

CE NewsNotes

summer 2009 | Vol 20 The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



Director's Message

— Calvin Knipschild



I am often asked, “Why do you and the Christian Edition family do what you do without charging for your programs?” Maybe this illustration will help you to understand; it is not theologically correct, but it *does* reveal a very important truth.

Pearly Gates *(Author Unknown)*

A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates. St. Peter says, “Here is how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you have done, and I will give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in.”

“Okay,” the man says. “I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart.”

“That’s wonderful,” says St. Peter. “That’s worth three points!”

“Three points?” he says. “Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry faithfully with my tithes and service.”

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Christian Edition spends a day recording in the Three Angels Broadcasting Network Studios.

3ABN Studio Visit Starts Tour

— Jonathan Davidson

Jonathan is the youngest member of Christian Edition and attends college at La Sierra University.

It was March, and Christian Edition left their busy lives in Southern California to venture east and do what they love to do... share the love of Jesus through music. And I, also known as “rookie,” experienced my first week-long trip as the newest member of Christian Edition.

Our journey commenced in the early-morning hours at LAX. One of the first things I learned about Christian Edition was that humor is never in short supply, nor is there a time when humor is inappropriate. Even at five in the morning, the men of CE radiated smiles, told stories and playfully ribbed each other. As I watched, the camaraderie of the group amazed me. To see such a diverse group of men greet

each other with warm hugs and firm handshakes and then quickly fall into conversation caused me to anticipate that first reunion in heaven. At that moment, any apprehension about the trip vanished and I knew we would have an exciting, eventful, and blessed trip together.

We arrived in Chicago and drove to West Frankfort, Illinois, home of the Three Angels Broadcasting Network. We were scheduled to record for two days in the studio, but thanks to the professionalism and expertise of the 3ABN crew, we were able to

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Phoenix Trip, January 16–18, 2009

A Child's Perspective

— Carlie Vendouris

Carlie is the 10-year-old daughter of baritone Craig Vendouris.

Our trip to Arizona was awesome! We left at 5:15 A.M. from Glendale and stopped at Loma Linda to pick up the members who live in that area. From there we headed to Arizona for our weekend of concerts. Once we crossed the Colorado River, we stopped to get some lunch before going to our hotel. When we arrived at the hotel, we checked in then went to dinner at Organ Stop Pizza, one of our favorite places to eat. The vespers concert on Friday night was very good.



Carlie Vendouris and her mom, Cherie, disembark from the tour bus in Arizona at the start of the tour.

CE had a new CD released this weekend. It is entitled *Jesus Paid It All*. In my opinion, it is a winner!

On Sabbath, CE sang in Glendale, Arizona. At the conclusion of the concert and potluck, we



A dedicatory prayer is offered for Christian Edition prior to the worship service at the Glendale SDA Church.

headed for Prescott, starting our two-hour journey to our evening concert. After the concert we visited Gayle Craig's friends, Rusty and Terry Palmer, with whom we enjoyed an excellent homemade dinner. They live in a rustic log cabin where we played games and also played with reptiles. One was a pet corn snake. It felt cool and smooth once I built up enough courage to touch and hold it. After such a lovely evening we returned to the hotel for a well-deserved rest.

In the morning after showers and breakfast, we packed our bags to leave the hotel and sing at our final church. Following the concert, we climbed back on the bus to return to our homes in Southern California. It was the best trip ever! ●

Director's Message

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"Terrific!" says St. Peter. "That's certainly worth a point."

"One point! Good grief. How about this—I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"TWO POINTS!" the man cries, "at this rate, the only way I will get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Come on in!" replies St. Peter.

Christian Edition sings, travels, and shares this one all-important truth: **WE ARE ALREADY SAVED** if we will just accept God's grace through receiving Jesus Christ and His death for us on the cross.

We need to reach as many as we possibly can with this truth, and we can only continue to do this through the financial support of those who believe in our ministry.

Christian Edition is a total "Faith Ministry," and we can continue this musical evangelistic outreach because you care enough to give your financial support. Please

remember that all financial support goes directly to the musical ministry. No one in Christian Edition ever receives payment for any concert performances.

I invite you to visit our website, www.christianedition.com, to see how you may support this ministry through a one-time gift or through systematic giving called "Wings of Faith" (a monthly commitment).

We prayerfully thank you for your belief in our music and for your financial support. Every gift, regardless of size, is deeply appreciated. ●

Tour

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finish the evening of the first day. On the second day, our director, Calvin Knipschild, along with first tenor David Taylor and baritone Chris Klebba, were interviewed by president Jim Gilley of 3ABN. They answered questions about Christian Edition's mission through 28 years



CE Bass, Jonathan Davidson, goes through the makeup process prior to the recording session.

of music ministry, shared stories and spoke of our one and only goal: to spread the loving message of our Savior. Our time at 3ABN was my first encounter with behind-the-scenes-activities of television since joining the group, and I found it to be particularly exciting and humbling. Through the network, millions of households around the world will hear the musical testimony of Christian Edition. 3ABN is a powerful tool in the Lord's hand, and it was a great honor to be a part of their mission.

Twenty-four hours later, we traveled north for an evening concert at the Paw Paw SDA Church in Michigan where we received a warm welcome from the congregation and thoroughly enjoyed worshipping with them. On Friday, we had



The Hinsdale Men's Chorus and Christian Edition perform together.

a window of free time before our next evening concert. Some members visited relatives, old stomping grounds and famous landmarks significant in Adventist church history. Others accepted an invitation to tour the studio of the Christian artist, Nathan Greene, who has been commissioned to paint by many organizations such as Loma Linda University, NASA, Focus on the Family, and Christianity Today. On Friday evening, we sang in front of a backdrop of flags that represented the diverse cultures that worship together at the All Nations Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Sabbath morning worship at the Stevensville Church was an "aha" moment for CE when we reached the children's section of our program. With delight and amazement we watched as dozens and dozens of young people made their way to the stage to sit among us. In my brief time with the group, we have never sung for so many children in one place. Their bright faces made the day remarkably special.

Six hours later we sang at the Hinsdale SDA Church in Illinois

where we had the honor of joining with the Hinsdale Men's Chorus to sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Even though our groups practiced together only once, they blended with our ranks seamlessly as if we had been one group all along. Our praises have never sounded so good.

Our final concert on Sunday afternoon was at the South Shore United Methodist Church in Chicago. Though we had had a full week, the excitement of the congregation and the Holy Spirit gave us energy to worship with our full enthusiasm.

Suddenly, I realized the trip was almost over, and I had survived my first of what I hope will be many trips with Christian Edition. The week was not without delays, car trouble and plenty of waiting—especially at the airports. But I couldn't help but be impressed by the positive attitudes of the men. With 32 people traveling together for a week, I expected ruffled feathers, but only saw patience and love. Traveling with Christian Edition was a wonderful experience that has whetted my anticipation for a repeat. ●

Winter 2009, Arizona Tour

An Adult Perspective

— Nancy Wolfe

“Get Up and Get Moving!”

Friday morning, January 17, came bright and early for many in the Christian Edition family this year. The long-anticipated trip to Arizona started with the chartered bus leaving Glendale, California, at 5:15 A.M. and pulling into the Loma Linda area to pick up the rest of the waiting group and their families. The weekend adventure had finally begun! My husband, Patrick, a bass singer with the group, was eager for our boys and me to experience the fun and camaraderie of a Christian Edition bus tour – and we were ready to go! The boys experienced “heaven on earth” as they mingled with so many of their “older friends” on the bus and throughout the weekend.

“Pipes and Praise”

We arrived in Mesa, Arizona, on Friday afternoon and headed to Organ Stop Pizza, where we enjoyed good food and a concert on an amazing Wurlitzer organ with more than 5,000 pipes. After that, the real fun began as we made our way to Mesa Palms Seventh-day Adventist Church for the evening concert, where Pastor Terry Darnall and his wife, Debbie, welcomed us. It was a blessing to hear the men praising the Lord and to witness the joy on the faces of over 250 people

who had come to worship with us. Christian Edition’s new CD, *Jesus Paid It All*, made its debut at this concert. We were happy to have more beautiful music to share. As we visited with friends and family afterwards, there was excitement for John Reader as he got to see his son, Joel, and wife, Linda. My husband, Patrick, was able to reconnect with former teachers from Monterey Bay Academy, Bob and Betty Baerg. Lorraine Payne, who has been a close friend of my parents through the years also attended. We were definitely getting a foretaste of “when we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be” as we praised the Lord and visited with each other.

“Sabbath Celebrations”

On Sabbath, Christian Edition had the privilege of worshipping with some wonderful people at our first place of worship, the Glendale Seventh-day Adventist Church. The congregational song, “How Sweet are the Tidings,” rang loud and clear as people sang with all their hearts with Pastors Gary Venden at the piano and Greg Jones leading the congregation. I won’t soon forget when it was time for the kids to come and join the men on stage for the special children’s song. As soon as Calvin invited the children to come, all the kids started to make their way to the front of the church. It was wonderful to see over 60 kids on the stage. Praise the Lord for His children! The Glendale church provided a delicious potluck with continued fellowship. Soon after, we were heading out to our next destination.

Saturday afternoon, we moved up a little higher in elevation to an area with a brisk chill in the air. After having passed through some beautiful countryside, we arrived at the Prescott Seventh-day Adventist Church and were warmly greeted by Pastor Michael Cook and many people from the community. The evening was another testimony to the blessings Christian Edition receives from so many of you who come to worship with us in spirit and song.

After vespers, our bus driver, Bob, showed his excellent driving skills by safely maneuvering around sharp hairpin curves to the lovely home of Rusty and Terry Palmer. Terry and Gayle Craig, our CE photographer, are best friends. She and

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CHRISTIAN EDITION, A MEN'S CHORUS
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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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DESIGN AND TYPOGRAPHY
WP PLUS



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her husband hosted us for a beautiful evening of delicious food, joyful conversation and well-deserved relaxation. (Those baked potatoes and toppings sound good to me right now and I know many a man and woman who would happily go back for some of that yummy taco salad or those peanut butter squares!)

“Sunday Fellowship and Homeward Bound”

On Sunday, Christian Edition spent time to reconnect with friends with whom we have worshiped before. Worship service was shared with Reverend Donald Furrow’s congregation at the Trinity Bible Church of Sun City West. It is always thrilling to return to see friends and relish the special joy of being a part of God’s family. I overheard one lady reminiscing about her time cruising with CE in Alaska. We look forward to a time that we can invite you to join us on our 30-year reunion cruise planned for 2011!



Ryan, Nancy, Patrick and Brandon Wolfe enjoying Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona.

As the weekend hours dwindled into minutes, it was time to board the bus and settle in for the five- to six-hour drive home. What a blessing that Christian Edition could share their love for God and joy of harmonizing with many of you during the weekend and in return to be loved and ministered to by each of the congregations with which we worshiped! God is good and may His name continue to be praised! May we glorify Him by our living, loving, and trusting obedience. Praise to Him for a wonderful weekend. Our boys are ready to go on another tour and we hope we see you then! ●

The distinguished performers of Christian Edition

DIRECTOR

Calvin Knipschild

ACCOMPANIST

Michael Spencer

FIRST TENORS

Henry Murray

Rob Peterson

David Taylor

Paul Wilcox

SECOND TENORS

Fred Miller

Russ Nelson

LaMarr Proffitt

Mickey Smith

John Thomson

BARITONES

Chris Klebba

Al Perry

John Reader

Frank Rubio

Keith Smith

Craig Vendouris

BASSES

Jonathan Davidson

Leonard Fletcher

Ken Holland

Vave Maneafaiga

Gary Mattison

Patrick Wolfe

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Please add me to your email notification list (provide email address).

Please send me the quarterly newsletter in the mail.

Thanks

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.)

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 11 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 18 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 26 Saturday 10:00 A.M.–6:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
Loma Linda Academy Music Room
10656 Anderson Street
Loma Linda, CA 92354-2104
909 796-0161

OCTOBER 2009

- 2 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 9 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 16 Friday 7:30 P.M. **Concert**
Fletcher SDA Church
1141 Howard Gap Road
Hendersonville, NC 28792
828 684-0332
- 17 Saturday 11:00 A.M. **Concert**
Asheville Foster SDA Church
375 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, NC 28803-2749
828 274-2014
- 17 Saturday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
Greenville SDA Church
710 Asheville Highway
Greenville, TN 37743-5404
423 638-5014
- 18 Sunday 10:55 A.M. **Concert**
Beverly Hills Baptist Church
777 Tunnel Road
Asheville, NC 28805-1918
828 298-4623
- 30 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**

NOVEMBER 2009

- 7 Saturday 3:00 P.M.–8:00 P.M. **Rehearsal/Gen. Meeting**
Loma Linda Academy Music Room
10656 Anderson Street
Loma Linda, CA 92354-2104
909 796-0161
- 13 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**



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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN EDITION
1125 E. BROADWAY, PMB 156
GLENDALE, CA 91205

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Dozens and dozens of children join with Christian Edition for the morning worship service at the Stevensville SDA Church in Michigan.

- 20 Friday 7:30 P.M. **Concert**
Fairmont SDA Church
730 S. Fairmont Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240-4615
209 334-1844
- 21 Saturday 10:50 A.M. **Concert**
Elmshaven SDA Church
16 Woodland Road
Saint Helena, CA 94574-9554
707 963-1497
- 21 Saturday 6:00 P.M. **Concert**
Antioch SDA Church
2200 Country Hills Drive
Antioch, CA 94509-7434
925 757-7337
- 22 Sunday 10:00 A.M. **Concert**
Martinez First Congregational Church
1229 Court Street
Martinez, CA 94553-1736
925 228-0549

DECEMBER 2009

No Rehearsals or Concerts

JANUARY 2010

- 8 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 15 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 16 Saturday 10:55 A.M. **Concert**
Ontario SDA Church
856 N. Sultana Avenue
Ontario, CA 91764-3243
909 986-8261
- 16 Saturday 6:00 P.M. **Concert**
Palm Desert Oasis SDA Church
74200 Country Club Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260-1688
760 568-0809
- 17 Sunday 4:00 P.M. **Concert**
SkyRose Chapel
Rose Hills Memorial Park
3888 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601-1626
562 699-0921

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