

It Happened at the Calimesa Camp Meeting



By Henry Murray,
First Tenor



You need not ask, for I'll tell you exactly when and where this camp meeting was held. On August 14, 2021, this camp meeting was not at an outside campsite in a campground. Instead, after more than a year of not being able to assemble inside an enclosed building facility, it was a welcome experience to be inside the Calimesa SDA Church in southeastern California. At first, it would seem like it would be a regular Sabbath day worship service, starting with the usual Sabbath School Bible study program, followed after an hour or so with the timely ushering in of the divine worship hour to change the pace. But that didn't happen.

Again, you need not ask, for I'll tell you what happened at the Calimesa Camp

Meeting. Following a carefully, timed to the minute, planned program as arranged by Dr. Bob Soderblom and his team, the excited and anxious congregation burst into singing as the praise team, with organ and piano accompaniment, launched into their first song, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" to commence the hour of worship. The program progressed as the audience seemed energized by the Holy Spirit. The swell of the rich melodious harmony filled the air and flowed through the walls and open doors, windows, and crevices to the outdoors, and into the surrounding community. It was, literally, music to my ears.

We became aware in the announcements that two vital members of the church family had recently passed away. This was a congregation in loss, and the grief was palpable throughout

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In Memory of our Founding Director, Calvin Knipschild

May 17, 1948 – November 1, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a giant in Adventist music circles. Calvin Knipschild was born in Madison, Wisconsin, the third of four children born to John and Reba Knipschild. He spent most of his childhood in Hawaii and Glendale, California, where his father was the Superintendent of Schools. He attended Glendale Adventist Academy (GAA) until his senior year when he transferred to Rio Lindo Academy, a boarding school near Healdsburg, because his father was relocated to the Northern California Conference.

After graduating from high school, he enrolled at Pacific Union College where he majored in Music with a minor in Religion. The music faculty at the time did not agree with his philosophy of music ministry and discouraged him from pursuing a career in music, but he wouldn't be persuaded and transferred to La Sierra College where he continued his music training. He eventually graduated with a B.A. degree in Choral Directing from Beverly Hills University and started his teaching career in 1970 at his alma mater, GAA, where he taught Bible and directed the Chorale. His choir was renowned for their precise sound and his choice of musical selections tended toward music ministry rather than performance.

At the beginning of his tenure at GAA, he started a mixed vocal group called The One Way Singers. They traveled extensively all across the United States performing contemporary gospel music. One of the singers in the group was a beautiful young nursing student named Linda Williams. She caught his eye and they were married on September 12, 1971. After their first child, Erich, was born in 1978, Linda persuaded Calvin to quit traveling and The One

Way Singers was disbanded. However, Calvin's older brother, Conrad, who had sung with him in The One Way Singers, missed traveling and the opportunity to share God's love through music so he organized the formation of a male chorus and persuaded Calvin to direct it. Thus, in 1981, Christian Edition was born. A daughter, DeAnne, also joined their family in 1981.

A few years later, Calvin transferred to San Gabriel Academy (SGA) where he again taught Bible and directed the Chorale. And again, his chorale was renowned for its tight sound and music ministry. Calvin's musical choices and

precise direction made him the perfect choice to direct countless academy music festivals over the years.

As Christian Edition became more well-known, they began to travel and for the past 40 years, they have traveled extensively across the United States. They have been featured in the Family Reunion videos sponsored by the Voice of Prophecy and on countless radio and video broadcasts. They have also sung at several General Conference Sessions and for the National Day of

Prayer in Washington, DC.

After teaching at SGA for several years, Calvin transferred to Loma Linda Academy in Loma Linda, California, where he again taught Bible and directed the Chorale. Calvin retired from teaching in 2010 and he and Linda moved to Washougal, Washington, into their dream retirement home across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon, with a view of Mt. Hood. He continued to direct Christian Edition and would fly down to Los Angeles a few times a month for rehearsals and concerts. He was also persuaded to direct a men's chorus that formed at the Pleasant Valley SDA Church on the outskirts of Portland, Oregon, as well as a



children's choir for homeschoolers, all of which kept him very busy.

During his retirement years, Calvin experienced several health setbacks. When COVID-19 shut things down, he decided to take a less active role in Christian Edition and he turned the direction of the group over to accompanist and arranger Michael Spencer. A few months ago, Calvin was admitted to the hospital and as a result of the illness, his kidneys shut down and he had to have dialysis three times a week, which completely drained his energy. A few weeks ago, he was again admitted to the hospital where he passed to his rest on Monday, November 1, 2021, shortly after his last visit in person with Linda and Erich and on the phone with DeAnne. He is survived by his

wife Linda, his son Erich, his daughter DeAnne, three grandsons, his sister Llona Maxwell, his sisters-in-law Pat Knipschild and Donna Knipschild, several nephews, grandnephews and grandnieces. He was predeceased by his older brothers Conrad and Gary.

In Calvin's family life, in his high school teaching career, and with the Christian Edition men's chorus, his ministry served the Lord first and foremost. His focus was both on bringing everyone he met closer to Jesus in this world and on pointing them towards the blessed hope of the heavenly kingdom to come.

By Paul Wilcox, the only original and continuous member with Calvin since 1981.

A celebration of life for Calvin Knipschild will be held on Sunday, January 23, at 2:00 P.M. in the Loma Linda University Church, 11125 Campus Street, Loma Linda CA, 92354.



It Happened, *cont. from page 1*

the morning. As the rousing song service continued, I could sense emotions were highly stirred. I could also sense chills and goosebumps were beginning to happen for most people in the room. I could tell, beyond the shadow of a doubt, something different was happening here. I almost wanted to ask the person next to me, "What is happening? Can you feel it?"

There was a literal revival experience brewing during this worship hour. The children were all perked up and ready for their story as it was carefully presented and pleasantly appreciated by both a rousing bunch of kids and the rest of the congregation. Next Christian Edition was invited to participate in this joyous worship event, and it was our turn to share our music, "Jerusalem," "Midnight Cry," and "My Heart's Desire."

The service continued with more inspiring music, prayers, and a soul-searching message presented by Pastor Darrin Thurber entitled, "Thinking Inside the Box." We eventually closed with more music and audience participation. For the lunch break, it would appear as if no one was in a hurry to leave the current spiritual feasting environment for the also necessary physical one.

After a delicious haystack lunch just a few blocks away at Mesa Grande Academy, we returned for the afternoon program. This was Christian Edition's first full concert since March of 2020. Due to declining health, our long-time director of forty years was no longer at the helm. Our virtuoso pianist, Michael Spencer, volunteered to take the nod and direct us while also playing the piano for the group. After approximately a year-and-a-half of not rehearsing and singing formally together, this was a test to let the Holy Spirit shine.

We sang for about an hour and shared some of our best message-packed "sermons in song"

for the afternoon audience. It was an inspiration and a thrill to be singing again! The tearjerker, soul-searching messages impacted our hearts as the audience reverberated and echoed our stirred emotions with boisterous AMENs and applause.

After the close of service for the day, the

various little groups again buzzed with comments of how they felt the day went. So many vocalized their gratitude for the blessings they received from the day's worship. Many kept expressing how they felt and knew the Holy Spirit was very present.

Christian Edition members knew the Holy Spirit was moving in the congregation as we were also experiencing it among ourselves. This is really what was happening at the Calimesa Camp Meeting: We all encountered the Holy Spirit and knew it. Many people, as well as Christian Edition, experienced and expressed their unified conviction that we encountered and witnessed the Holy Spirit in action. For this hurting congregation mourning the loss of their loved friends, it was as if we had been sent for just such a time as this.

Unknown to me at the time, while I was moved irresistibly to declare my sentiments to the Christian Edition group the next day, others around the same time were also expressing theirs, sharing it through emails as well. Here is what a few CE members commented to the group the following day.

Dennis Shogren: "It was amazing to watch what the Spirit was able to do with our music on Sabbath. Amazing to hear from those in the audience about how they were impacted, but equally amazing to see how it impacted us. It was good to be back. May we keep singing, despite everything that goes on around us, until Jesus takes us home."

Keith Smith: "I can't tell you enough how blessed I was to be a part of what I consider one of the most inspirational worship services that I have experienced with CE, and ALL of the



previous ones were awesome in their own right. However, considering ALL that we have had to face recently to get to the point that we could sing as a group in a service to a church that is hurting and needed to hear the message we brought in song, is nothing short of AMAZING!"

Dick Sample: "Yesterday was a rich and spirit-filled experience! Although words cannot express how much we miss our beloved Calvin, Michael is doing a superb job of filling his shoes, and I believe Calvin would have been proud of him yesterday! The comments I received yesterday were very positive. My deepest desire is that we get out of God's way and allow Him to guide us in determining our path and destiny!"

Because I felt like a "doubting Thomas" or "doubtful and impetuous Peter," quite uncertain of how our contributions would impact the service, I also wrote the following to my colleagues in an email on August 16.

I struggled since the end of Sabbath evening not to comment on that day's activities by Christian Edition. However, I needed to declare, I was positive the Holy Spirit used us. During months of rehearsals, I wasn't hearing it until the last Friday night's rehearsal prior to the Sabbath of August 14. I walked in while the group was already started. I thought they were playing one of our recordings, but they weren't. I saw then a flicker of hope that this could really work. But Sabbath morning, that was the real test. So, it seemed we pulled it off as a group, but for me, it was different, it became personal.

After Friday night's rehearsal, I realized, however, that I was done. I had no voice left to speak of. It was too much of a struggle. No memory, no voice, just a raspy, choky, rattle after singing two or three songs. I was done. I knew a full concert was out of the question. So then, on Sabbath morning after our three

songs, I felt, there goes the morning, that was it, my best. Then I realized something I wasn't noticing before. I sang the songs without thinking of the words and they just filled in one behind the other. Memory, was that you? The raspiness was gone. Voice, were you really there? I had energy, strong tone, and even felt "pitch clean" parts, unless someone heard otherwise! I felt quite at ease and knew right then as I was thinking all this through, I had to conclude that day, THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS IN THIS PLACE, and I KNEW IT NOT. It was verified, I was convinced, after the afternoon concert that we were used by the Holy Spirit the entire day.

Michael, thanks for believing in us to project your optimism and helping us believe we could really do this. Your bold little flame of confidence stirred quite the conflagration of self-confidence in us, mingled with our faith in the Lord that we could do this. And it gave the Holy Spirit something to work with.

Our faith in the Lord and our togetherness, as in "one accord," gave me a glimpse of what it was like on the day of Pentecost. God bless you all my fellow singers for giving the

Lord still one more chance to use us in His vineyard to share the message of true love, His love, and the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As long as we keep believing and remain available, the Lord will use us to His name's honor and glory till Jesus comes

or calls us home to where we belong. I know now why Jesus asked Peter, "Peter, why did you doubt?"

Clearly being at Calimesa Camp Meeting on this particular Sabbath wasn't just like any other Sabbath. As you can see, not only did Christian Edition and many other people in attendance know it and proclaim it, but I, too, realized it was inevitable to admit, that yes, the Holy Spirit was there, and WE ALL KNEW IT, INDEED!



From the Keyboard

November 2, 2021

Dear Christian Edition Family & Friends,

I met Calvin in 1983 when I was a young music teacher two years out of Pacific Union College, and he was the well-established choral master at Glendale Adventist Academy. We were planning the Southern California Conference Music Festival, and in addition to the usual banter between colleagues, he mentioned the men's chorus he was directing. A few years later, he asked me for an arrangement, which turned out to be "Higher Ground." In 1997, I became Christian Edition's accompanist and I was lucky enough to play and arrange songs for Calvin for over twenty years.

Calvin was passionate about his commitment to music ministry, both with Christian Edition and as an educator. We were doing a choir festival at Mountain View Academy a few years ago and one of the pre-selected songs was a Bach piece. Calvin focused on the words and message of the selection, drawing the students' attention to the idea that God's love has been celebrated in many ways and many styles through the centuries.

His enthusiasm when he had discovered a new song that portrayed God's love was contagious. One Sunday morning, he told me, "Michael, you've got to hear this!" From the JW Pepper listening box that year, he had found "Midnight Cry." Even though we went on to live with the song for decades after that, I still remember his excitement at the find.

Calvin's passion was for the ministry of music. Whether with his high school groups or with Christian Edition, the message was always the primary focus of his attention. We in Christian Edition were inspired in rehearsals to portray the text of our songs in our interpretations. When Calvin announced his retirement last year at the end of our annual meeting, we were all saddened by the harsh medical necessities which made his travel with us impractical. We were reluctant to say goodbye to Christian Edition as a ministry, so we resumed practices in the spring of this year. Calvin would pop into the Zoom windows occasionally to see how we were doing, but he said over and over how glad he was to see that the ministry was carrying on after his retirement. We were all looking forward to our September weekend when we could sing with him in Portland for our belated 40th anniversary.

When that became reckless due to the surge in COVID infections in Oregon, we held out the hope that we'd be able to get together with Calvin at least one more time. When Christian Edition met on October 30 for rehearsal and our phone call didn't get through to Calvin, we recorded a message and a song for him. Linda and Erich played that recording for him the afternoon he passed away. We are grateful that our message of love and friendship made it to him in time. He had asked us to sing "God Wants to Hear You Sing." This was Calvin at his most essential—reaching out to the message of a song for inspiration and healing.

As we continue the ministry Calvin started 40 years ago, we ask your prayers that we remain true to the principle of music as ministry. This ministry has been able to continue not only because of Calvin's dedication to the Lord but also due to the many gifts over the decades that made travel and albums possible. As you know, the singers in CE receive no salary. All the gifts that come in are channeled to sharing the hope of God through recordings and live services.

We would ask for your continued support as we continue without our founding director to sing and share God's love through music. Your donation to the group will enable a congregation to hear us live and will help us share more recordings online. We thank you in advance for your gift which will keep Calvin's legacy vibrantly alive as we bring our music to more hurting hearts in the months and years to come.



Sharing 40 Years of Memories, Part 1

In our last newsletter, Christian Edition members shared their favorite songs and why they stood out among the hundreds of songs CE has sung over the years. For this issue, the group had yet another homework assignment to share their favorite memories in celebration of more than 40 years of ministry. This compilation is the first of a two-part series where our current members share their treasured moments over the years.

Calvin Knipschild - Founding Director, 1981 (written August 2021)

Anniversary Cruises: The cruises hosted by Christian Edition with guest speaker Karl Haffner made an impact on CE with Karl's simple, pure, strong messages to both Christian and non-Christian passengers. Even the staff of the cruise ship would come in and listen during their breaks. The captain of our last cruise had attended one of our programs. He had told us earlier he could not announce our programs over the ship loudspeaker because they were Christian concerts. He was so moved by what he heard, that on the last Sabbath of the cruise it was announced there would be a free concert for anyone who wished to attend. Over 1,000 people were in the ship's theater that afternoon.

Family Reunion videos: The invitation from Jan and Warren Judd to have Christian Edition be a part of the Family Reunion videos made it possible for CE's music to be seen and heard around the world. It was inspiring to be on stage for the videos with so many of the icons of Adventist music which I grew up listening to.

Maranatha: I love the Maranatha organization because we found ourselves bound to another group that believes so strongly in voluntary missionary outreach. They gave us the chance to expand our ministry by giving financial gifts from our CD sales to them which helped dig



wells in Africa. Our final concert weekend prior to the COVID-19 shutdown was with Maranatha celebrating their 50th anniversary in Nashville, Tennessee, in March 2020. (Editor's note: This was also Calvin's final trip with the group.)

Michael Spencer - Director (joined 1997)

After 23 years with Christian Edition, it is difficult to pull out a single memory. The Family Reunion concerts and gatherings we've done, all of the many trips across the country we've taken, and the many congregations we have had the privilege of worshiping with, form a complex mosaic of God's leading in all our lives.

But when asked what my favorite memory is, the one that has always come to mind happened during my first year with the group between songs at the 1998 National Day of Prayer. We were in the Senate office building in Washington, D.C., and there were several speakers slated to present before we did our next song. Al and Mary Lou Perry joined Lori and me, and we went exploring in the basement. We found the subway which connects the office building with the capitol building, and in a matter of minutes we were alongside the congressional staffers making their way from the underground tunnel up into the capitol building proper. No one stopped us or asked us what we were doing, even when I opened a random unlocked door and discovered the walk-in meat locker for the Capitol cafeteria.

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A few more memories that stand out include singing and playing at the Focus on the Family headquarters in Colorado Springs, sharing the grand piano at Anaheim's Crystal Cathedral with Roger Williams, the last minute chance to minister at the Swannanoa Women's Correctional Facility in North Carolina, singing and playing the organ for George Beverly Shea in his home, and sharing the stage with Sandi Patty.

Then there is the Sunday morning when Calvin played "Midnight Cry" for me the first time. Listening to it, we both knew it was a song we could run with. It was buried in a big stack of J.W. Pepper demo recordings and Calvin had dug it out, unearthing a gem of a song that would be with us for many years to come. Calvin always had a sparkle in his eyes when he would say, "Michael, I've got a song I want you to hear. Let's see if we can turn it into a CE song."

Henry Murray - First Tenor (joined 2000)

I recall a moment during one of our concert presentations on a beautiful Sunday morning when the strangest thing happened. This incident occurred during a performance that left me flabbergasted and what appeared to have also stunned the CE group and the entire congregation, when our pastor and devotional speaker, went to the mic and started to speak. I will never forget the first things he said openly to the congregation that morning.

This speaker was always very eloquent, fluent, profound, and witty. When he started to speak, we were not prepared for what he was going to say next. His first words to the audience were, "I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE." You could hear a pin drop afterwards. It seemed that every person in the room was now holding his or her breath not knowing what this public confession was going to reveal. The shocking revelation was uttered amidst a deafening silence that could be sliced with a butter knife. The pastor continued by saying, "SOME OF THE HAPPIEST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE WERE SPENT IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER MAN'S WIFE."

With the knowledge that his dearly beloved wife was also sitting in the audience, this confession framed each CE singing member stiff and motionless as a statue, as if in a still picture.

His pause, as if to allow that to sink in, was like a waiting period of half a day. Then, he slowly continued to let us all off the hook by continuing to say, "AND THIS WOMAN WAS MY MOTHER."

The soft chuckles, not so quiet mutterings, and sighs-of-relief could be heard all over the congregation. We all soon realized that this dramatic so-called confession was nothing more than a mere tribute to his late mother and mothers everywhere as this particular Sunday was Mother's Day. I do not believe anyone saw that coming.

Ever since that special Mother's Day, the words of pastor and former CE member, Dr. David Taylor, has made Mother's Day an even more special day for me to remember. I have often wondered how many hearing Pastor Taylor's words that morning learned something new about themselves like I did. I also spent many happy moments in the arms of another man's wife, my own beloved mother. That Mother's Day Sunday has made Mother's Day unforgettable for me now.

Calvin has left us with a cache full of lasting memories when it comes to telling stories. During our many concert performances, he had the most touching and riveting method of story presentation that compelled us to pay attention to every word to the very end. It is almost guaranteed those stories will linger in our memories for many years to come.

My favorite story was about the conversion and baptism of his brother, Gary Knipschild, who for many years was not interested in hearing or discussing anything about God. He had an insurmountable number of questions that no one was giving him satisfactory answers for until he heard of, sought for, and met the author of a book he had grown to love, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, written by former priest Brennan Manning.

Gary was recently diagnosed with a terminal illness and was given about six months to live. He discussed with Mr. Manning all these unresolved, difficult, and challenging questions he had had for years with no satisfactory answers. Within several hours of discussion, Gary was able to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior and was baptized that very day in Brennan Manning's hotel room bathtub.

Calvin continued to tell how Gary was changed afterwards and how he became an avid literature evangelist giving away many copies of the book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, to everyone who would accept it. Calvin made us feel that it would be such a great joy to be able to witness the look on his parents' faces when they meet up with Gary on the Sea of Glass in heaven, for they had little hope expecting to see him there. I can still see the joy on Calvin's face when he shared his hope to see his siblings and parents all gathered in heaven when our Savior comes again. Nearly everyone shared his joy with a tear or two knowing that this family will live happily ever after, never to part again. What a glorious day that will be!

Henry's wife, **Heather Murray**, wanted to share her best memories of Calvin Knipschild:

I will always remember Calvin as a one of a kind, super, unique choir director and teacher, whose love for his work was obvious. Did I say, "his work?" Well, yes, but as he worked, he was so full of joy and enthusiasm that those who watched him quickly forgot he was working. Anyone who has conducted a chorale or taught a high school class understands the amount of work that is involved.

Our family's life has been impacted by his service and ministry in many ways. Calvin taught both of our children at San Gabriel Academy where they were blessed by having him as their Bible teacher and their chorale director during their high school years. Henry Sr., my spouse, has had the privilege and pleasure of being a singing member of the Christian Edition family for the past 21 years.

As I watched Christian Edition rehearse from one week to another and then present their "sermon in songs" from concert to concert, it was obvious that this was not just a job, a duty, or responsibility for Calvin, it was sheer joy. He exuded unrivaled enthusiasm and lively, heartfelt praise as he led the group, and occasionally the audience, in worship through songs. His energy was felt and experienced by the Christian Edition singers and the listening audience.

The blessings that were showered on both singers and the listeners were beyond measure. Christian Edition will ever be blessed by the experience of having had such a splendid, hardworking, dedicated director. Calvin Knipschild was a servant of God and a friend to man.

Rob Peterson - First Tenor (joined 1983)

It is hard to choose a favorite memory from the many experiences on the road with Christian Edition. On several occasions the group was distracted and just not able to come together before a concert. Travel troubles, squabbles between members, hunger, or outside frustrations can get in the way of our prayer time before each concert, but every time Calvin raised his arms to direct the first song it all came together. On those worst of days, it was amazing to hear how the Holy Spirit touched hearts in the audience. On more than one occasion when I came out of the concert frustrated with our performance, I was reminded that the Holy Spirit took our feeble attempts at performance and transformed a life. I thank God for allowing me to experience the power of the Holy Spirit even when our human attempts fall short.

Francis Recalde - First Tenor (joined 2016)

I cannot believe it will be almost five years that I have been with CE! Memorable for me are my first concert tour and our last one before COVID-19 prematurely shut-down season 39. Both were weekends at a Maranatha Convention. On our last one I was just amazed how the Lord made the details fall in place to make that trip happen while things were beginning to get shut down. I was one of the drivers that weekend and thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful company shared through all the miles and stops made in the beautiful state of Tennessee.

My first Maranatha Convention and first concerts were in Sacramento where the thought of singing under the glare of TV cameras without the security of music, made me fret. It did not help that my CE shirt didn't arrive in time, and I had to wear a borrowed one a tad bit larger than my size. Thankfully, I got to sit and stand

Continued on next page

on the second row (never to happen again) and felt somewhat safe as I might be hidden. I must admit there were mistakes, but all worry was erased when we started singing as a group. Hearing all the inspiring stories, reports, and the glorious congregational singing that filled the great auditorium made me think of Heaven. Surely It was a taste of what it will be like during endless, countless, praise and testimony time in the presence of the Great I Am!

Paul Wilcox - First Tenor (original group member 1981)

My favorite memory is a bit hard to pinpoint because there are so many memories over the forty years I have been a member of CE. I have very fond memories of our anniversary cruises; the Alaska cruise in 2011 and 2016, and the Caribbean cruise in 2016. Our tours to Florida, Kentucky, and the Pacific Northwest also come to mind. One very unforgettable moment was on our first tour to Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Cesar Cerna was singing with us at the time and after a concert in Roseburg, we headed east toward Crater Lake. Along the way, we stopped at Steamboat Inn on the North Umpqua River. While we were waiting to load up the vans again, it started snowing. Cesar had never seen snow fall before and his reaction was priceless, like the wonder of a child experiencing something for the first time!

Fred Miller - Second Tenor (joined 1985)

Trying to pick a memorable moment is like trying to pick one song. Totally undoable! There are several memories that stand out: National Day of Prayer in Washington, D.C.; the Dorothy Chandler Christmas eve events; Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs (where we were billed as Al Perry's group!); the cruises; the Family Reunion concerts; and visiting different churches.

The most impactful memory was when the group sang at the Swannanoa Women's Correctional Facility in North Carolina where we witnessed the working of the Holy Spirit on the ladies listening to us sing. That experience still causes several of my singing colleagues, as well as myself, to tear up when we think about it. Probably the most meaningful would be when

we heard, following a church service concert, that a church congregation had come back together after some serious internal discord. This has happened at least twice that I know of. Realizing, of course, that it was not us, but God working through us.

Dick Sample - Second Tenor (joined 2008)

My favorite memory occurred when we sang at the Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women in North Carolina. Seeing most of the women inmates standing with their arms reaching over their heads and breaking their imaginary chains while we sang "Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" is a memory that will stay with me forever! It was extremely difficult to continue singing through my tears. It deeply touched most, if not all of us and Calvin could not understand why we were so emotional since he had his back to them and did not see what they were doing. The fact that so many of them came to the chapel in pouring rain on a Sunday morning was also amazing, particularly since the chaplain told us very few usually came to their weekly church services. I definitely felt God's presence that morning!

For several years Calvin would recount this emotionally charged event when introducing "Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone" during a concert. This would inevitably cause my emotions to resurface making it extremely difficult for me to sing the opening solo to the song, a fact I believe Calvin was fully aware of and enjoyed turning it into a friendly challenge. Each concert when I knew we would be singing it, I wondered if Calvin would introduce the song by recounting the experience, thereby rekindling my emotions and making it difficult to sing. As time passed it became easier to control my emotions, but that friendly 'banter' between us will be a treasured memory for the rest of my life! In short, I would not be who I am today if it were not for the God-ordained presence of Calvin in my life. I anxiously await enjoying the mango shake he promised all of us in Heaven!

Mickey Smith - Second Tenor (joined 1983)

My favorite story took place in Fresno, California, and is used with permission of former bass, Ken Holland. It was the beginning of our

singing season and was Ken Holland's first year with Christian Edition. We were to sing Saturday morning at the Fresno SDA Church. Once again, Ken had forgotten part of his uniform for the trip. This time it was his coat jacket. He had accidentally left his suit coat in the motel he had stayed in the night before. Ken felt bad but he did not want to get teased again for forgetting something, so he planned to leave and drive home. I told him, "Please don't leave!"

I left the warm-up room and went out into the lobby, where by faith I spoke to a gentleman member of the church who looked to me about the same size as Ken and asked him if he had a blue jacket like the one CE was wearing that day. He said he did have one at home so he asked his

nephew to go home and get it. He lived near the church and was back before the church service began. Miracle of all miracles, the jacket fit Ken perfectly! No one else knew what took place that Sabbath between Ken, the local church "saint" member, and me. We have kept the story to ourselves until now.

What were the odds of me having the nerve to go ask a perfect stranger to give up his coat for another man? After church, Ken and I thanked the man for helping and lending his jacket to a perfect stranger.

Part II of this article will be coming in Spring 2022 ... you won't want to miss it!

Keep Singing, Christian Edition

Note: The email below was submitted to the CE Website, www.christianedition.com, and Calvin requested that it be included in this newsletter.

Dear Christian Edition,

I wanted to write to thank all of you on behalf of my parents, Margie and Hal Hampton (pictured here), for the opportunity to be a part of your organization and for providing them with life experiences and friendships.

Mom and dad were both truly proud and it provided dad with an avenue to continue his singing after his teaching career ended. He loved music and he loved being a part of Christian Edition. Our family was truly touched by your kindness when you all showed up to sing at dad's funeral. Thank you all. It was how he would have wanted to go out. I have to admit I go and visit dad on your YouTube channel when I miss him most. Seeing him singing with his buddies makes me smile and watching him sing is how I want to remember him. Thank you for leaving the older videos online so I can stay connected.

Mom passed a few weeks ago (Aug. 20) and in her final days lost her ability to speak and could barely whisper. She was weak and heavily medicated for the last week, but the day before

she passed, she was lucid enough to whisper she was keeping busy, and she loved us. Her nurse asked if there was anything I would like them to do for her. I asked them if they could find Christian Edition on YouTube and play her your music. They did and told me later she recognized it, and she was singing along. She soon fell asleep for her final rest.

Please keep singing and keep your music on! You touch many, many lives in various ways. We appreciate you all!

Cerise Hampton, Daughter,
and Reagan Bender, Grandson



Calendar

CONCERT TIMES OR LOCATIONS MAY CHANGE AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 GUIDELINES. PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM A CONCERT BEFORE TRAVELING LONG DISTANCES. (SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST HAS BEEN ABBREVIATED TO SDA.)

JANUARY 2022

- 15 Saturday 10:45 A.M. Concert**
Camarillo SDA Church
 3975 Las Posas Road
 Camarillo, CA 93010
 (805) 482-4632
- 15 Saturday 4:00 P.M. Concert**
 TBA
- 16 Sunday 3:00 P.M. Concert**
Wilshire Avenue Community Church
 212 E. Wilson Avenue
 Fullerton, CA 92832
 (714) 526-2265
- 23 Sunday 2:00 P.M. Special Music**
Calvin Knipschild Celebration of Life
Loma Linda University Church
 11125 Campus Street
 Loma Linda, CA 92354

FEBRUARY 2022

- 5 Saturday 11:00 A.M. Special Music**
Palm Springs Winter Campmeeting
 Special Guest Speaker: Elder Dan Jackson
Palm Springs SDA Church
 9711 N.E. St. Johns Road
 Palm Springs, CA 92264
 (760) 327-5112
- 5 Saturday 1:30 P.M. Concert**
Palm Springs Winter Campmeeting

MARCH 2022

- 19 Saturday 10:45 A.M. Concert**
Porterville SDA Church
 1088 W. Linda Vista Avenue
 Porterville, CA 93257
 (559) 784-6031

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Singing at Azure Hills SDA Church on August 21, 2021.

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