

CE News Notes

Fall 2024 • Vol 45 The Ministry and Activities of **CHRISTIAN EDITION**, A Men's Chorus



A Major Milestone



Christian Edition Men's Chorus was invited to be guest musicians for the celebration of Pacific Press Publishing Association's 150th Anniversary in Nampa, Idaho, on August 17.

By Chris Klebba,
Baritone



I have been blessed to be able to spend a good portion of the past 30 years singing baritone with Christian Edition Men's Chorus. I was with them from 1995-2010 and again from 2016-2023; however, without too much fanfare, my wife Tricia, son Lucas, and I moved in October 2023, leaving behind those whom we loved and that which

we knew in California, to the great unknown!

Our move took us southeast to the state of Florida where the heat is plentiful and the cockroaches are called palmetto bugs. If you are not a Florida State University (FSU) fan, you shall become one sooner or later by pure

indoctrination. FSU stuff is everywhere! When I first got here, I thought FSU was Fresno State University from near where I grew up. Ooops! We were not in California anymore.

God has moved in our lives in a mighty way, but I have missed my Christian Edition family. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to make a fun, surprise trip in the middle of August to reunite with them. And though it was a surprise to most of the group, it had been planned out with our director, Michael Spencer, CE President Dennis Shogren, and CE CFO Sam Aleksic. It was so much fun to share hugs with my Christian Edition family as I met up with each one for the first time at our hotel in Boise (thanks Gayle, for recognizing me in the parking lot and coming

Continued on page 3

From the Keyboard

By Michael Spencer,
Director



A young lady spent the night dancing and drinking at the local club. Despite pretending to be happy in front of her friends, on the drive home she decided that she no longer had a reason to live and would overdose on sleeping pills.

As she quietly walked through the living room, she noticed her father sitting deep in a chair, eyes closed, listening to Christian music. Knowing that it would be the last time she'd see her father, she decided to sit and watch him for a few moments. As she did, she began listening to the music. Before she realized it, tears were pouring down her cheeks.

She listened to the entire album. When it finished, she crossed to her father and kissed the top of his head. He woke up, and noticing her tears, asked what was wrong. She told him what she'd planned to do that night, but that the music had convinced her to choose life. She asked him, "Who's the artist?" He replied, "Christian Edition."

Since that night, she has become a new person. She regularly attends church and has found in God countless reasons to live an abundant life.

This story was occasionally shared at Christian Edition concerts by our founding director, Calvin Knipschild, but we hear stories like this every year. They humble us and inspire us to keep singing and sharing God's infinite love with everyone we meet.

Even though it was the Holy Spirit and our music that touched that young lady's heart, much of the credit goes to thoughtful, generous people like you who make this ministry possible. Without your support through the years, our music would never have been recorded or distributed.

Our commitment to never charge for worship services forces us to live by faith. Often finances are very tight—despite the fact that none of us are paid a penny—and we don't know how we will be able to cover expenses. Yet God always answers our prayers through people like you. On multiple occasions, a check has arrived in the mail for nearly the exact amount of our upcoming expenses.

Your support also carries our music and message of hope around the world. In 2013 we uploaded videos of us singing onto YouTube. Since then, people in 194 countries have watched these videos more than 322,000 times, totaling around 14,600 hours of viewing. That's the equivalent of five concerts every day over the past four years. What's more, your generosity allows us to continue providing 3-4 worship services per month, free of charge.

I ask that you consider giving a gift today so that the ministry of Christian Edition can continue to thrive. While any support will help, an automatic, monthly gift of \$10 or more for a year makes the greatest difference and makes you a member of our Wings of Faith supporters. Wings of Faith is a special giving ministry for those who want to support Christian Edition on an ongoing basis. By giving an automatic gift, you will ensure that the music ministry of Christian Edition will reach as many people as possible. For joining this special group, we'll send you a Christian Edition pin to show our appreciation for your thoughtful generosity. To join Wings of Faith, visit our website at ChristianEdition.com, click on the "Giving" button, then the "Donate" button at the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your support and for your prayers. We couldn't do any of this without you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a light-colored, slightly blurred background.

A Major Milestone, *continued from page 1*

up behind me with a welcoming back scratch). I also met others at the Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) building in Nampa, Idaho, which, by the way, is why we were in Nampa for the weekend—to celebrate a major milestone: their 150th anniversary.

It is recorded that 150 years ago, a small group of Seventh-day Adventist pioneers were given the task of starting a publishing company to share God’s love through the printed page. At the Yountville Campmeeting along the Napa River in 1874, a small group of pioneers donated an offering of almost \$20,000, much of it in gold, to construct the PPPA in Oakland, California.

Thirty years later in 1904, the Pacific Press would relocate to a more rural environment in Mountain View, California, where they would remain for the next 80 years. Despite being heavily damaged in April, 1906, by the San Francisco earthquake, and three months later being completely destroyed by a fire, rebuilding began immediately and was completed a year later. However, due to the high cost of operating in Mountain View, the prayerful decision was made to move to Nampa, Idaho, in 1984 where the Press is still thriving and flourishing 40 years later.

Friday evening the participants in the anniversary program were invited to the Pacific Press headquarters for fellowship and a wonderful dinner. On our way up to the room where the dinner was provided, we passed by their small, historical museum. I saw a Linotype press and took a picture to send to my dad. As a former pressman, I thought he would enjoy the walk down memory lane. He was able to share with me that five different companies came together to make this one printing press. I wish to thank Pacific Press President, Dale Galusha, and Kellie Lind, who flew from her home near Pacific Union College, to help provide such a fabulous dinner and warm and gracious hospitality for all of us—including a gift bag for the weekend (see Amithy Smith’s article).

Early on Saturday morning, we arrived at the Brandt Center on the campus of Northwest Nazarene University to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the PPPA. We went through our sound check and were set for our portion of the morning worship service. As I sat talking and catching up with our CE members, guitar music was playing that caught my attention. It was Perry and Terry Mace, nephews of Heritage Singers founder Max Mace, who were rehearsing one of their songs “Forever is a Long, Long Time.” They also performed “Say I Do.” It took me straight back to my childhood in Visalia, California. On Friday evenings, to bring our family into the Lord’s Sabbath, I would stack the record player with three or four albums. It usually included The One Way Singers, Heritage Singers, Breath of Life, Take Six, and Walter Arties. Such wonderful memories...

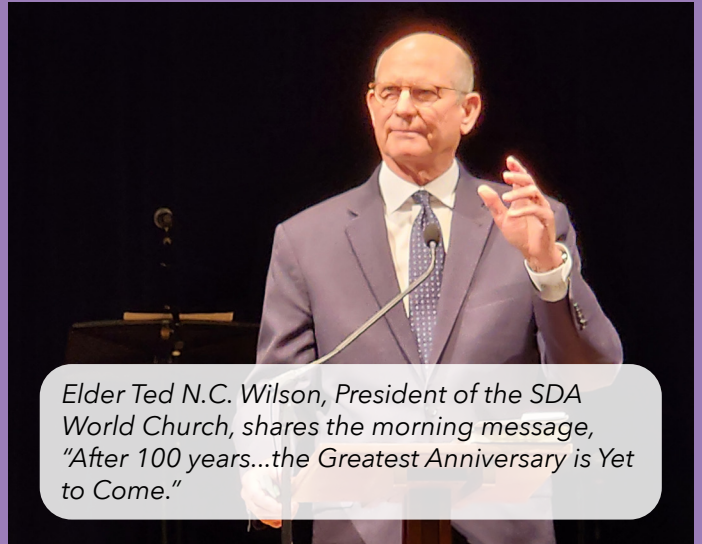


Perry and Terry Mace, nephews of Heritage Singers founder Max Mace, provide special music.

The morning’s robust program included Pacific Press history and special guests, as well as greetings, accolades, and plaques presented to the Pacific Press from all over the world. The morning message, “After 150 Years... the Greatest Anniversary is Yet to Come,” was presented by Ted N.C. Wilson, President of



Dale Galusha, Pacific Press Publishing President, receives a 150th Anniversary recognition plaque from Stephen Apola, associate publishing director of the General Conference.



Elder Ted N.C. Wilson, President of the SDA World Church, shares the morning message, "After 100 years...the Greatest Anniversary is Yet to Come."

the Seventh-day Adventist World Church. Christian Edition presented five long-time favorites, "Ancient Words," "Jerusalem," "Midnight Cry," "My Heart's Desire," and "No More Night," as well as some newer songs such as "It's About the Cross," "There is a Way," and "You Will See Your Lord A-Coming." The last three songs will be coming out very shortly on their newest CD, *You Will See Your Lord A-Coming*. And if this article has made you curious about all that was said and done at the 150th Anniversary, you can see for



Elder Charles White, great-grandson of James and Ellen White, shared family memories.

yourself by going on YouTube and searching for Pacific Press Publishing 150th Anniversary.

If there is one thing I could take away from the anniversary weekend, it is this: Those few who came together in faith and gathered along the Napa River in 1874, with God's leading, were able to establish a press and publishing ministry that has reached almost every tongue

and nation to hasten the Lord's coming. I pray it is soon and very soon. Please, family and friends, let us all be ready for the great midnight cry!



Front row, left to right: Dan Matthews, Ann Gibson, Terry Mace, Perry Mace, Charles White, Ted Wilson, Alex Bryant, George Knight, Connie Vandeman Jeffery, David Prest. **Middle row, left to right:** Dale Galusha, Merlin Burt, Stephen Apola, Michael Spencer, Francis Recalde, Mickey Smith. **Back rows:** Rob Peterson, Chris Klebba, Russ Nelson, Paul Wilcox, Darryl Wheeler, Keith Smith, Chris Sheridan, Dick Sample, Walt Nelson, Fred Miller, Brian Rothe, Patrick Wolfe, Dennis Shogren, Ian Lafferty, Frank Rubio, III.

Swag Bag

By Amithy Smith



I was not quite sure why Christian Edition was going to sing in Boise, Idaho, on August 17, 2024, but I knew that it had to do with the Pacific Press, an Adventist publishing house. Later I learned that Pacific Press was celebrating 150 years of its publishing work. Its outreach has surpassed national status and has become a worldwide ministry. When I became an Adventist Christian, I read books printed by Pacific Press, but I did not know the full extent of its worldwide outreach at that time. I was excited to be a part of the upcoming weekend because I am presently working with a publishing house for the future publication of a book I am writing, but it is nothing like the Pacific Press, God's publishing house.

As we flew to Boise, Idaho, my husband, Keith, informed me that members of Christian Edition were already enjoying an early supper at the Pacific Press headquarters, and we would not arrive in time for supper as we were scheduled to arrive at 11:00 p.m. on Friday night. Sabbath morning at breakfast, imagine my chagrin when people spoke about the swag bags they had received the night before.

"Swag bags?" I said. "No one mentioned swag bags!" Singing I knew about. Supper I can miss, but swag bags! "I want my swag bag," I joked with Christian Edition members. "Why didn't you think about us and collect swag bags for us?"

On a more serious note, though... On Sabbath, as I listened to the journey of the Pacific Press, I began seeing the resemblance of a different swag bag. I was in AWE! I saw the power of God's direction and His work through determined, faithful, praying people to arrive at a 150-year milestone which shows God's faithfulness to the gospel of the publishing work. I thought about the publishing house I

am currently working with. They are not people I pray with while we discuss which direction to take concerning my book. They are people I pray about. When we are frustrated while we collaborate with people and must make major decisions, we can mentally give up before we physically give up. But the Pacific Press workers did neither. They gave in to God who led them by faith.

I heard about prayer and faith, innovative ideas, the movements to better pastures, and God working things out for His glory. This helped me envision a different kind of "swag bag." Swag bags usually have advertisements, promotions, sometimes cookies and candy, or even water. Swag bags can cost anywhere from \$10 to thousands of dollars at large corporate or Hollywood events. So, what is in your swag bag? Is it exciting? Is it the program of the day, candy, or water? And do you feel privileged because you arrived early and received one? (By the way, we were still able to get our swag bags at the Sabbath lunch provided for the participants by the Pacific Press Publishing Association.)

I love free gifts, even if it is a pen that runs out of ink after only a few uses. The difference between a literal swag bag and the one I envision is that we have always had swag bags - spiritual ones. In our hearts is the presence of God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It is not something we worked for; it is not something we had to collect ourselves. It is something that we receive when the Bible says to us, "If you hear His voice, harden not your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15). It is the reason God declared that He would take away our hearts of stone and give us hearts of flesh so that we can absorb His words, apply them to our lives, and represent Jesus to the world. We give something up to make room in our hearts for what God wants to put there, so that we can grow, and stretch,

Continued on page 7

Meet the New Member

By Brian Rothe,
Bass



Music within my family started long before I was born. In the early 1900s, my great-grandfather, Arthur, was walking down a street and came across large cardboard cutouts of wild beasts (from Daniel and Revelation seminars) in front of a tent. J.N. Loughborough was holding meetings in Northern California in those early years

and music was coming out of the tent, so Arthur went in. A young lady playing the piano caught his eye, and it wasn't long before he and Hattie, my great-grandmother, were married.

Before my grandparents got married in 1935, my grandfather, Ronald, recorded 2 songs, "I Love You Truly" and "I Promise You," for Grandma Margaret on the old Bakelite discs at Al Avila's studio. Al played for Voice of Prophecy (VOP) at that time and had quite the studio in his home with organ and recording equipment he used to support the VOP.

The July 2024 edition of the *Pacific Union Recorder* did an article about "Adventist Pioneers in the West." My father, Ron, excitedly contacted me saying there was a picture of my grandfather in the 1931 La Sierra Junior College choir. Grandpa was also in the band and in their quartet.

My father and my brother sang with the Oceanaires at Monterey Bay Academy (MBA) and in later years, my father sang in several church choirs and choral groups. I remember Grandpa and Dad singing a duet of "O Jerusalem" and "Watchman, What of the Night?" at home while Grandma played the piano. My aunt, Jeanette (Rothe) Johnson, sang with

Calvin Knipschild's first choral group, The One Way Singers, in 1977-78 before Calvin started Christian Edition.

I've always enjoyed music but didn't fully get involved until later in life. In 5th grade, I played trombone in the band. I didn't learn to read notes, though, so I just memorized the finger positions. Later, during my sophomore year, I took piano lessons because I needed a music credit, but I still didn't learn to read notes on the fly. Instead, I wrote down finger positions for my practice and memorized the required

music, but my teacher never knew I couldn't read the notes. My junior year at MBA I joined the junior/senior choir because my friends did. Arladell Nelson (later Speyer) was the turning point for me. I learned how to sing parts along with blending voices, and more.

Over the years I sang in various church groups for praise teams and musical events like church Christmas concerts. About six or seven years ago I was sitting in church and overheard the couple in front of me

mention their names, Gerald and Dorothy Wareham. Gerald was my piano teacher from MBA! He asked if I had sung in Mrs. Nelson's choir. Without even requesting to hear me sing, he invited me to join his group, Heralds of Hope. I sang with them for a few years until COVID took quite the hit on our group and we never recovered.

I've always loved Christian Edition, but never dreamed of actually singing with them. I had sung with Ian Lafferty in Heralds of Hope, and he had recently joined Christian Edition as a first tenor. Ian's mom, Karen, contacted me and told me CE had lost some bass singers and suggested I try out... the rest is history.



I retired from Adventist Health in 2016 as an IT Director and took over my family business in Tennessee. I live in Yucaipa, California, most of the time, and travel frequently between Tennessee and CE events. It's quite the challenge juggling work and spending time with my 16- and 18-year-old kids and their school events in California and now in Washington, where my daughter is a freshman at Walla Walla University and my son is a junior at Upper Columbia Academy.

God has blessed me in so many ways. Being able to sing praises to Him, as well as the

camaraderie of the CE family, is an absolute joy and highlight of my life, and so worth the challenges it presents to me.

Most importantly, CE brings me closer to Jesus and allows me to give back a tiny bit by singing praises to Him. I struggled quite a bit being asked to write something about myself as a new CE member, but after being a part of CE for almost a year, I want to stress that nothing we do is about us! We sing praises to God to lift Him up and never to bring attention to ourselves.

Swag Bag, *continued from page 5*

and overcome difficulties. Anything that is worth having is worth fighting, working, praying, fasting, and crying out to the Lord for.

I look in my swag bag and I see the thoughts and plans God has for my life. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11). "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

Jesus promises us living water, the assurance of food, and a place to live that he has prepared, and new bodies, too! He will supply all we need (Philippians 4:19). He promises us a new Heaven and a new Earth, where there will be no more tears, no more sorrows, no more pain (Revelation 21:1-5). "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10). He promises us eternal life when we believe in Him (John 3:16).

I only mentioned a few of God's promises, but there are many, many more. When we open

our hearts (swag bags), they contain promises that our Father gives us. Jesus Christ gave up everything for us, and in Him we have everything we need. Unlike my ink pen that dries up, God's word and the blood of Jesus will never dry up or lose its power. They will work until God says to His Son, "Go, get my children."

God has been and still is the trustee for 150 years of service using the Pacific Press Publishing Association to spread the gospel to the world. The celebration left us a swag bag filled with the results of faithful, but sometimes challenging work. The staff trusted God and were resilient; a reminder that with God all things are possible. You and I have a swag bag that money cannot buy. Philippians 1:6 reminds us, "Being confident of this one thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of the Lord Jesus Christ." If we look in our swag bags, that promise is there.

I realize that if one accepts Jesus Christ as his or her Savior and thinks that they did not receive their swag bags, just wait for it. Someone is looking out for you; His name is Jesus; He has everything you need.

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.)

JANUARY 2025

4 Saturday 10:45 AM Special Music
4:00 PM Worship in Song
Camarillo SDA Church
3975 Las Posas Rd.
Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 482-4632

18 Saturday 10:30 AM Worship in Song
La Sierra Spanish SDA Church
5885 La Sierra Ave.
Riverside, CA 92505
(905) 689-1919

FEBRUARY

1 Saturday 11:45 AM Special Music
2:00 PM Worship in Song
Palm Springs SDA Church
620 S. Sunrise Way
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 327-5112

MARCH

15 Saturday 11:15 AM Worship in Song
Glendale Filipino SDA Church
606 S. Louise St.
Glendale, CA 91205
(818) 543-0110

APRIL

19 Saturday 4:30 PM Choral Festival
Loma Linda Indonesian SDA Church
10827 California St.
Redlands, CA 92373
(909) 307-3270

MAY

17 Saturday 11:00 AM Worship in Song
West Covina Hills SDA Church
3536 E. Temple Way
West Covina, CA 91791
(626) 915-7819

17 Saturday 6:30 PM Worship in Song
St. Anthony's Catholic Church
2110 N. San Antonio Ave.
Upland, CA 91784
(909) 985-2803



CE NewsNotes

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GLENDALE, CA
PERMIT NO. 966

Coming Soon!

Our newest and long-awaited album, *You Will See Your Lord A-Coming*, will be released soon! Keep checking back on our website to see when and how you can get yours.



*Thank you
for worshipping with us!*

CHRISTIAN EDITION MEN'S CHORUS

Director
Michael Spencer

First Tenors
Ian Lafferty
Henry Murray
Rob Peterson
Francis Recalde
Paul Wilcox

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

Baritones
David Mitchell
Frank Rubio III
Chris Sheridan
Keith Smith
Craig Vendouris

Basses
Gary Mattison
Walt Nelson
Brian Rothe
Patrick Wolfe
Darryl Wheeler

CE NewsNotes

COPYRIGHT © 2024
CHRISTIAN EDITION, A MEN'S CHORUS
1125 E. BROADWAY, PMB 156
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91205
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.
TOLL-FREE: 877 4-EDITION (877 433-4846)
EMAIL: INFO@CHRISTIANEDITION.COM
WEBSITE: WWW.CHRISTIANEDITION.COM

ALL GIFTS TO CHRISTIAN EDITION ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRC 501(C)(3), TIN: 23-7241305. BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR RETURN ADDRESS SO WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GIFT WITH A RECEIPT. IRS REGULATIONS REQUIRE ALL GIFTS OF \$250 OR MORE TO BE SUBSTANTIATED BY RECEIPT.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
MICHAEL SPENCER
PRESIDENT
DENNIS SHOGREN
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
SAM ALEKSIC
EDITOR
GAYLE CRAIG
Assistant Editors
LORI SPENCER
PAUL WILCOX
DESIGN AND TYPOGRAPHY
KJ MARKETING &
COMMUNICATION

