

Keystone Quarterly

Spring/Summer 2023



The Blackwood Brothers Return to Minister at the HOF Banquet

Interview with former HOF recipient from the **CATHEDRALS**

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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, Friends!

How the time flies so quickly! As we return to a new year of Southern Gospel music and this 2023 *Spring/Summer Issue* of the Keystone Quarterly Magazine, I trust that you have had an enriching, safe and healthy winter. Even though we didn't get much snow, I'm hoping that we are at the tail end of this cold season, with nicer weather just arriving...

It's that time of year again! Make it a point to check the websites and Facebook pages of your favorite southern gospel groups and concerts.

This Spring/Summer issue is dedicated to our new Hall of Fame Inductees that were honored last October at the banquet. Many of you were able to attend the 2022 PSGMA Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and the PSGMA sure appreciates your continued support of this annual event. Overflowing congratulations go to John McPherson, Barbara Yurasek and John Palm, our new 2022 PSGMA Hall of Fame Inductees.

The banquet attendees this current year (10/28/23) will be enjoying a superb concert by none other than *The Blackwood Brothers Quartet!!* Be sure to check the banquet ad below for this upcoming Hall of Fame Induction Banquet for the location and ticket information!

We want to *thank you* for your continued support of the PSGMA. If you are interested in becoming an annual or lifetime member, see the details on the back cover of this issue.

We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,
Dave Theis, Editor

Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association **Hall of Fame Banquet**

Musical Guests: The Blackwood Brothers Quartet

Saturday, October 28, 2023

Christian Life Assembly Church Life Center
2645 Lisburn Road • Camp Hill, PA 17011

Doors Open - 4:30 PM

Dinner - 5:00 PM / Concert - 6:30 PM
Admission - \$35.00 (Concert Only - \$20)

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THE PENNSYLVANIA GOSPEL MUSIC HALL OF FAME

by Randy Simpson

Each year, the PSGMA inducts 3 individuals into the Pennsylvania Gospel Music Hall of Fame. In October 2022, another three well deserving individuals joined the Pennsylvania Gospel Music Hall of Fame Alumni.

The first of those individuals is Barb Yurasek. Barb Yurasek was born June 22, 1944 in Mineral Point, PA. She has lived in PA all of her life. As a child, she attended Conemaugh Church of the Brethren. At age 9, Barb contracted polio. Her earliest memories of Gospel Music came around age 13, when she heard The Couriers for the very first time. After that, hearing The Cathedral Trio was on the Rex Humbarnd program. Barb recalls how the Gospel Music lifted her spiritually, helping her through a very difficult physical time of her young life. One experience she will never forget was attending the National Quartet Convention in Louisville, KY in 1994. Barb has served Gospel Music in several facets for many years. Early on, she supported The Couriers and other ministries financially, and attended many, many concerts. Eventually working the product table and even running sound for Steel City Quartet. Barb feels it to be an honor to serve Christ for many years. Barb now resides in Ebensburg, PA, and certainly deserves this induction into the Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame.



The second individual to be inducted this year is John McPherson. John was born in Camden, NJ in September of 1954. Spending a lot of years in NJ, John has now lived in Pennsylvania for the past 17 years. As a young child, John attended the First Baptist Church. John recalls as a teenager, watching the Gospel Music Jubilee while doing an apprenticeship at a TV repair shop. He learned to repair TV's, and learned to enjoy Gospel

Music. John has spent many years traveling and singing and here is a list - John sang 10 years with The Masters Quartet, 11 years with The Messengers Quartet, several years with New Life Freedom Singers, as well as March Forth, 12 years with Mercy's Vessel and the last 4 years with the Fellowship Quartet. Just a few years back, his group Mercy's Vessel was awarded the PSGMA Keystone Award. John considers it nothing but JOY (and even fun) to serve Jesus. John recalls singing in NJ one Sunday morning

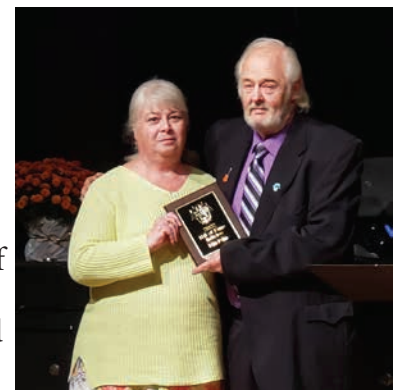


and after the concert, gave an invitation, and almost the entire congregation came forward to receive Christ. We congratulate John on his induction into the Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame.

The third individual to be inducted this year is John Palm (now deceased). John was born March of 1943, attended and graduated from Big Spring High School (Newville, PA) in 1961.

John was a member of St. Matthews Evangelical Lutheran Church in Plainfield, PA for many years.

John was known for many things. He was a well-known auto mechanic, specializing in auto air conditioning. He was known for his love of gardening, and most of all, John loved Gospel Music. John promoted gospel concerts in the



The Pennsylvania Gospel Music Hall of Fame, cont'd.

local Carlisle area for many years. He not only attended thousands of concerts, but also supported many of his favorite gospel artists through financial giving and prayer, and spiritual support as well. John is greatly missed by many. The night was also highlighted by the featured gospel artists, the PromisedLand Quartet.

We are all looking forward to this coming PSGMA Hall Of Fame banquet and concert on Saturday, Oct. 28th at the Christian Life Assembly Life Center at 6:30 PM. The featured guest gospel artists will be The Blackwood Brothers Quartet.

Randy Simpson



Celebrating 35 Years



For bookings contact Brad Lowery at 301-697-3095
Website: fellowshipquartet.com
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Email: thefellowshipquartet@gmail.com

In 1988, Ken Rhodes formed the Fellowship Vocal Band, which eventually became The Fellowship Quartet.

The Fellowship Quartet was originally based in Westmoreland County, but was moved to Bedford in 1999, when Ken and his wife Darla purchased Friendship Village Campground and Retirement Community. As a licensed and ordained minister, Ken loved to preach and teach the word of God. Ken and his wife Darla retired and moved from Friendship Village to return to country life. Ken continued to sing and speak as much as possible in his retirement.

Ken retired from singing in the group in the Fall of 2019 after being diagnosed with ALS. Ken went home to be with the Lord on May 19, 2020. Ken left behind a legacy in his ministry that continues today.

INSTANT ENCOURAGEMENT

by Duane Nicholson

Welcome to the first quarterly edition of our PSGMA magazine of 2023. I look forward to visiting quarterly with you, our faithful supporters. We try to stay positive with our comments and thoughts, although, admittedly, it is hard many times.

After penning the above statement, I was still a bit stymied as to what positive to write about. Low and behold, my cell phone, which was lying next to me as I wrote on my computer, lit up with a text message!! “Duane, you may not know me, but you and the Couriers came to my home church in 1958. After hearing The Couriers sing and testify, I was called into the ministry and started Bible school that year. I am now an active and 83 year old retired Assemblies of God Ordained Minister and still am an active gospel songwriter, singer and musician! Thank you for your testimony on Facebook! God bless you and your dear family.”

Well, talk about instant encouragement and most important, confirmation of the ministry God called me to! I have some plaques from various groups and a Hall of Fame medal hanging on my office

walls and appreciate some recognition from some incredibly talented friends, but the above record of influencing through word and song, someone who has continued sharing the message, tops them all.



To gospel singers and those who support our gospel music: Let this article make you understand how important it is that you take your calling of giving or sharing seriously. You never know who is in the audience that might be the next Billy Graham or the retired minister.

While you share, have fun, respect your audience, and pay attention to the children. Even if they seem to be occupied otherwise, they are still listening and absorbing every word you say. I know I was.

See you next quarter!
Duane Nicholson



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UPCOMING JULY CONCERTS

July 8-9 | Friendship Village Bedford, PA
July 23 | Crellin United Oakland, MD
July 27 | Thomas Road Lynchburg, VA
July 29 | Calvary UMC Acme, PA
July 30 | Somerset Church of the Brethren
Somerset, PA

Check out our entire 2023 schedule at
newjourneyministry.com



1978-2023

Michelle & Melissa are celebrating 40 Years of ministry this year! Starting at the young ages of 11 and 9, Michelle and Melissa have been singing Gospel music as members of both The Gospel Rays (1978-2008) and now New Journey (2013-2023). God has continued to show His faithfulness in every stage of their lives and they could not imagine a life without music or being able to share Christ with others.

MILFORD PARK

Celebrating God's Faithfulness for 96 Years

New Start Time: Events start at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted.



Sat, June 17
Floyd Foster



Sat, July 29
The Pickerings

Sat, June 24
The Millers



Sat, August 5
Sunnyside
Gospel Bluegrass



Sat, July 1
The King's Brass

Milford Park Bible Study Week

Monday, August 7 - Friday, August 11

6:30 PM each evening

Bible Study by Todd Wolfe

Sat, July 8
The Stevens Family



Sat, August 12
The Shaw Family



Sat, July 15
The Lesters

Sat, August 19
Daryl Mosley



Sat, July 22
Damaris Carbaugh



Sat, August 26
The Kingsmen Quartet



Sat, July 29 ♦ 10 AM

Ladies Day Luncheon - Ann Van Hine

Tickets are not needed for the 10 AM service. Purchase tickets for the Noon Luncheon by July 24. They are available in the Gift Shop and Snack Shop or call 484-300-9269. Tickets \$15.

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AFTER THE PROGRAMS

Services are held in our open air tabernacle rain or shine. Freewill offerings will be received to support the ministries of the speakers and musicians leading our worship services as well as the ministry of Milford Park. Come join us throughout the summer and bring a friend.

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ON THE NARROW ROAD

by Uncle Brian Rosenbaum

This time of year, we are surrounded by new life, with beautiful blossoms bursting with color and sharing aromatic fragrances... How it stirs the soul! I believe God had it planned that on the day that we celebrate our sins being washed away through the work of His Son, our savior Jesus Christ, on the cross - we have new life all around us. What an amazing blessing that is!

I was anxious to see my daffodils; and now my tulips are coming up around the house. I really missed it last year, while being in the hospital all that time, but how exciting it is to see it all this year! It reminds us that He really did come that we might have life and have it more abundantly. I'm also so excited, because one of my many adopted sons has deepened his relationship with God and is really following an obedience to God and His Word; to see his new excitement, his new joy of life; his new peace passing all understanding is an absolute thrill to my heart!

What thrills YOUR heart this time of the year? Share the love of Jesus with family; share it with friends; go out to the gospel concerts and let the singers know how much you appreciate them. We

all need encouragement; we all need to build each other up in our faith. If you have a chance, call somebody and let them know how much they are appreciated. I just got a telephone call from somebody that enjoyed our March Forth concerts so long ago, and then my brother Doug Koch called me, the original tenor from March Forth, and we reminisced about all the times we were hearing about people being excited about us coming to their churches and sharing the love of God with them.

So, be sure to step out; be sure to share God's love with somebody; be sure to let somebody know who had shared God's love with you, just how much you appreciate it; from your pastor to the friend down the street...

I just want to encourage you to, "Press on toward the mark of God's high calling"!



PENNSYLVANIA SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

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Details on back cover!

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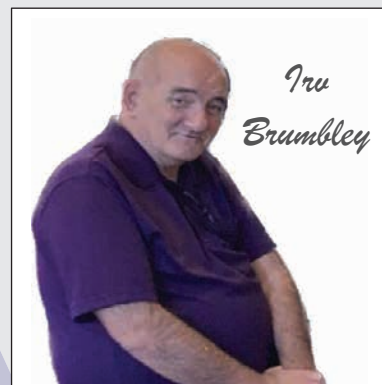
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Historian's Corner

By LJ Petersen, PSGMA Historian

Interview with PSGMA Hall Of Fame Recipient: Dr. Bill Dykes



Greetings and welcome back to the first edition of the 2023 Historian's Corner. I trust that you had a great winter and Christmas and New Year. As we are now in Spring, we are all looking forward to Gospel Concerts and

the encouragement and God glorifying ministry that they bring. Continuing the Historian Corner focus on Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association (PSGMA) Hall of Fame inductees, this Keystone Quarterly (KQ) contains an interview of an extraordinary, God-fearing man, whom I had the privilege to meet in 2018, Dr. Bill Dykes. Dr. Dykes was a member of the PSGMA Board of Directors (BOD) from 2018-2020, and was inducted into the PSGMA HOF in 2018. Dr. Dykes, with his responsibility and position at the Open Door Church in Chambersburg, PA, was able to establish a meeting place for the PSGMA board for two years. This was amazing, as the board did not have a place to meet at that time. We were all praying for a place to meet, and God answered those prayers through Dr. Dykes.

I say that he is extraordinary, not only because of his vast accomplishments, of which he has many, but because of his parallel path in singing Gospel Music with many groups. They include: the Cathedrals, Jerry and the Singing Goffs and others, but also what he has done to help churches with financial management in getting them started and on solid financial ground, as well as the spiritual impact that he has made in the lives of many people. Currently, he is the Seniors Pastor at Music City Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. I am sure, like me, you will get to know more about Dr. Dykes, and you will be laughing at times and crying at times, as I found myself doing:

Keystone Quarterly (KQ): When did you first

get started in Southern Gospel Music?

Bill Dykes (BD): 56 years ago, with the Chancellor Quartet out of Hamilton, Ohio.

KQ: What was the motivation behind getting involved in Southern Gospel Music? How many groups did you sing in, how many did you start and what were the names of the groups?

BD: Pastor Howard Dykes, Sr. and my mom, Madelyn, took me to a concert in Cincinnati to hear the Blackwood Brothers and the Statesmen Quartet. I was hooked! I sang in 8 groups and started one... Chariot. The names of the groups I sang in were: The Chancellor Quartet, the Rhythm Masters, Coy Cook and the Senators, The Cathedrals, Jerry and the Singing Goffs, Landmark Quartet, The Crownsmen, and Chariot.

KQ: Describe your experience working with The Cathedrals and in particular, your interaction with the late, great George Younce and Glen Payne. Can you describe a very serious event where perhaps you, George, and Glen led someone to the Lord? Also, please reflect on one of the most humorous situations with the Cathedrals that you would like to share with our Keystone Quarterly readers.

BD: It was a great honor and privilege to work with one of the nation's top gospel music groups. Usually, we sang and the pastor led the invitation; on a personal level, all of us took leading people to the Lord very seriously, but it was on a one-on-one basis. One Sunday morning, when we were coming back from a group of concerts down south, there was a terrible snow storm. We were on highway 81; I will never forget it... There was Glen, George, Roy, George Amon Webster and me... Bud Seeker was driving the bus and he lost control of the bus; we went down one of the mountains on Hwy 81 and the bus

Historian's Corner, cont'd.

cartwheeled one time and landed on a concrete abutment at the foot of the mountain; it split the back part of the bus as it hit the concrete! The bus was laying on its side, we were screaming and hollering for each other, making sure everyone was OK; thank God, everyone was fine. We were all disoriented, to say the least; but I went looking for my hairpiece, as I did not want anyone seeing me without it! George asked me what I was doing and I told him I NEEDED to get to my hairpiece in the closet. George told me I was STANDING ON THE CLOSET DOOR as the bus was on its side and there was no way I was getting it out. I laugh about that to this day!

KQ: I read your bio and you were what we “church people” call, a PK, or Pastor’s Kid. Later, in your life you have gone on to be a Pastor, and in fact now, you serve as Seniors Pastor at Music City Baptist Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, outside of Nashville. Please describe what it was like growing up being a PK and now as a Pastor. We know God’s word has spanned time and according to Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” However, the church has changed since the time when you were a PK and now as a Pastor. What are some of the most impactful ways the church has changed over the time that you have been involved with the church?

BD: It was a privilege being brought up as a PK; in my opinion I had 2 of the most godly parents a person could ever have. At Dad’s church in Georgetown, Ohio, he did not have anyone to direct the music; so, at 12 years old, Dad let me know that I was the new music director. Needless to say, I was in a panic and our organist, bless her heart, was 90 years old and could barely see or hear me, so we usually ended up going two different directions. In all the 76 years that I have lived and served, I have noticed a massive change in people’s lack of true dedication to the church to serve; and many people don’t even see the need of going to church, but yet they profess Christianity.

And yet, God stated over and over again that the importance of fellowship, being dedicated to ministry, the importance of loving on each other, lifting each other; and that is so hard to do when you are disconnected. That is the major change I have seen. Since the pandemic, many people still use the excuse of not coming to church; ‘we will just watch it online’ is their response. But they miss out on one of the most important aspects of being a Christian and that is fellowshipping one with another and supporting your church and your Pastor.

KQ: In your bio, it says that you have also developed an impressive resume of commercial banking, financial management, media, marketing, to just name a few of the positions that you have held. When you couple that with your singing career and family life, that makes for a very busy Dr. Bill Dykes. How were you able to balance it all and effectively manage your time in all of these activities, and still honor God?

BD: It was NOT easy. Once I started into my professional banking career, thank God I had great bosses; most of them were Christians, so I was able to work out situations with them where I would always be the first one to arrive at work and all I wanted was to be able to leave at Noon on Friday, to be able to get to my singing/speaking engagements by that evening. This way, I could always perform on Friday night, Saturday night, and twice on Sunday. I also had such a passion to help the church find financial resources to grow and develop.

KQ: In your bio, you had mentioned performing on 32 albums, producing over 200 albums for other performers, and that you wrote and performed the Gold Record winning song, “This is Love.” Please tell our readers who might not be familiar with “This is Love”, the theme and message of the song, and how and why you were inspired to write the song.

BD: The inspiration for the song, “This is Love”, came from a message that I heard and the

Historian's Corner, cont'd.

message was: there is no greater love that you will ever experience like the love of God. The love of God is the greatest love because He gave EVERYTHING, including His life, that we might have life and have it more abundantly. That was my inspiration for the song, "This is Love".

KQ: If you were to pick the top 3 achievements during your long career in Southern Gospel Music, what would they be?

BD: Seeing so many people come to know the Lord at the end of every 3-day crusade with Jerry and the Singing Goffs, being able to help with financing some new groups that did not have the capital to actually record a project, and the privilege of representing Gospel music at the 1976 World Olympics in Montreal, Canada and sing about Jesus.

KQ: In 2018, you were inducted into the Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame, and in your biography you list this award as one of your most prestigious awards. Can you share with the readers why this award was one of your most prestigious awards? I also noticed that in your 56-year career singing for the Lord, that you were nominated for three Dove Awards and one Gospel News Award. Can you describe more specifically what the nominations were for?

BD: With so much talent out there today singing gospel music, the very fact of being singled out for singing the greatest music that has ever been written and receiving an award for doing what God simply called me to do was humbling. They were not actually for me personally; they were for the groups I was with at the time and that would be The Cathedral and Jerry and the Singing Goffs.

KQ. Many groups focus their travel domestically. How much international travel have you and your groups done over the years, and what has been the most memorable international concert/event? What are some of the challenges with singing overseas?

BD: The only one I can really think of was in Newfoundland at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel with the Cathedral; Jerry Goff offered me a position to move to Music City, a place I always wanted to live, and I then joined Jerry and the Singing Goffs.

KQ: I first met you in 2018; in that short time, you had given me the impression that prayer is a very important part of your life. Specifically, how has prayer impacted the decisions and focus of your ministry, and give a couple of examples of how God answered specific prayers of yours and your groups?

BD: All I want to say about this question is that every morning I have my Cheerios, my banana, my cup of coffee, and I read the Word of God, and I seek God in prayer; and will tell you that 99% of the time, before I ever do anything or make a move, it will be because of the answers that I get while I am seeking God in my time of devotions.

KQ: You mentioned in your bio that you have performed for the likes of Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Rex Humbard, Billy Graham, Oral Roberts; and most recently, which I found fascinating, that you performed with former Governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee, whose daughter, Sarah Huckabee-Sanders, was elected as the youngest Governor of Arkansas at this past election. I have seen the Huckabee Show and have seen Governor Huckabee play the bass guitar. What was that experience like performing with Governor Huckabee? Also, when you performed for Billy Graham, was that at one of his famous stadium crusades, and if so, please briefly describe that experience.

BD: Performing with Gov. Huckabee was at Johnson City, New York, for a fundraiser at Davis Bible College; I served on the board for there 14 years with my dear friend, the President, Dr. Dino Pedrone. I sang and Gov. Huckabee spoke and we raised a ton of money for the college. When I performed for Billy Graham, it was at his stadium crusade in Lexington, KY. I was 16 years old and I was with Ontario Bible School and had a solo with the choir backing me up. It was so special

Historian's Corner, cont'd.

and a privilege to do this.

KQ: What advice do you have for young Christian singers who want to form a Gospel Group, and follow in the footsteps of people like Pastor Bill Dykes?

BD: Make sure it is part of God's plan and God's will for your life before you take a step of faith to follow His will for your life. The one thing that I do know, if it is part of His will and plan, you will know it without a shadow of a doubt, because it will never be easy; but it will always be worth it.

KQ: What challenges or opportunities do you see for Southern Gospel music going forward? I have seen many groups add contemporary and or praise and worship style music to their repertoire to try and capture the younger audience. What are your thoughts on how to capture the younger audience, in addition to our more senior saints, who tend to be the largest supporters of Southern Gospel music, in order to preserve the genre in the future?

BD: Don't try to figure it out on your own. Be open to listening to the Holy Spirit and let Him lead and guide and direct you in what path you should take.

KQ: These are trying times in which we live. I personally am reminded of Isaiah 41:10, which was a verse that my children had to memorize in their Sunday School class when we lived in Washington State; and they would be rewarded with a Bible by their Sunday School teacher. Isaiah 41:10 says, "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." As a pastor, what encouragement do you have for our readers who may be struggling or have issues in their lives, some of which are caused by the uncertainty that we see going on in the world?

BD: Proverbs 3:5,6 says "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him,

and he shall direct thy paths."

KQ: Last, but not least, what do you see as the future of Dr. Bill Dykes and Southern Gospel Music?

BD: I don't see myself anywhere in Southern Gospel Music. I see myself serving as Senior Pastor and Associate to Dr. Ben Graham, striving at all costs to win people to Jesus, whether that be with music, speaking, or just one on one leading people to Jesus.

KQ: Dr. Dykes, thank you so much for your time in participating in this interview for the Historian's Corner. Your answers were very inspiring and informative. I got to know a lot more about you, and all that you have done to further the Good News, the Gospel of Christ. For those of you who don't have your Bibles handy when reading the article, Dr. Dykes suggested Proverbs 3:5-6 as a scripture passage to give encouragement to those who are struggling and having issues in their lives. King Solomon, the wisest man in the world, and son of David, wrote much of the book of Proverbs. He also wrote Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. In Proverbs 3:5+6, Solomon, inspired by the Holy Spirit wrote, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." That passage has given me encouragement and guidance when I am seeking answers and reminds us to not rely on our own knowledge, but go to Him who states, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV.

Isn't it good to know that we have an advocate and one who we can go to, that is omniscient (all knowing), omnipresent (everywhere) and omnipotent (all powerful) in the time of need and understanding, when the world repeatedly tells us that the solution resides within us so we should look to ourselves for the answer?

Historian's Corner, cont'd.

As Dr. Dykes concluded, he sees himself striving at all costs to win people to Jesus through the gifts that God has given him of music, speaking and exhortation (encouraging) in leading people to Jesus, "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12 KJV. I encourage you who know Jesus as your Lord and Savior to do likewise. Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, said, "For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I helped thee; behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

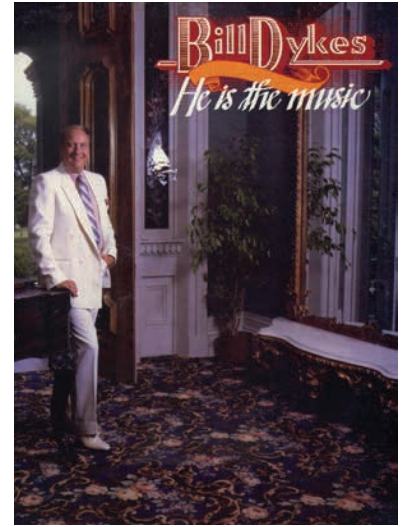
2 Corinthians 6:2 KJV. If you, yourself, have not settled your destiny with your Creator, won't you do so today? If you don't know how to do so, please contact me; I would be glad to share with you how you can be scripturally saved, have your name in the Lamb's Book of Life, and have your destiny settled once and for all.

Until the next time we meet, keep looking up, and keep looking for the return of the Author and Perfecter of our faith, the Name above all names: JESUS!!

References: The Holy Bible, King James Version



Historian's Corner, cont'd.



Historian's Corner, cont'd.



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Sheila Heil

Today is two years since you went Home. I think I'm doing well. I think you would be proud of me. I miss you.

If I had known that was your last day, what would I have done differently?

Sat closer. Listened better. Asked questions. Laughed more. Memorized the moments. Silently smiled. Looked into your face and enjoyed.

I miss our walks. I miss the way you balance me out. I miss your integrity and how you worked so hard. I miss going with you to concerts and church and how having you by my side gave me courage to walk into a room full of people.

I miss your wisdom, as well as your sense of humor. Your deep belly laugh or just the sparkle in your eye made my day. On Sunday at church when the pastor asked us to stand and sing again, did you hear Rhys loudly proclaim, "Not this again." That would have got you giggling, just as it did me. I miss you and who I was with you. You kept me safe in every way.

I am thankful to know where you are. When God's time is right, I'll join you again. You can show me around Heaven. I already know Jesus, so you won't have to introduce us. But, I look forward to together praising His name.

I don't know if you can see here from Heaven. If you can, please say a prayer for me and for our family. We miss you.

I'm thankful you accepted Jesus' beautiful gift of salvation. I did, too. Just wait. I'm coming. I'll know where to find you and we'll both be smiling.

I'm so thankful God put you in my life for over forty years ago. I miss you and I still love you.

God has shown Himself still good and faithful.

– Shelia Heil



Chuck Musser

I Just lost one of my best friends in Pennsylvania Gospel Music history! Chuck Musser promoted most every Gospel Music professional group at Colemans Memorial Park in Lebanon for years! He developed a plan to always provide our music on a free will offering basis, so everyone could enjoy Gospel Music. He was extremely careful in his selection of groups and always prayed with each group backstage for them and for the needs of the audience! My heart is broken today upon receiving this sad news! We pray for his family today!

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From all of us at Victory Express,
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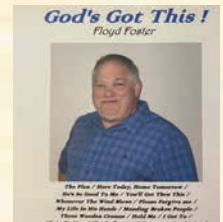
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Apr. 30	9:00AM	Windsor Church of God	Windsor, Pa
May 27	5:00 PM	Kings Campground	Dillsburg, Pa
June 11	6:30 PM	Glenvale Church of God	Marysville, Pa
June 17	6:30 PM	Milford Park Bible Camp	Zionsville, Pa
Sept. 9	1:00 PM	Ridge Church of Brethren	Shippensburg, Pa



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LEGENDARY SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME MEMBER, ED O'NEAL, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF THE DIXIE MELODY BOYS' NAME

Kinston, NC - Many talented vocalists and musicians step onto concert stages across the country year after year; however, only the faithful and dedicated overcome the pressures of life on the road. Ed O'Neal, whose name has been synonymous with Gospel Music for more than 60 years, can certainly be labeled as one of the faithful and dedicated. Now, after six celebrated decades, O'Neal has announced the retirement of The Dixie Melody Boys' name.

O'Neal joined The Dixie Melody Boys in 1961 and became owner and manager of the quartet a few years later. Over the years, O'Neal and The Dixie Melody Boys have enjoyed tremendous success, including countless hits and a Grammy nomination. In 2000, O'Neal was named recipient of the Marvin Norcross Award, the highest honor presented at the time during The Singing News Fan Awards Ceremony. Additionally in 2004, he was inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame.

While success has abounded, as is the case with most quartets, adversities have also been encountered. In fact, over the past six decades, O'Neal has seen more than 90 personnel changes - quite possibly a record in the Southern Gospel Music world, O'Neal admits. "In all seriousness, though," the legendary bass singer shares, "I am so grateful for all the guys who have called the Dixie Melody Boys home. Each and every one of them are very special to me."

The list of Dixie Melody Boys alumni reads like a who's who among Gospel Music's finest. Yet with all the changes, The Dixie Melody Boys and Ed O'Neal have stood the test of time. O'Neal's love for the men he has traveled with, his family, the people he has met through Gospel music, his desire to always present quality music, united with his desire to never compromise his responsibility to spread the Gospel, have made him a true Gospel music legend.

As a result of numerous health issues O'Neal encountered during 2019, he made the decision to semi-retire from the road. He added another bass singer to The Dixie Melody Boys, as he felt it important that even when he was unable to be at an engagement, the Dixie Melody Boys would deliver the same first-class experience audiences expected from the group. Just as O'Neal and the Boys were readjusting to the group's new travel model, the calendar year of 2020 unfolded.

No one was exempt from the challenges of the chaos of the worldwide pandemic in 2020, and the Southern Gospel Music world was greatly impacted. Many have continued to feel the negative effects, and according to O'Neal, The Dixie Melody Boys are no exception to this. "The past few years have been very challenging," O'Neal shares. "I appreciate the promoters and pastors who have supported The Dixie Melody Boys, especially over the last few years, and I commend the guys who have worked really hard to keep the legacy of The Dixie Melody Boys alive. They have represented Ed O'Neal and The Dixie Melody Boys with class, and I appreciate that; but after a very deliberate, thoughtful and prayerful period of time, I feel the best thing to honor the heritage of the Quartet is to retire the name."

As the 86-year-old singer explains, not being able to sing and travel has taken a toll on him personally. "It's hard to give up something you have done for 60 years. It's tough watching the guys roll out each week and not being able to go with them. Physically, it's just been impossible for me to do any longer." O'Neal, however, admits that he has a peace about this decision and knows it's best. "Honestly, I never imagined how good Gospel music would be to me and for me. God has blessed me more than I ever thought possible. I never dreamed 60 years ago where God would lead The Dixie Melody Boys. He has blessed us beyond measure. I have said this a million times, but the truth is, all I ever wanted to do was sing a song. I must say, I love the music now as much as I ever have, and I believe in it's message now more than ever. When my Gospel music buddies come to the area, I do my best to go see them, and I will continue to do that. I will always love the music and will always support it."

While O'Neal may be retiring The Dixie Melody Boys' name, the legacy will live on in the hearts and lives of those who have been blessed by the music created by the gentleman who has lived his life proclaiming that "all he ever wanted to do was sing a song."

By Deana Surlis Warren, Writer's Ink Publishing, Inc.
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Friendship Village Campground's 2023 Gospel Music Schedule

Gospel Sings

7:00pm In the Barn

May 27th - GloryWay Quartet
 June 3rd - Remington Ryde
 June 10th - King's Cadence
 June 17th - The Hagan's Family
 June 24th - Curtis Hyler & Jubilation
 July 1st - The Itzel's
 July 8th - New Journey
 July 15th - The Lordsmen
 July 22nd - Sonrise
 July 29th - The Fellowship Quartet
 Aug 5th - Final Harvest
 Aug 12th - The Needhams
 Aug 26th - Calvary's Mercy
 Sept 2nd - The Siler Family

Christian Camp Meeting Week

7:00pm In Rhodes
Pavilion

Aug 14th - Country Praise
 Aug 15th - Randy Simpson Ministries
 Aug 16th - Servants Heart
 Aug 17th - Blessed Assurance
 Aug 18th - The Millers

Gospel Celebration

4pm - 9pm In Rhodes Pavilion
August 19th

Williamson Branch
 Promised Land
 The Fellowship Quartet

Bluegrass Gospel Day

1pm - 5pm In Rhodes Pavilion

September 23rd

Ironwood Drive Band

Sonrise

The Churchmen

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