

# Keystone Quarterly

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Fall/Winter 2023



**HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

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**PAST AND PRESENT**

# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, everyone! WHAT A HOT, HOT SUMMER! I am hoping that many of you were able to stay very healthy and that you were able to attend at least one of the many Southern Gospel music events that have taken place both near and far.

Well, here we are in our new 2023 Fall issue of The Keystone Quarterly! Times seems to be going by quickly. so it sure does make me think about what I may be overlooking in life and moment. In this issue, we feature articles about 3 of our HOF inductees, both recently honored as well as from 10 years ago.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who are members of the PSGMA; we appreciate your continued support; tell others about it as well. If you are reading this and you are not yet a member, take a look at the back cover and sign up today!

*We hope to see you soon!*

Dave Theis, Editor

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***Become A Member of the PSGMA... details on back cover!***

# ON THE NARROW ROAD

By Uncle Brian Rosebaum



We have all sung that song so many times! SO, I want to encourage you as singers and fans, to reach out to one another. I think back over the years of singing in March Forth. We were just starting to get going as a music ministry. We pulled into a campground for a Gospel Sing and on the other side of the little wall where we were, I heard a scream of delight. Who should come running out to greet me? It was my dear sister, Sandy Glass. I loved being greeted and have a fellowship with so many. See, that way, when somebody was faltering physically like Randy Simpson's wife, Jane was recently. I can honestly in Christian love, pray for her or whomever; I count them all friends and FAMILY. I think back to the days when we would see the Choraliers and Pearl (may dear Pearl rest in peace, Oh, what a saint when we lost with her). With Pearl, you always knew there was a Pennsylvania Dutch something you could have a taste of... YUM). The sweet fellowship we would have around the buses. I remember that I would see Kevin Good and his crew of Heaven 4 Shore. He would come give me a hug and Dave Theis would come up and give you his latest Dad Joke. Even the precious times of spiritual fellowship we would have praying and sharing GOD'S HOLY WORD, as I did with Dave's teammate Mike Mann.

I have not gone down this list so that I could name names. I'm talking about the relationships I've had with so many. I cannot count the number of times I have called a brother or a sister that sings in ministry and said that I'm in trouble again; please pray for me regarding this hospital or that hospital stay; every health situation and they've been there; every single time.

So for the singers, I want to encourage you to get to know your brother or sister in Christ as you sing in a multiple group situation. They're usually all in the same boat. You are traveling with equipment, trying to make ends meet, trying to figure out what exactly is going to be the music to sing at this venue or that. They know the same struggles; that way, when years go by, you can sit down, pick up the phone and hear a close friend's voice, like when I call and hear the bass voice of Bob Jacobs. "Hello, brother Brian!" Oh, what a joy. Please don't miss these opportunities to grow together. To encourage each other... To "esteem each other higher than ourselves." Just like the LORD

admonishes us to do. Because we are... 'Joint heirs with JESUS as we travel this sod. I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of GOD.'

May God bless you as you press on towards the mark of GOD'S High Calling...

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2023

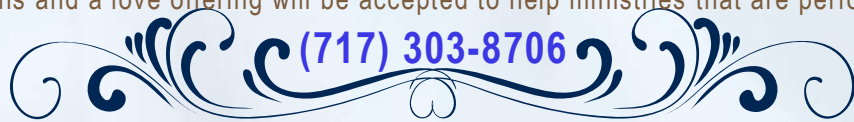
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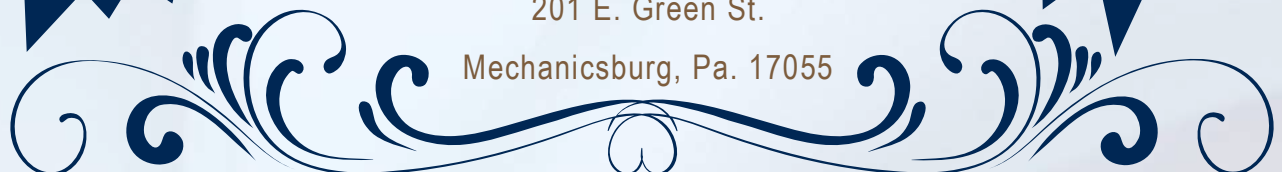
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# Keystone State Quartet



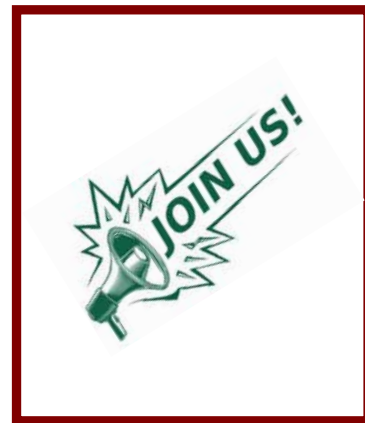
Kim Abel



Julie Sloan



Tom Wingert



Bass - Vacant

**We are setting our schedule for 2024 and would love to visit your church or organization to present Jesus in song.**

Our mission is to have a CHRIST-FILLED music ministry and to always go where God may lead us. Our music is designed to minister to the unsaved, be an encouragement to believers, and to draw all, including us, to a closer and more intimate relationship with our Savior, experiencing His grace and presence in our lives. - Psalms 150:6

*Watch for our newest recording coming in 2024.*

1207 W. High St. Ebensburg, PA 15931

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Email: [keystonestatequartet@yahoo.com](mailto:keystonestatequartet@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.keystonestatequartet.net](http://www.keystonestatequartet.net)

## **Bass Singer Position Available**

If you have a personal relationship with Jesus and sing, or know of someone who sings bass and has a desire to dedicate themselves to a southern gospel quartet and travel to share the good news of Jesus in song, please ask them to contact us.

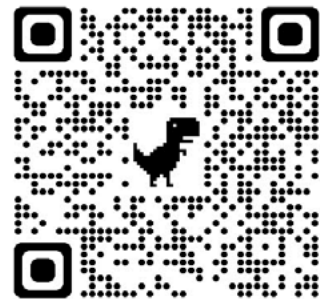
# THE BATES FAMILY



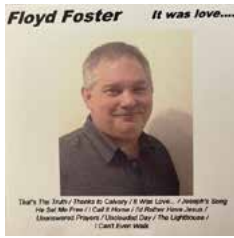
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I'm looking forward to sharing the Word through music in 2023 and into next year. Contact me.  
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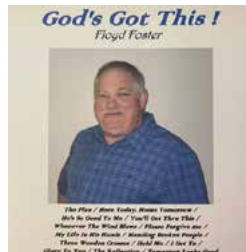
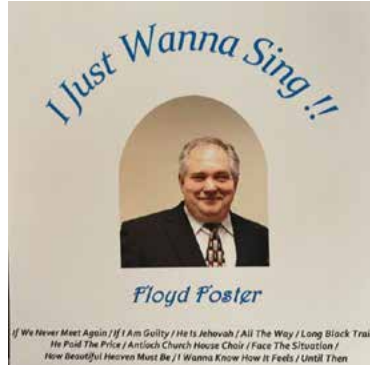


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**Southern Gospel Music has been a part of my life for over 35 years, currently as a soloist and the lead singer for 2 groups, March Forth Quartet and Heaven 4 Shore.**

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SCHEDULE					
March 4th Qtr. Heaven for Shore and FLOYD FOSTER					
Group Key Code	MQQ - March Forth Quartet	H4S - Heaven 4 Shore	FF - Floyd Foster		
Date	Time	Event Location	Group Key	City	State
September 2023					
Sat, Sept 23rd	8:00 PM	Holly Fair Memorial Concert & Fundraiser Good News Church	FF & MQQ	Mechanicsburg	Pa
October 2023					
Sat, Oct 7th		Private event	H4S	Brigilton	MD
Sun, Oct, 15th	11:00 AM	New Life Outreach	H4S	E New Market	MD
Sat, Oct, 21st	10:00 AM	Fall Fest	H4S	F New Market	MD
Sun, Oct, 22nd	11:00 AM	Trinity UMC	H4S	Brigilton	MD
Mon, Oct 23rd	7:00 PM	Evolve Church of God	H4S	Brigilton	MD
November 2023					
Sat, Nov, 4	8:00 PM	Crifford Wesleyan Church	H4S	Criffell	MD
Sun, Nov, 5th	11:00 AM	Luthean Wesleyan Church	H4S	Crifer	DE
Sun, Nov 5th	8PM	Sawson Memorial	H4S	Casperberg	PA
Sun, Nov 12th	9:00 PM	Willow Street UCC	H4S	Willow Street	PA
Sun, Nov 19th	11:00 AM	St. Andrew's UMC	H4S	Selby	MD
Sun, Nov 26th	6:00 PM	Shanika Church of God	FF	Marysville	PA
Sun, Nov 26th	11:00 AM	New Life Outreach	FF	Brigilton	MD
December 2023					
Thur, Dec 7th	10:00 AM	Marlowe Brothers in Christ	H4S	Marlowe	PA
Sat, Dec 9	6:00 PM	Why All The World (rehearsal)	FF, H4S	Mechanicsburg	PA
Sun, Dec, 17th	9:30 AM	Luzerna Church of God	FF	Duncannon	PA
Sun, Dec 24th	7PM	1st Church of God Community Center	MQQ, FF, H4S	Mechanicsburg	Pa
2024					
Sat, Mar, 23rd	8PM	Good News Church	MQQ, FF	Mechanicsburg	Pa

**Contact Information**

**Floyd Foster**

P.O. Box 1131

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floyd@floydfofsterfehr.com

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**JOE TOMLINSON** has been writing, recording, traveling and singing from New York to Florida for more than 20 years and has written and recorded more than 50 gospel songs. Joe received the PSGMA Keystone Award in 2006. He and his wife Cindy are lifetime members of the Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association.

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**Where** Mount Pleasant UB Church  
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### The Final Tour

- Background
  - Sung with trios, quartets 52 yrs.
  - Have recorded 12 original songs
  - Author 2 books
- Format
  - Acappella solos
  - Using tracks to sing as duet, trio, quartet
  - Some live instruments

# MR. GOSPEL MUSIC

Western Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music promoter Joe Chioda passed away on March 22, 2022. He was certainly “Mr. Gospel Music” in the hearts and minds of those who attended his extensive concerts, and the many groups he promoted over the years. For years, he also hosted hours of radio programs featuring gospel musicians.

Mr. Chioda loved to sing as well, so it was natural for him to form his own group that he named The Tribunes. He then started to promote Gospel Music in the late 60’s and the Tribunes recorded their first album in 1968. Mr. Chioda sang the lead part and they performed at churches all around the Pittsburgh area. During these formative years, the Tribunes were limited to weekends only, because all the men had jobs to support their families. Mr. Chioda and a partner started J & E Super Recon, an auto body shop in McKeesport, PA.

By the 1990’s, Mr. Chioda was singing in another group, Spiritual Witness, and began a ministry called Streets Of Gold, which included a monthly Southern Gospel magazine. He was justifiably proud of this endeavor that existed until his death. A final Fall/Winter edition was printed by his loving family as a final tribute.

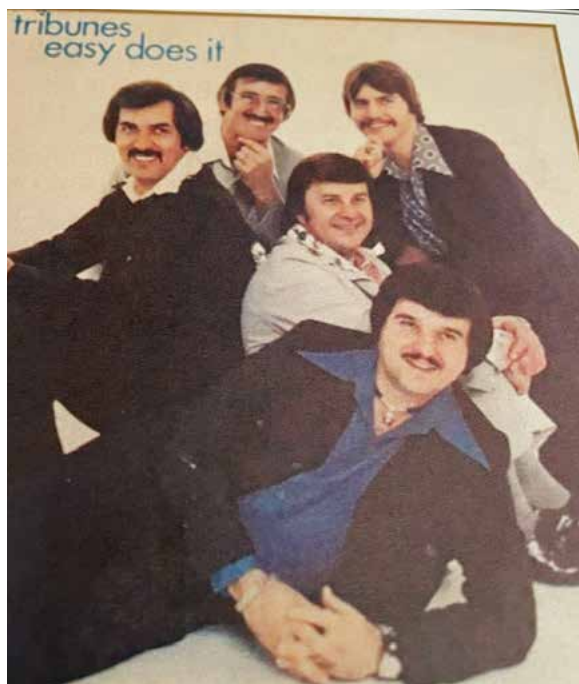
I know of no one who was more devoted to spreading the Gospel Music message. 30 years of radio ministry on KHB radio in Pittsburgh, PA, hundreds of promotions mostly in churches, and most times by love offerings only. He refused to sell tickets in churches.

His ministry also existed outside the religious realm! In 1979, he began serving as a member of the County Sheriff’s Reserve Unit, which is staffed by volunteer deputies, who usually help with crowd control and parking at public events. Mr. Chioda eventually became a chaplain within the Unit. In 2022, members honored his 40+ years of service with a GOLD chaplain’s badge. He also wrote in the Sheriff newsletter every issue and submitted one just before he passed away!

On a personal note, I always appreciated his solid stand for the Lord and his love for Gospel Music. He labored valiantly in an area that was not easy to promote. He made at least two trips with us on our bus to the National Quartet Convention in Memphis, TN. He was always recording from different areas of the auditoriums and I suspect has a treasure trove of groups recorded. Since his death, his wife Mary Ann has joined him, waiting for the rapture of the church.

Joe Chioda is worthy of his induction this year into the 2023 Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Hall Of Fame!

See you later, Joe and Mary Ann!



# HISTORIAN'S CORNER

**The Gospel Rays and The Original Harmenaires: Just the beginning of two long singing careers, dedicated in service to our Lord through spreading the Good News by example and in song**

**By LJ Petersen**



Greetings in the Lord Jesus. As we have finished summer and are concluding the Gospel Concert season for 2023, we earnestly look for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus. This Historian's Corner continues with the focus on Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association (PSGMA) Hall of Fame (HoF) awardees who have encouraged so many with the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus, His redemption and saving grace. This issue, you are in for a treat with this Historian's Corner edition, as I will be presenting two of the longest standing PSGMA HoF awardees and the impact that they, their family and their many groups have made in furthering the Gospel, mostly in Pennsylvania, but also to other states in our great nation. These men are: Mr. Ray Eutsey and Mr. Ossie Myers. I did not have the blessing to listen to either one of the groups in person; however, I have in the past sung with The Ray's two daughters, who are with New Journey, a former PSGMA Keystone Award winner. Through these two interviews, I have learned much about both

Ray and Ossie, the groups they sang with, and the inspiration that they had to promote the Gospel in music and song, and I am sure you will as well after reading about them in this edition.

I will start with Ray's interview, followed by Ossie's. Both Ray and Ossie were inducted into the PSGMA Hall of Fame in 2013. Two different men with a common objective of 1) Honoring and Glorifying God through their music and 2) Encouraging those who came to hear them and continue to do so today with Ossie, who continues to sing, and through New Journey with Ray's daughters and granddaughter.

Through these two interviews, I hope that you also will get to know more about Ray and Ossie and their lives serving the Lord through their music ministry; two ministries spanning over an amazing combined 132 years!

# HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.

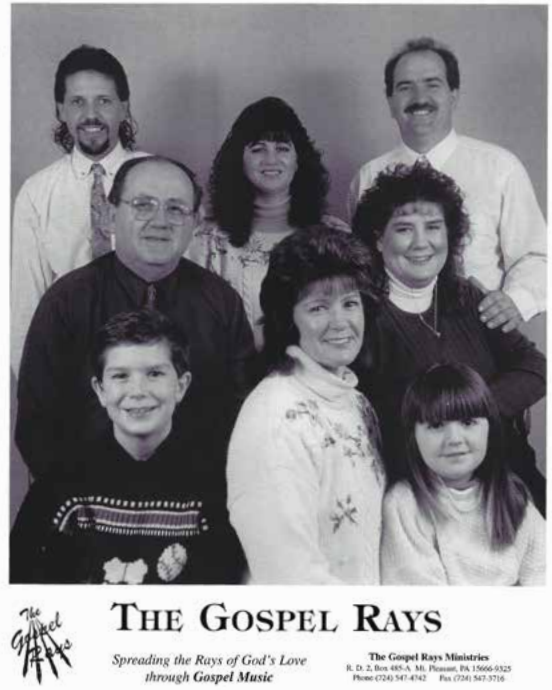
## Ray Eutsey Interview

**Keystone Quarterly (KQ):** When did you first get started in Southern Gospel Music, and what motivated your decision to do so?

**Ray Eutsey (RE):** My parents would often sing in church. I started singing when I was 3 years old, and later singing with my sister, and in the fall of 1963, I began to sing with my wife Audrey. The church we attended would have a yearly Sunday School Rally. The hosting church would supply the music. Our church asked us to sing and pastors from other churches began to ask us to sing at their revivals. God kept opening doors.



Keystone Quarterly



**KQ:** What were the names of your various groups? Who were some of the original members of your groups?

**RE:** In 1973, when we formed The Gospel Rays, we had two other members; Herb and Donna Chearney, who traveled with us for 5 years. In 1978, the group members changed and my daughters Michelle and Melissa joined the ministry.

**KQ:** Singing in a traveling Gospel group has had to have taken a strain on you and your family, even if just traveling domestically or even within the Keystone State, simply from a time consumption perspective. What can you share with Keystone Quarterly and our readers on how you survived and overcame the challenges, if any, associated with singing this long, and on the road, not only domestically, but also any international travel?

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.

**RE:** Because we were a family ministry, we traveled together. No family members were left behind. When the strain of traveling wore us down mentally and physically, seeing souls saved and lives touched in the services always lifted our spirits. We rested in knowing we were answering the call God had on our lives.

**KQ:** If you were to pick the top 3 achievements, including your induction into the PSGMA Hall of Fame, that resulted during the long career of your various groups, what would they be?

**RE:** God gets the glory for any achievements as I could never have accomplished anything without Him.

- 1982 to 2009 The Gospel Rays held a Spring Sing in Laurelville, PA. Giving pastors the ability to hear and see 13 different singing groups, to set up dates for them to sing at their churches and events.
- 1988 to 2009 Annual New Year's Eve celebration dinner and concert, allowing Christians to ring in the New Year with God, fun, food & fellowship.
- In 1990, I started the Tri-State Gospel Music Association with my friend, Ron Cornell. I initiated, organized, and distributed an association book, listing all the various ministries in the association with their biographies and contact information. Each year, this book was mailed to over 1,000 churches to help pastors and promote Gospel Music.



# HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.



**KQ:** How has prayer impacted the decisions and focus of your groups, and give a couple of examples of how God answered any specific prayers of your groups?

**RE:** Here are two examples that stand out to me.

1) Through much prayer, we asked for a larger and newer form of transportation than the old station wagon we had. We saw a van that fit the bill perfectly, but a man with excellent credit bought it and took it home before we had a chance to put money down on it. Disappointed, we prayed even harder. The dealership called us saying the man's credit fell through and he had to bring the van back. We were able to purchase the van and it was a vital part of our ministry for the next 15 years.

2) We needed to update our sound equipment, as what we had been using was starting to break down on us. We went to a local family music store called Spottos and



placed several items on lay-a-way. A piece of equipment stopped working, so we asked if we could take that one item while leaving all the other items at the store and promised to keep paying on the lay-a-way. He said not without paying \$300. Again, we prayed as we did not have \$300 at the time. The next time we went into the store, he informed us that both he and his father agreed that they felt like God was telling them, "They are doing something good, and you are not allowed to mess things up for them". He allowed us that day to take all the items we had on lay-a-way and continue to make payments. The funny part of this story is, he and his father were drinking at a bar when God gave them this message. God can speak to anyone, anywhere and at any time.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.

**KQ:** The Bible talks about Crowns that the believer will receive after they completed their race. You have been successful for all of these years; what awards that you have achieved have meant the most to you and your groups?

**RE:** 2002 Pastor Dave Benner and his wife Sharon presented me with a Faithfulness and Visions for Southern Gospel Music plaque. 2007 Pastor George Van Riper and his wife Nadine presented me at the 25th Spring Sing with a plaque honoring the 25 years of faithful promotion of Southern Gospel Music. 2013 Inducted into the PSGMA Hall of Fame. 2021 Lifetime Gospel Music trophy was presented to me, which also honored the legacy I passed onto my children and grandchildren. They picked up the torch to continue sharing God's light as their group, New Journey.



**KQ:** What advice do you have for young Christian singers who want to form a Gospel Group, and follow in the footsteps of you and your Gospel Groups?

**RE:** Make sure your motive is to serve God and not just to be seen on stage performing. Seek God for His direction. Gospel Singing Ministry is a calling; listen for the call. John 15:16 says “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.” Practice and work hard, allowing what you present is a quality that is worthy of the King’s service. Because you are a ministry by His power and calling, prayer, study, and dedication are essential to hear and obey His voice.

**KQ:** What challenges or opportunities do you see for Southern Gospel music going forward? How does Southern Gospel music capture a younger audience in order to preserve the genre in the future?



## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.

**RE:** Because there is more than one facet to God, pray that churches will open their hearts and minds to include hymns and southern Gospel music back into the church and not stop with only praise and worship style music. This opens the opportunity for young people to experience the genre of southern Gospel and hymns and the amazing truths written into the songs.

**KQ:** Are there any final thoughts that you would like to leave the readers of the Keystone Quarterly?

**RE:** I feel privileged and honored that God would use me. Seeing how He worked through our ministry to save souls and see lives changed is such a blessing.



# HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.



## Ossie Myers Interview

**Keystone Quarterly (KQ):** When did you first get started in Southern Gospel Music, and what motivated your decision to do so?

**Ossie Myers (OM):** When I was young, I heard Southern Gospel quartets on the radio and at local churches. While I was singing in the Zion Choral Society, someone asked me if I would like to sing in a quartet that was forming out of that group. I said, "Me?" Of Course! And, the rest is history.

**KQ:** What were the names of your various groups? Who were some of the original members of your groups?

**OM:** 1. The Original Harmenaires: 1951-1963. Bob Long, Tenor; Gordon Brensinger, Lead; Ernest Hertzog, Baritone; Arlene Bauman, Piano.

2. The Eastmen: 1963-1967. Ronnie Landis, Tenor; Frank Sanchez, Lead; J.R. Damiani, Baritone; and Nick Bruno, Pianist.

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.



3. The Original Harmenaires: 1968-1980. Same group as 1951-1963, except Morrie Stickler, Baritone took Ernest Hertzog's place.

4. The Vicounts: 1985 - 1993. Marvin Elsworth, Tenor; Gene Miller, Baritone; Chuck Mummert, piano and lead; 1985-1993 with Chip Reardon, Piano and Lead.



## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.



5. Abundant Life Quartet: 1994-1997.

6. The Harmenaires: 1998-2017. Don Smith, Tenor; Sharon Humberger, Lead; and Keith Easley, Baritone.

7. River of Grace: 2019-Present. Don Smith, Tenor; Terry Smith, Lead; Keith Easley, Baritone, and Neil Hartranft, Piano.

**KQ:** Singing in a traveling Gospel group has had to take a strain on you and your family, even just traveling domestically or even within the Keystone State, simply from a time consumption perspective. What can you share with Keystone Quarterly and our readers on how you survived and overcame the challenges, if any, associated with singing this long, and on the road, not only domestically, but also any international travel?

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.

**OM:** Combining work and singing was stressful at times, especially for my wife at home with four children. She had been through rough times and loneliness as a child, and I think God prepared her for my being away so much. Prayer overcame many challenges, including lack of sleep, but both of us were dedicated to being faithful to what the Lord had called us to.

**KQ:** If you were to pick the top 3 achievements, including your induction into the PSGMA Hall of Fame, resulting during the long career of your various groups, what would they be?

**OM:** Being inducted into the PSGMA Hall of Fame is the highlight of my singing career. I will be forever grateful to those who nominated and selected me. It's something I will treasure for the rest of my life. Another highlight was being able to sing with the Harmenaires in Brooklyn and Manhattan churches for the fire fighters who had been at the Twin Towers on 9/11. One of the most memorable things in my career has been to hear people say that our music was a big part of the reason that they came to faith in the Lord.

**KQ:** How has prayer impacted the decisions and focus of your groups, and give a couple of examples of how God answered the specific prayers of your groups?

**OM:** In answer to prayer, the Lord has provided the personnel we needed and

opportunities to sing almost every weekend. God has kept us safe. We never had an accident on the road. God has watched over our health concerns. We never had to cancel an engagement.

**KQ:** What advice do you have for young Christian singers who want to form a Gospel Group, and follow in the footsteps of you and your Gospel Groups?

**OM:** 1) If you have talent and enjoy music, get out there and be heard. Sing anywhere, anytime. Sing with feeling. Sing the words, not just the notes, because it's about sharing the Gospel with folks.

2) Volunteer. Sing at your church. Join musical organizations to meet people who have the same interests as you, and perhaps you'll find others who would like to form a Gospel group. Above all, keep your heart right with the Lord, and your life dedicated to His will.

**KQ:** What challenges or opportunities do you see for Southern Gospel music going forward? How can Southern Gospel music capture a younger audience in order to preserve the genre in the future?

**OM:** To keep Gospel music relevant to the younger generation, I think the background arrangements need to be "gassed up" and have chording a little more modern. There are more opportunities in media now as never before, but in-person concerts still have their

## HISTORIAN'S CORNER, CONT'D.

place. What we never should change is the message; that has to stay the same.

**KQ:** Are there any final thoughts that you would like to leave the readers of the Keystone Quarterly?

**OM:** It's been a great journey. I have never regretted the hours and effort I've put into this. I thank the Lord for the opportunity. It was my purpose in life to serve Him, and this seemed the way He called me to do that.

In conclusion, having now read the interviews with Ray and Ossie and learning more about them and their motivation to serve the Lord and encourage others through presenting the Gospel in music for so many years, I am sure that you will agree with me stating that these men truly possess the Godly character and other qualities which warrant their selection into the PSGMA Hall of Fame 10 years ago. I am grateful to you both for working with me on this article, providing photos and answering the interview questions. As a result, even though I have never heard you and your groups sing, I have learned so much more about you, your ministries, your Christian worldview, and your mission to spread the Gospel to a broken world, as a result of this interview.

God's word has many passages concerning music and singing. Here are a couple that come to mind: Psalm 40:3, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord." Paul writing to the church



in Ephesus in Ephesians 5:19: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;" and in Hebrews 2:12, "Saying, I will declare Thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee."

Ray, may God continue to bless you and your heritage, now through New Journey. Ossie, may God Bless you, as you and River of Grace go into the world preaching the Gospel through your gift of music and evangelism. Keep singing that new song of the great news of Jesus that never grows old, but brings us freedom and victory.

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*

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Date	Time	Event Location	Group Key	City	State
October 2023					
Sat, Oct 7th		Private event	H4S		
Sun, Oct 15th	11:00 AM	New Life Outreach	H4S	Bridgeton	NJ
Sat, Oct 21st	10:00 AM	Fall Fest	H4S	E New Market	MD
Sun, Oct 22nd	11:00 AM	Trinity UMC	H4S	E New Market	MD
Fri, Oct 27th	7:00 PM	Enola Church of God	H4S	Enola	PA
November, 2023					
Sat, Nov, 4	6:00 PM	Crisfield Wesleyan Church	H4S	Crisfield	MD
Sun, Nov, 5th	11:00 AM	Lebanon Wesleyan Church	H4S	Dover	DE
Sun, Nov 5th	6PM	Saucon Mennonite	H4S	Coopersburg	PA
Sun, Nov 11th	5:00 PM	Willow Street UCC	H4S	Willow Street	PA
Sun, Nov 12th	11:00 AM	St. Andrew's UMC	H4S	Salisbury	MD
December, 2023					
Sat, Dec 9	6:00 PM	Why AT The Well (tentative)	H4S	Mechanicsburg	PA
Sun, Dec 31st	7PM	1st Church of God Community Center	H4S	Mechanicsburg	Pa

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