

Jesus Is Joy

by Amithy Smith



"Jesus Is Joy" is one of my favorite songs and was the opening for Christian Edition's worship service on April 22 at the Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church in Auburn, California. How very appropriate was this song about Jesus, the only reason for our joy!

Because it was Easter weekend, the empty tomb and what seemed like a thirty-foot towering cross was the perfect backdrop for the Sabbath evening program. These symbols were stark reminders of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. From where I sat, I could see the empty tomb. I visualized Christ coming out of the



Christian Edition participates in an Easter celebration vespers at the Auburn SDA Church.

darkness of death after being buried.

"Jesus Is Joy" always brings home for me joyfulness that is extraordinary and eternal. I need the eternal joy only Jesus can give so I don't settle for that which is temporary. I ask for this joy daily, but how do I know I have it? I suspect the same things that gave Jesus joy are what should give me joy: His love for humanity and His passion for our salvation.

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by Calvin Knipschild

Director's Message



One of my favorite authors, Karl Haffner, in his book *The Cure for the Last Days*, shared this powerful story.

William Miller, the Adventist pioneer who erroneously interpreted Daniel 8:14 to mean Jesus would come on October 22, 1844, discovered this in his later years. Shortly before his death he said to his friend Hendrix, "I now know when Jesus will come."

"Really? You were quite wrong the

last time. Now when do you think Jesus will come?"

The aged Miller replied, "Jesus is going to come today, today, today . . . until He comes." Clearly, there are specific things we ought to be doing while waiting for Jesus to return.

We, too, can KNOW when Jesus will return if we choose to accept William Miller's powerful insight. He's coming today, so let's pray. He's coming today, so let's love. He's coming today, so let's serve. Today . . . until He comes.

Jesus Is Joy

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Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full" (John 15:11). Jesus promises that we will be joyful. "The joy of the Lord is my strength" (Nehemiah 8:10). We can be strong in the Lord because when we are weak, He is strong and His joy reigns over us.

The joy of the Lord kept Him on the cross. The joy of the Lord will help us to endure trials and will keep our eyes fixed on heaven. "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and the perfecter of faith who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

When Christian Edition stood in front of the cross singing "Hide Me Behind the Cross," I knew it meant for us to be hidden behind the cross, but for me it

meant to be hidden in the heart of a victorious Jesus. This gives me joy!

After the service I was reminded of the joy of heaven when people were greeting each other, discovering where they all went to school, and discussing what they are doing currently. As usually happens when Christian Edition travels to sing, old acquaintances were resurrected between the singers and some of the church members. After a light supper, we got in our cars and went our separate ways not knowing if or when we will see each other again.

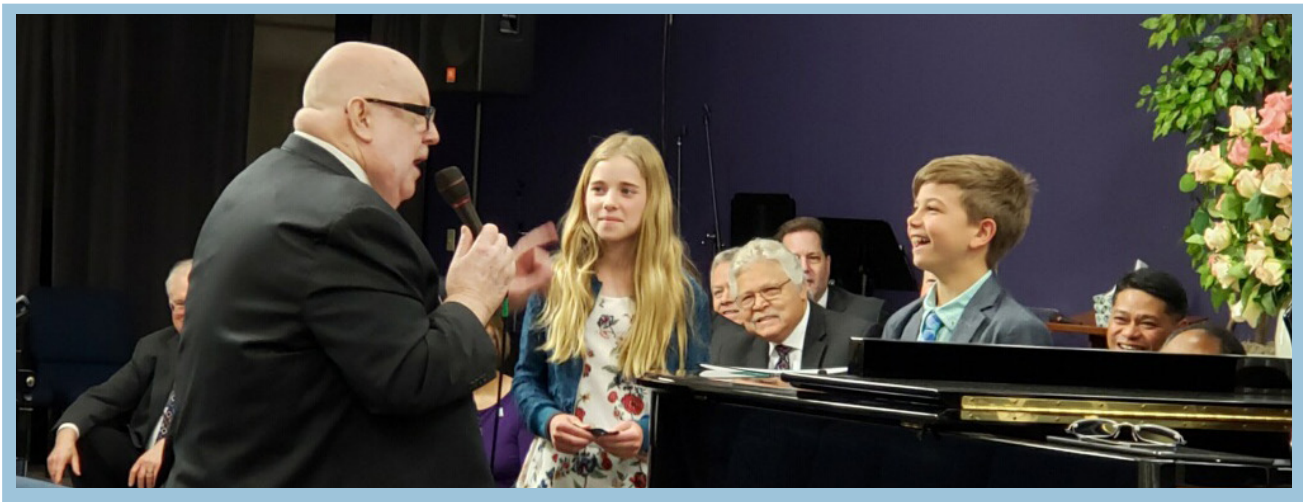
But while we wait, we can visualize the Lord's coming, resurrected from the empty tomb. We can live in the hope that we will never part again, and in a few more days we will meet Jesus, who is our "Marvelous Joy!"



Second tenor soloist Russ Nelson (left) and baritone soloist Chris Klebba (below) share their message in music at the Camarillo SDA Church in January.



Palm Springs SDA Church was the site for the Winter Campmeeting in February. A day filled with keynote presenter William Johnsson, Christian Edition, fellowship with long-time friends, and abundant sack lunches to feed everyone!



CE Director Calvin Knipschild shares a personal message with Lana Kekich and Stefan Andjelkovic following the children's song at the Yugoslavian SDA Church in Sacramento. The children also received *Kids of the Kingdom* CDs.

Sweet Reunion at Sacramento Yugoslavian SDA Church

by Sam and
Debbie Aleksic



Being a member of the worldwide Adventist denomination guarantees that you may meet someone you know at any place and at any time. For example, Mickey Smith, one of our second tenors and a teacher, often meets former students at various concert locations.

Recently my wife, Debbie, and I arrived with other CE members at the Sacramento Yugoslavian Church for the morning church service. As soon as we got out of our car, a church member came to welcome us and immediately told me that he remembered me because his wife grew up with my father in Yugoslavia.

You see, I was born in Yugoslavia and lived there for the first few years of my life. When I was seven, my family emigrated to Chicago where other family members and Yugoslavian friends were living. When I was 17, we moved to Southern California and attended the San Pedro Yugoslavian SDA Church. On that special April 20th CE Sabbath in Sacramento, I enjoyed reconnecting with my former church

friends who were transplants from both the Chicago & San Pedro Yugoslavian churches.

The church members were very welcoming and inviting to our group of singers. Even though the church service was in Yugoslavian, English translation was provided. After our praise & worship service, a delicious lunch was served along with warm hospitality. Of course, Yugoslavian potlucks always include traditional Serbian & Croatian desserts such as baklava, oblatne (chocolate wafer cake) and kiflice (layered cookies). I spent a wonderful afternoon reminiscing and catching up on old times.

Meeting people we know at various locations is just as exciting as a family reunion; however, what a grand reunion it will be when we meet friends and loved ones on the sea of glass on that great day when Christ comes again and takes us to live with Him forever. In the meantime, CE will continue to travel and sing songs of our Savior and Redeemer!

Our Philosophy Informs Our Behavior

by Gary Gifford,
Bass



We all have thoughts about life that guide us in making daily decisions. Some people in our culture have called these guiding thoughts their "philosophy of life." When we think about our relationships with others and our philosophy regarding these relationships, I am reminded that Jesus had a way of talking about these philosophies and putting them into a story, for He never taught without stories.

Dr. Luke, who was definitely interested in the human side of life, recorded a story in the tenth chapter of his book about a lawyer who asked Jesus, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said, "What is written in the law?"

The attorney said, "Love God with all you have, and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said, "You are correct. Do this and you will live."

But the attorney, seeking to justify himself, said to Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

Then Jesus did His philosophical teaching in the story about the man who was on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho. Thieves attacked him, beat him up, stole his goods, and left him half-dead beside the road. A priest came by, saw him, went to the opposite side of the road, and continued his journey. Next, a Levite came by, looked at him and also passed by to the other side.

Finally, the Samaritan passed by the Jew that had been beaten up, went over and gave him first aid, set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and began the process of helping him move toward healing and health. He paid the innkeeper and said, "Continue to take care of this man and I will pay you for his stay when I return."

Then Jesus asked the lawyer, "Who of these three do you think was the neighbor to the man who fell among thieves?"

The attorney answered, "The one who showed mercy on him."

Jesus said, "Go and do like he did."

In this story, Jesus sketches out the three philosophies of life related to relationships with others. The first philosophy is represented by the philosophy of the thieves. Many people allow this philosophy to guide them in personal, family, and public relationships. It can be summarized in this sentence: "What is yours is mine; I'll take it."

Understanding that philosophy--and taking advantage of it--a resident in New York City wrapped his garbage in Christmas paper with a beautiful bow placed on the top. He put this package



Baritones Keith Smith and Bruce Powers sing "This Little Light of Mine" with Annabelle, Eleanor, and Chloe Craig at the Pacific Union College Church.

in the passenger seat of his car parked on the street and purposefully left the passenger window open. During the two-week garbage collectors' strike, garbage was piling up on street corners to a height of 12-feet deep. This man never had a problem having his garbage taken off of his car seat every day by people whom he was quite sure would operate under the thieves' philosophy of relationships: "What's yours is mine; I'll take it." Jesus was not recommending that the lawyer operate using this philosophy. Nor was He recommending that we operate using that philosophy.

The second philosophy represented by the priest and the Levite goes something like this: "What's mine is mine; I'll keep it." So the priest and the Levite kept what was theirs and walked by on the other side of the road.

Jesus does not recommend this second philosophy of "What's mine is mine; I'll keep it." Following this philosophy leads people to become the smallest package in the world because they are "all wrapped up with themselves." You won't have much joy, you won't have much in terms of deep and lasting friendships, and you won't have success in life if you operate under the "What's mine is mine; I'll keep it" philosophy.

The last philosophy Jesus presents in this story is the philosophy modeled by the good Samaritan. His philosophy can be stated like this: "What's mine is yours; I'll share it." And that's exactly what he did. He risked his own safety because the thieves may still have been close by. He inconvenienced himself by stopping and bandaging the wounds of the one who had been beaten and left for dead. Then he picked up the tab for the night's stay, and for the needs of the man beyond that night until he should be back to health and regular life.

Members of Christian Edition have adopted the philosophy of the good Samaritan. Do we behave totally and perfectly by that philosophy? No, but we want to. We use the resources and talents God has given us to sing where we are invited, to bring healing to those who may have been wounded and beaten down along the road of life, to bring joy and blessing to those who need their spiritual batteries charged, and to bring peace to those who are perplexed.

"What's mine is yours; I'll share it." This philosophy of life recommended by Jesus, is very beneficial for members of Christian Edition, and for you too!



February 16 found Christian Edition leading in the worship service at their founding church, Eagle Rock SDA, thirty-eight years after they first started as the Eagle Rock Men's Chorus. Later in the day they presented at St Anthony's Catholic Church in Upland, California (see photo).

Calendar

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

MAY 2019

- | | | | |
|----|----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 3 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 4 | Saturday | 3:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 17 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Riverside Rehearsal |
| 18 | Saturday | 12:00 - 6:00 P.M. | Concert |
- Western States Gospel Music Association**
Richfield Community Church
 5320 Richfield Rd.
 Yorba Linda, CA 92886
 (714) 883-8324

JUNE 2019

- | | | | |
|----|----------|------------|-----------|
| 14 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 15 | Saturday | 3:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 22 | Saturday | 10:45 A.M. | Concert |
- Santa Barbara SDA Church**
 425 Arroyo Rd.
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110
 (805) 967-9615

SEPTEMBER 2018

- | | | | |
|----|----------|-----------|---------|
| 20 | Friday | 7:30 P.M. | Concert |
| 21 | Saturday | 9:00 A.M. | Concert |
- Maranatha Convention**
Trinity Life Center
 5225 Hillside Blvd.
 Sacramento, CA 95842
 (916) 348-4673
- Maranatha Convention**
Trinity Life Center
 (See address above)

NOVEMBER 2019

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | Friday | 7:00 P.M. | Rehearsal |
| 2 | Saturday | 4:00 P.M. | Concert |
- Carmichael SDA Church**
 4600 Winding Way
 Carmichael, CA 95841-4540
 (916) 487-8684
- MEN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL**
Carmichael SDA Church
 (See address above)



CE NewsNotes

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Director Calvin Knipschild was not able to travel from Washington to Southern California for the March concerts due to illness, so accompanist Michael Spencer stepped in and did double duty at the Whittier SDA Church, West Covina SDA Church, and Hillside Community Church in Corona.

*Thank you
 for worshipping with us!*

CHRISTIAN EDITION MEN'S CHORUS

Director

Calvin Knipschild

Accompanist

Michael Spencer

First Tenors

Henry Murray

Rob Peterson

Francis Recalde

Paul Wilcox

Second Tenors

Fred Miller

Russ Nelson

Dick Sample

Dennis Shogren

Mickey Smith

Darryl Wheeler

Baritones

Chris Klebba

David Mitchell

Bruce Powers

John Reader

Chris Sheridan

Keith Smith

Craig Vendouris

Basses

Leonard Fletcher

Gary Gifford

Ken Holland

Gary Mattison

Walt Nelson

Patrick Wolfe

CE NewsNotes

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