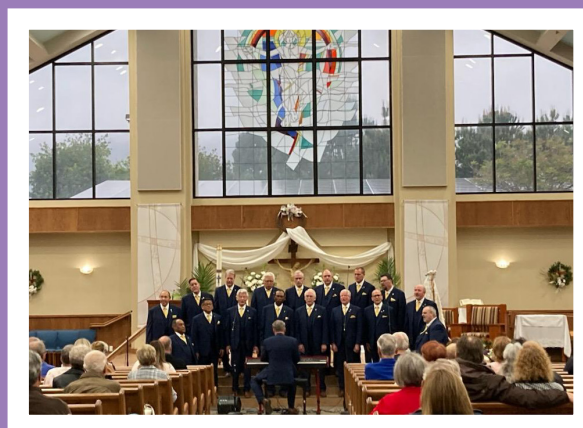
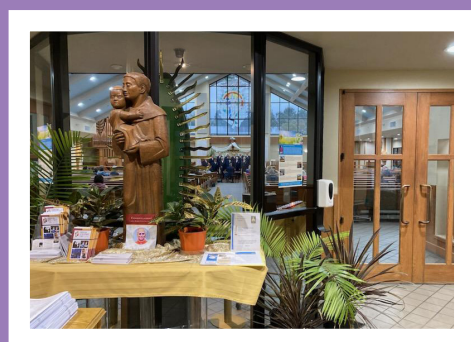
San Bernardino Community SDA Church – April 19



Loma Linda University Health 3rd Annual Choir Festival – April 19



St. Anthony's Catholic Church – May 17



Two Good Things

By Jillian Lutes



In 1997 when I was eight years old, my father became Christian Edition's accompanist. As a result, I grew up attending most of CE's concerts and many of its rehearsals. Their kindness to me, playfulness with each other on tour, and words of wisdom throughout my childhood and adolescence were a great

inspiration to me. When I became a pastor, though, it got harder and harder to keep up with these good men who are so important to me, and I missed them.

Earlier this year I was blessed with some time to reconnect. It was so fun to relive childhood memories by sharing a hotel room with my parents, catching up with the guys over breakfast, and best of all, listening to the amazing music that influenced me to be not just an Adventist pastor, but a happy Adventist pastor.

The Camarillo, Palm Springs, and Glendale Filipino concerts were all such a delight, with the last two even more so because my two-year-old son, Matthew, came along. I grew up sitting next to Dad at the piano for the children's song; it made me smile to cede that place to my little ginger-haired boy.

All of this was practice for something I've surprisingly never had the privilege of doing: hosting Christian Edition at the main service for the church I pastor at, West Covina Hills. Oh, sure, I've had them over for Vespers before, but this time, my lead pastor J.P. O'Connor encouraged me to invite them for the main service so that everyone could enjoy them, not just those who were willing to make an extra trip for Vespers in the evening. (Incidentally, J.P. himself wanted to see the group so badly that he actually came to church to see them, despite still being officially on vacation. From a working pastor with few Sabbath mornings off, that's a very big deal.)



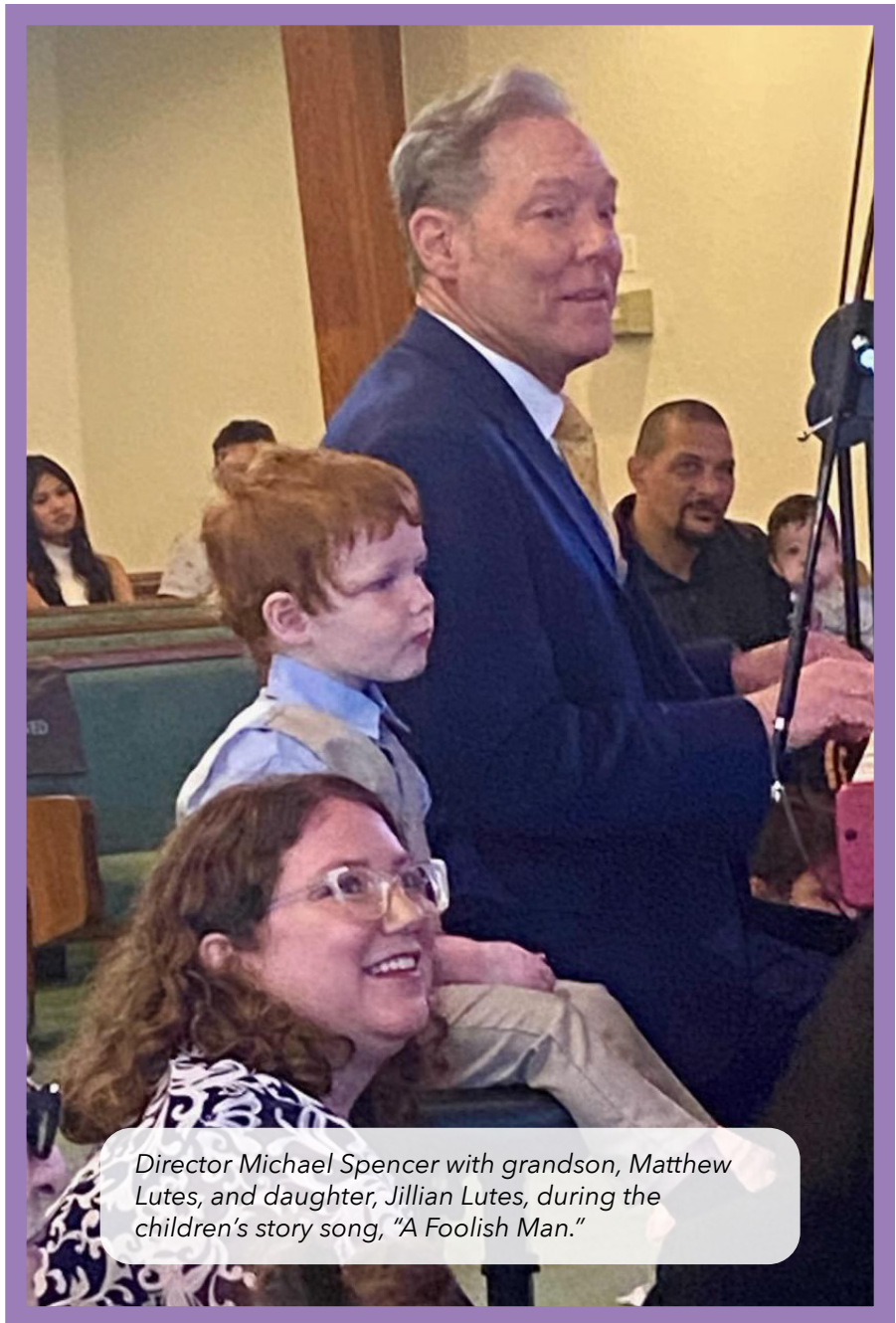
Christian Edition provides the morning worship service at the West Covina Hills SDA Church on May 17.

For me, this concert at West Covina Hills was a beautiful, unusual chance to share two groups of people I really love with each other. I've been in my church for over nine years now, and it was so fun to see all these kids I've spent time with for school chapels, VBS, Sabbath School, Adventurers, and Bible studies sit with the guys for the children's song. It was hilarious to see some of them not quite sure how to react to the experience, but they warmed up by the end.

I had expected this to be a good time for all, but I had underestimated how much this visit would mean to my church members. Several of them told me afterward on my way to potluck, that they had actually cried from how meaningful the music was to them. One person said, "You've been holding out on us, Pastor Jillian!"

Speaking of potluck, this occasion encouraged our local team to streamline a few things, making this one of the most bountiful potlucks I have ever seen at this church. As much as the guys enjoyed it, my potluck leader was positively glowing, saying, "Can you bring them every time we have potluck?"

Something that had fallen through the cracks during preparation was arranging a love offering for the group. At the last minute, my secretary and I decided to risk it, even though it usually requires a procedural board vote. We were a little nervous about it, but not only were there zero complaints from the board, the offering was also generous. The congregation was grateful for the opportunity to support the group's ministry.



Director Michael Spencer with grandson, Matthew Lutes, and daughter, Jillian Lutes, during the children's story song, "A Foolish Man."

The ties between my church and Christian Edition continue to grow with Tour CD Sales Manager Malisa Smith, now the TK-1st grade teacher at West Covina Hills Adventist School. It's not uncommon to spot some of the guys at the occasional school event. As I write this, my lead pastor is prepping a sermon about how good things are meant to be shared. Sharing my church with CE, and CE with my church, has made both all the sweeter.

Calendar

CONCERT TIMES OR LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION OR CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM A CONCERT BEFORE TRAVELING LONG DISTANCES. (SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HAS BEEN ABBREVIATED TO SDA.)

SEPTEMBER 2025

20 Saturday 11:00 AM Worship in Song
Lodi Fairmont SDA Church
730 S. Fairmont Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240
(209) 334-1844

20 Saturday 6:00 PM Worship in Song
Stockton Central SDA Church
1314 N. Madison Street
Stockton, CA 95202
(209) 465-0213

OCTOBER 2025

18 Saturday 11:00 AM Worship in Song
The Haven SDA Church
15 Woodland Road
St. Helena, CA 94574
(707) 963-1497

18 Saturday 5:00 PM Worship in Song
Hayward SDA Church
26400 Gading Road
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 782-3422

JANUARY 2026

17 Saturday 11:45 AM Special Music
3:00 PM Worship in Song
Azure Hills SDA Church
22633 Barton Rd.
Grand Terrace, CA 92313
(909) 825-8611

FEBRUARY 2026

21 Saturday 11:00 AM Worship in Song
Desert Hot Springs SDA Church
11711 Palm Dr.
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
(760) 251-9992

21 Saturday 3:00 PM Worship in Song
Palm Springs SDA Church
620 S. Sunrise Way
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 327-5112



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for worshipping with us!*

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Henry Murray
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Paul Wilcox

Baritones
David Mitchell
Chris Sheridan
Keith Smith
Craig Vendouris

Second Tenors
Fred Miller
Russ Nelson
Dick Sample
Dennis Shogren
Mickey Smith

Basses
Walt Nelson
Brian Rothe
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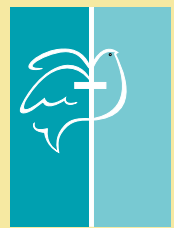
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