

A Washington Blessing

— Deann Brown Plocher

Part of the joy of belonging to the large family of God is the pleasure of reconnecting with friends and loved ones during our travels. The week-end of March 16–18 was no exception as Christian Edition launched a five-concert tour throughout the greater Seattle area. It began at Everett Forest Park Seventh-day Adventist Church Friday evening where CE members of the Eagle Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church (Los Angeles) were greeted with warm hugs from Dr. Ken and Bert Head, former long-time Eagle Rock members now residing in Washington.

The surprises didn't end there. Following the worship service at Shoreline Seventh-day Adventist Church Saturday morning, one could hear a boyish squeal of delight as Director Calvin Knipschild grasped an extended hand and announced, "Shelly LaGrone!" proclaiming to all within earshot, "Shelly (Rochelle) LaGrone got me out of band and into choir in the 9th grade!" The rest is history.

Saturday evening's concert at Olympia Transformation Life Center was unexpectedly sweetened by a from-the-heart gift of two large trays of homemade cinnamon rolls presented to Director Calvin. The giver remembered Knipschild's love for cinnamon rolls from a previous CE concert and set to baking an enormous batch when she learned



Eagle Rock members enjoyed a reunion at the Everett Forest Park SDA Church with former Eagle Rock members, Dr. Ken and Bert Head who now live in Washington. Pictured are Richard Gutsche, LaMarr Proffit, Calvin Knipschild, Gayle Craig, Ken Head, Bert Head, Rob Peterson, Malisa Smith, Paul Wilcox and Fred Miller.

CE would be visiting OTLC again. Not surprisingly, gear was stowed, packed and transported back to the hotel in record time in anticipation of the sweet treats awaiting everyone!

On Sunday morning, CE returned to Lakewood New Hope Community Church of the Nazarene. There they had the privilege of musically preparing the way for Pastor Ned Floeter to share his first

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Director's Message

— Calvin Knipschild



Focus

As I have gotten older, eyeglasses have become necessary

for any kind of reading. And, if the print is too small, I also have a special magnifying glass next to my desk within easy reach. It also has an LED light to make sure I can see what I am trying to read.

I find that the centers of the sentences are clear and easy to read, but the edges have become blurred and increasingly more difficult to read. I have learned to focus more on the center of the sentence and to use the magnifying glass on the edges. When it comes to fine print, I don't even try to read it without my magnifying glass.

Living with this situation every day reminds me that my vision is an analogy of my faith. If I concentrate on Jesus as the center of my life and keep a strong faith in Him, everything will eventually work out. As Romans 8:28 says, "...all things work together for good to those who love God..." But if

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message with the congregation, in the wake of the retirement of long-time pastor and friend of CE, Ron Kearns.

The concert tour concluded Sunday evening at Auburn City Seventh-day Adventist Church amidst an array of sunshine, rain, hail, sleet and snowy weather conditions. Despite the unpredictable weather, wherever we traveled a blessing awaited.



Director Calvin Knipschild had a wonderful reunion with Shelly and Vance LaGrone at the Shoreline SDA Church in the Seattle area.

So Why Travel to Attend a CE Concert?

Although CE staff member Gayle (Hegstad) Craig is my cousin by heredity, we grew up as sisters. Whenever she gets within a 400-mile radius of my home, I seize the opportunity for a road trip and a visit! I thought the Washington weekend would be some good ole' family fun and girl time. But I learned that God had something more in mind.

Spending time with Christian Edition members provided glimpses behind the scenes as they trav-

eled, worshiped in song, rehearsed, relaxed and just "hung out." Yes, I witnessed the spirited, impish, boyish souls dressed up in adult suits joke, tease, laugh and carry on as only men can do together. You know what I'm talking about! But I also had the extreme privilege of being present during the serious moments as they bonded together, uplifting and encouraging one another.

Some of my most precious times were when CE gathered pre-concert, as is their practice, to pray over names and requests submitted by previous concert guests. CE members took turns reading each request aloud, occasionally interjecting thoughts from conversations with the authors. Before prayer Calvin Knipschild invited personal requests. As if one could almost "see" the Holy Spirit moving, one by one these men of God opened



Taking a moment to celebrate their March birthdays are Maxine Taylor, Russ Nelson and Ruth Holland.

their hearts to one another sharing personal burdens, concerns and prayer requests. An uplifting season of prayer followed.

Touring can be exhausting despite the best-laid plans. Pack, travel, unpack, set up, tear down,

repack, irregular meal schedules, questionable food choices, unfamiliar beds and sleep-deprived nights highlight just a few of the challenges. I was privy to testimonies of CE members arriving at locations feeling tired and sore, but upon hearing pianist Michael Spencer strike the first few chords of the opening



Always a special moment when Christian Edition is close enough to have family join us at concerts. Pictured are Director Calvin Knipschild's son Erich and grandsons Hudson and Maddox.

number, they were revived, filled with joy and energized throughout the event!

I came away from the weekend with a deeper appreciation for the ministry of CE. I pray that you will too. If Christian Edition offers a concert within driving distance of where you call home, I invite you to make the effort to attend. It will not be just great music, it will be worship at its best and you will be blessed! ●

Southern California Weekend

— Debbie Aleksic

Saturday morning, May 19, found Christian Edition at the Orange Coast Seventh-day Adventist Church in Irvine. We had sung there a few years ago and the congregation welcomed us back with open arms and smiles. After our 30-minute concert, the church members graciously treated us to a delicious potluck lunch, which included my personal favorite — a moist, delicious chocolate cake for dessert, which disappeared quickly.

In the evening we drove to the Van Nuys Seventh-day Adventist Church, where CE blessed the audience with ninety minutes of praise. Before the concert, the senior pastor, John Aitken, shared a tour of his mini-museum of Bible/Anthropology/Archaeology, featuring a table-size model of the Old Testament Sanctuary as well as a collection of authentic movie props and replicas from such movies as *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars*.

Many years ago, Pastor Aitken had a chance to participate in an archaeological dig in Montana where he helped discover vertebrae and foot bones of a 14-foot

dinosaur. The dinosaur and its nest of eggs had been smothered by three layers of mud, which provides evidence to archaeologists that the flood did indeed happen. Pastor Aitken uses his fascinating and wide assortment of interesting artifacts to teach non-believers and kids off the street about the Bible. He encourages them to think: Where did we come from, where are we going, and how is God involved in earth's history — and in my life?

On Sunday morning, Christian Edition sang several numbers at the Garden Grove Church of the Nazarene. The pastor, Jim Stewart, who had not previously heard CE, was greatly blessed by the message in the music. He later told Calvin that the songs were so inspiring to him that he wished that he had allotted more time for Christian Edition to sing to his congregation!

Wherever Christian Edition sings lives are changed. This is because the men always pray before each concert. They pray that God's love and message will come through their songs and touch the hearts of the people. God never fails to do this. ●

With Great Sadness...

The Christian Edition family announces the passing of Nadine Robinson, one of our long-time, non-singing members who signed "Daystar" at numerous concerts since the late 90s. A more detailed article about Nadine will appear in the next issue of *CE NewsNotes*. ●

Look for the newest Christian Edition CD, *Jesus Saves*, to be released in the middle of October 2012. It will first be available on November 3 at the Men's Chorus Festival at the Carmichael SDA Church. *Jesus Saves* will feature 12 songs and is being dedicated in honor of Jeff Wood and in memory of long-time baritone, Al Perry, and support member, Nadine Robinson.

CE NewsNotes

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CHRISTIAN EDITION, A MEN'S CHORUS

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WP PLUS



Director's Message

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I concentrate on questions at the edges of life's journey, things can get blurred. Questions like: Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do innocent children suffer and sometimes die? Why is there so much death, destruction, hate, and lack of forgiveness in the world? Why do some people who call themselves Christians not represent Christ at all?

Faith requires me to accept that not all of my questions will be answered here on Earth, in my lifetime, or to my understanding. But God has shown me His true character and the depths of His love through the sacrificial gift of His only begotten Son. I know that if I focus on His son, Jesus, at the center, I will see God's heart and just how big and true His love is for me. That's all I really need to know now because "...all things (will) work together for good..." ●

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

- 8 Saturday 10:30 A.M.
SACRED WORK SABBATH
Rabobank Convention Center
1001 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 852-7777
- 8 Saturday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
SACRED WORK SABBATH
Rabobank Convention Center
1001 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 852-7777
- 22 Saturday 10:00 A.M. — 6:00 P.M.
San Gabriel Academy **Rehearsal**
8827 E. Broadway
San Gabriel, CA 91776
(626) 292-1156

October

- 12 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 13 Saturday 10:50 A.M. **Concert**
Fullerton SDA Church
2355 W. Valencia Drive
Fullerton, CA 92833-3166
(714) 525-4561
- 13 Saturday 5:00 P.M. **Concert**
Long Beach SDA Church
1001 E. 3rd Street
Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 437-2805
- 14 Sunday 5:00 P.M. **Concert**
Kare Youth Church
5150 Farna Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006
(626) 442-1160

November

- 2 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
Carmichael SDA Church
4600 Winding Way
Carmichael, CA 95841-4540
(916) 487-8684



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- 3 Saturday 10:45 A.M. **Concert**
Orangevale SDA Church
5810 Pecan Avenue
Orangevale, CA 95662-4623
(916) 967-2838
- 3 Saturday 4:00 P.M. **Concert**
MEN'S CHORUS FESTIVAL
Carmichael SDA Church
4600 Winding Way
Carmichael, CA 95841-4540
(916) 487-8684
- 4 Sunday 10:30 A.M. **Concert**
Arden Church of the Nazarene
3337 Arden Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 482-6064
- 26 Saturday 7:00 P.M. **Concert**
First United Methodist Church of Yuma
298 W. Third Street
Yuma, AZ 85364-2220
(928) 783-3674
- 27 Sunday 4:00 P.M. **Concert**
Sky Valley — Caliente Springs
70-200 Dillon Road
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241
(760) 251-5437 or (760) 251-9992

December

NO CONCERTS or OTHER EVENTS

January 2013

- 11 Friday 7:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 12 Saturday 3:00 P.M. **Rehearsal**
- 25 Friday 6:00 P.M. **Concert**
Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church
11273 E. 40th Street
Yuma, AZ 85367-5606
(928) 342-6002
- 26 Saturday 11:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. **Concert**
Yuma Central SDA Church
1681 S. 6th Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364-5557
(928) 783-6533

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