

Summer 2019

Keystone Quarterly



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello, Friends!

It's hard to believe, but summer is upon us; I'm really hoping this new, warmer season finds you rested and ready to enjoy the outdoors again! As we all know, the summer season kicks off so many outdoor activities. If you can, certainly be sure to take a look at your favorite groups' and singers' websites, to find out where they will be ministering; I know that many of them have Facebook pages on the internet, as well. Also, don't hesitate to grab your chairs and/or blankets and come on out to support them, and just have a great time worshipping and praising the Lord together.

We all hope to see you soon; you won't be disappointed!
Sincerely,

John Lythgoe

John Lythgoe, PSGMA President

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ON THE NARROW ROAD

with Uncle Brian Rosenbaum



As I put together the thoughts for this issue of the Keystone Quarterly, I want to ask you a question. How would you describe a tree?

That seems like a weird question, but let me add in one proviso... This person that you're describing the tree to was born blind. This means that in

your description, you can't refer to color at all, like the indescribable beauty of blossoms in the Springtime, the green leaves of Summer, the beautiful foliage of Fall... All that is not able to be described to somebody that has never, ever seen. The reason I bring this up is because so many people we have talked to as Christians, have no clue as far as the wonder and the realm in which Our

God resides and thrives. They have no way to grasp His majesty and His glory. We all struggle with grasping His love!

The realm of Heaven is so wonderful, even Paul called it an indescribable gift. This is one of the reasons why I love Southern Gospel music so much, because music has a way of putting these emotions into feelings that are often unable to be communicated otherwise.

So I want to say Thank You to all the musicians out there that toil to share the message of Jesus Christ with the world. I also want to encourage everyone to consider this: As you share the message, remember to communicate it in such a way that it's to someone that has never seen these glories and then would be able to begin to "taste and see that God is good!" That's something to think about as you press on towards the mark of the High Calling of God.

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Historian's Corner

By LJ Petersen, PSGMA Historian

The History of Southern Gospel Music



Southern Gospel (SG) music is a genre of Christian music. Its name comes from its origins in the Southeastern part of the United States, whose lyrics are written to express either personal or a communal faith regarding biblical teachings and Christian life, as well as to give a Christian an alternative to mainstream secular music. Sometimes known as “quartet music” for its traditional “four men and a piano” setup, Southern Gospel (SG) has evolved over the years into a popular form of music across the US and overseas, especially among “baby boomers” and those living in the southern US. Like other forms of music, the creation, performance, significance, and even the definition of SG varies according to culture and social context. It is composed and performed for many purposes, ranging from aesthetic pleasure, religious or ceremonial purposes, or as an entertainment product for the marketplace.

Origins

The year of SG’s establishment as a distinct genre is generally considered to be 1910, the year the first professional quartet was formed for the purpose of selling songbooks for the James D. Vaughn Music Publishing Company in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. Nonetheless, the style of the music itself had existed for at least 35 years prior, although the traditional wisdom that SG music was “invented” in the 1870s by circuit preacher Everett Beverly is spurious. The existence of the genre prior to 1910 is evident in the work of Charles Davis Tillman (1861–1943), who popularized “The Old Time Religion”, wrote “Life’s Railway to Heaven” and published 22 songbooks. Some of the genre’s roots can be found in the publishing work and “normal schools” or singing schools, of Aldine S. Kieffer and Ephraim Ruebush. SG was promoted by traveling singing school teachers, quartets, and “shape note” music publishing companies, such as the A.J. Showalter Company (1879) and the Stamps-Baxter Music and Printing Company. Over time, SG came to be an eclectic musical form with groups singing traditional hymns, a capella (singing with no instruments) songs, country, bluegrass,

spirituals, and “convention songs”. Because it grew out of the musical traditions of white musicians from the American South, the name SG was used to differentiate it from so-called “Black Gospel”.

Convention songs typically have contrasting homophonic (characterized by the movement of accompanying parts in the same rhythm as the melody) and contrapuntal (with two or more independent melodic lines) sections. In the homophonic sections, the four parts sing the same words and rhythms. In the contrapuntal sections, each group member has a unique lyric and rhythm. These songs are called “convention songs”, because various conventions were organized across the US for the purpose of getting together regularly and singing songs in this style. Convention songs were also employed by training centers like the Stamps-Baxter School of Music as a way to teach quartet members how to concentrate on singing their own part. Examples of convention songs include “Heavenly Parade”, “I’m Living In Canaan Now”, “Give the World a Smile” and “Heaven’s Jubilee”.

Early Performers

SG is sometimes called “quartet music” by fans because of the originally all-male, Tenor-Lead-Baritone-Bass quartet makeup. Early quartets were typically either a capella or accompanied only by piano or guitar, and in some cases a piano and banjo in areas that were influenced by bluegrass music, such as Appalachia. Over time, full bands were added and even later, pre-recorded accompaniments (soundtracks) were introduced. In the first decades of the 20th century, SG drew much of its creative energy from the “holiness movement” churches that arose throughout the South. Early gospel artists such as The Speer Family, The Stamps Quartet, The Blackwood Family, and The Lefevre Trio achieved wide popularity through their recordings and radio performances in the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. On October 20, 1927, The Stamps Quartet recorded its early hit “Give The World A Smile” for RCA Victor, which become the quartet’s theme song. The Stamps Quartet was heard on the radio throughout Texas and the South. A handful of groups were considered pioneers in SG music for a series of “firsts.” The Blackwood Brothers, with James Blackwood and John David (J.D.) Sumner, became the first group to

The History of Southern Gospel Music (cont'd)

travel in a bus, which is on display at the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Sumner also was instrumental in creating the National Quartet Convention (NQC), an annual music festival where many groups, both known and very well known, perform for a week. The Speer Family was known for bringing blended groups to mainstream popularity where both male and female performers toured together. The best known group of the 1950s and 1960s was the Statesmen Quartet, which set the trend for broad appeal of the all-male quartets that would develop years later. The Statesmen were known for their showmanship and introduction of jazz, ragtime, and even some early rock and roll elements into their music and their stage appearance, with trendy suits and wide audience appeal and were known for their signature song, "Happy Rhythm" (Rockin and a'Rollin).

Early Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music

Southern Gospel music was not just limited to south of the Mason Dixon Line. Many SG Music events have been held in Pennsylvania over the years. In the early '70's, the Pennsylvania Singing Conventions were very popular and lasted until 2011. Held in Martinsburg, PA and sponsored by the Vicksburg Quartet, these events continued to grow and helped to spread the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus) throughout the Keystone State.

Some of the early Pennsylvania based Southern Gospel groups include, and many of whom either are still singing or sponsor Southern Gospel singing events are: The Couriers, The Gabriels and the Jacobs Brothers. The Couriers, led by Duane Nicholson, Secretary for PSGMA, was the earliest group in PA, starting in the 1950s. Duane states, "Following the Gabriels, [who Randy Simpson's dad, Terry, still plays for], and the Jacobs Brothers, were the Eastmen Quartet, started by J.R. Damiani of Lansdale, PA (near Philadelphia) and the Faith Four, started by Joe Bonsall, now singing with the Oak Ridge Boys". Duane also noted that, "Joe Bonsall was also with the Keystones, and around this time, The Minutemen from the Lebanon area started in this era".

Additionally, the group that I currently am blessed to sing bass with, Chapter VII Gospel Quartet, started around Thanksgiving 1976 in Carlisle, PA and is in their 43rd year of singing for the Lord. Chapter VII still features live music to go along with mixed (male and female) four-part harmony.

SG Music Today

By the 1990s, the "old-timey" quartet-style music began to develop to include more soloists and duets. Although still mostly popular in the Southeast and Southwest, it had a nationwide and even an international audience. To this day, the music remains "more country than city, more down-home than pretentious".

Over the last decade, a newer version of SG has grown in popularity. This style is called "progressive SG" and is characterized by a blend of traditional southern gospel, bluegrass, modern country, and contemporary Christian and pop music elements. Progressive SG generally features artists who push their voices to produce a sound with an edge to it. The traditional style SG singers employ a more classical singing style. Lyrically, most progressive SG songs are patterned after traditional southern gospel, in that they maintain a clear evangelistic and/or testimonial slant.

SG purists view lyrical content and the underlying musical style as the key determining factors for applying the SG label to a song. Although there are some exceptions, most SG songs would NOT be classified as 'Praise and Worship'. Few SG songs are sung "to" God, as opposed to "about" God. On the other hand, SG lyrics are typically overt in their Christian message, unlike "Contemporary Christian Music" (CCM), which sometimes has had "double entendre" lyrics, which could be interpreted as being about a devout love for God or an earthly love for a man or woman.

SG Media

Becoming popular through songbooks, such as those published by R.E. Winnsett of Dayton, Tennessee, SG was and is one of the few genres to use recordings, radio, and television technologies from the very beginning for the advancements of promoting the genre. One of the longest running print magazines for SG music has been the "Singing News". Singing News started in the early 1970s, supplying radio airplay charts and conducting annual fan-based awards. They also supply popular topic forums for SG fans to meet and discuss the genre. The move to internet services has brought along companies such as "SoGospelNews.Com", which has become a noted forum for SG music and has remained a supporter for the past twelve years. It, too, contains the music charts with forums and chat rooms available to the fans. Additionally, other online venues such as "Praise Radio" www.prayerprayprayer.net

The History of Southern Gospel Music (cont'd)

out of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, owned and managed by Byron Fester, contains hundreds of SG artists. Their songs can be requested and played online. WFHB, 91.3 in Bloomington, IN, has a program that airs on Sunday mornings at 6:00 AM, "Fire Escape", led by Mike "The Messenger" Stankovic. This program features current, as well as dated, SG music by various SG artists and groups. In 2005, The Radio Book, a broadcast yearbook, published by M Street Publications, reported 285 radio stations in the US with a primary format designation as "SG", including 175 AM stations and 110 FM stations. In fact, SG was the 9th most popular format for AM stations and the 21st most popular for FM. SG radio promoters routinely service more than a thousand radio stations, which play at least some SG music each week. Recent years have also seen the advent of a number of internet-only SG "radio" stations.

Locally in Pennsylvania, there are several "regular" radio channels that feature SG music. On Sunday mornings, at 8:00 AM on AM 1000, FM 93.9, 97.9 and 107.3, out of the Carlisle, PA area, The Harvest Time Gospel Hour is presented by evangelist Wayne Wheeler. On Sunday afternoons, the PSGMA's Vice President, Randy Simpson, presents Randy's Backyard Gospel on WPFM 91.3 and 93.1 at 3:00 PM in the Cumberland Valley area.

Internet Radio has broadened SG music fan base by using computer technologies and continual streaming. Some of these media outlets are: Sunlite Radio, which features many of the SG programs that are likewise heard on traditional radio. This list includes "The Gospel Greats" with Paul Heil, which recently celebrated 30 years on the air, "Southern Gospel USA", a weekly half-hour countdown show hosted by Gary Wilson, as well as classic radio programs such as "The Old Gospel Ship" and "Heaven's Jubilee", with Jim Loudermilk. Another online station is "The Gospel Station".

A very popular satellite station that features non-stop, commercial free SG is Channel 65 on Sirius/XM satellite radio. It plays a feed entitled, "ENLIGHTEN". ENLIGHTEN plays SG and has several featured programs which air weekly, including Paul Heil's "The Gospel Greats" and Bill Gaither's "Homecoming Radio".

In closing, how long will SG music be around? Only the Lord knows, and it will continue according to His plans and purposes. One thing is for sure, it has made a huge impact in the lives of thousands of people, by spreading the Good News in music, and to those hearing the wonderful news about the Savior and His love for mankind.

Pennsylvania Southern Gospel Music Association Hall of Fame Banquet

Musical Guests: Three Bridges

Saturday, October 26, 2019

The Open Door Church, 600 Miller St.

Chambersburg, PA

Doors Open - 5:00 PM

Dinner - 6 PM / Concert - 7 PM

Admission - \$35.00 (Concert Only - \$15)

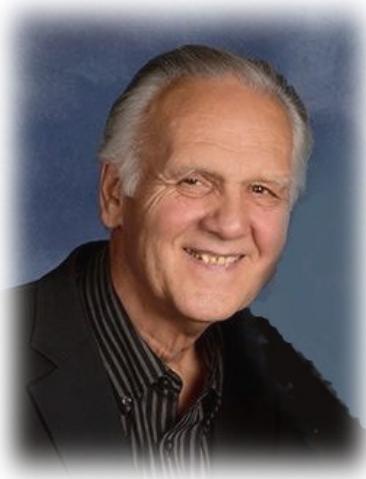
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Shannon Smith – Lead
Elliott McCoy – Baritone
Jeremie Hudson – Tenor



David Andrew Kyllonen, 83, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, passed away at Holy Spirit Hospital on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019, surrounded by his loving family. He was the faithful and beloved husband of Judy Kyllonen for 60 years. Dave and Judy have 7 great grandchildren and 1 more on the way.

Dave has been committed to a life of faith! Called of God into full time ministry and graduated from Central Bible Institute, Springfield, Missouri. There he joined The Couriers and their ministry took them around the world and traveled to all 50 states and all Canadian provinces. He loved sharing this ministry with Neil Enloe and Duane Nicholson. Together they recorded over 50 albums and had a weekly television show on Channel 8, Lancaster, PA. Dave and Judy also spent 3 years as missionaries to People's Cathedral in Barbados, West Indies, under the spiritual leadership of Holmes and Rosie Williams.

They then pastored the wonderful people of Westside Assembly of God in Davenport, Iowa, for 7 years with his daughter Kristie and son-in-law Gregory Hollis.

Taking one of the most courageous steps of faith, Dave and Judy sold EVERYTHING and gathered his entire family and formed HomeFire Family Ministries. They crisscrossed the country for 13 years, living in RVs, providing help and hope to families through music, drama, and preaching.

In recent years, he rejoined Duane and Neil and embarked on a "final tour" that lasted for 10 years. He became the WPFG Radio Chaplain, hosting a daily radio program (Praise For God), with more than 1,500 broadcasts. Also, he preached every Monday night for an hour to thousands of truckers around the world on the "Trucker's Church" network.

Dave served on staff as Legacy Pastor for 12 years at Celebration Community Church, Dillsburg, PA, with his daughter Connie and son-in-law Mike Hammer.

Dave was passionate about so many things. He loved doing yardwork, especially projects with his daughter Robin and son-in-law, Paul Eschbach. Dave was an incredible dreamer, passionate learner and a mentor to so many. He always had a book in his hand; he authored two books and had more in his heart, yet to be written.

Dave has always had a big heart for Missions worldwide. For those who want to give a gift in Dave's honor, you can donate towards Celebration Community Church, Missions Department. (1048 South Mountain Road, Dillsburg PA 17019).

Former Courier Dave Kyllonen Passes Away

March 19, 2019 — *Singing News* has learned that Dave Kyllonen, a longtime member of The Couriers, has passed away after an extended illness.

Dave joined The Couriers in 1955 as the bass singer. When Phil Enloe stepped down as baritone in 1968, Dave transitioned into singing bass/baritone, and the quartet became a trio. He toured with The Couriers until 1980, when he left to be a missionary to the Caribbean. He later became a pastor in Iowa and also formed the group 'Homefire' with his family.

In 2001, he reunited with fellow Couriers Duane Nicholson and Neil Enloe for an "original Couriers" reunion concert. It was so successful, they performed together for many years under the name "Dave, Duane, and Neil."

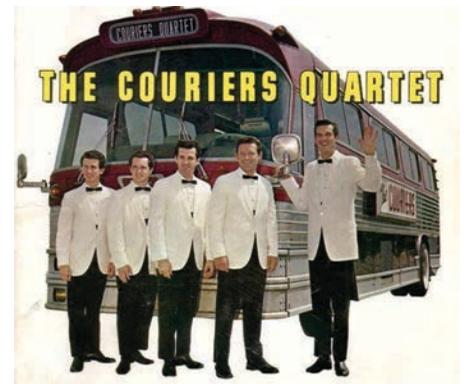
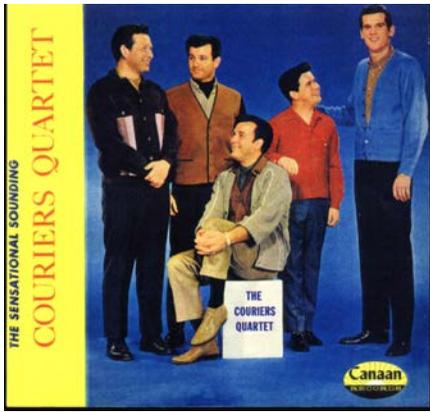


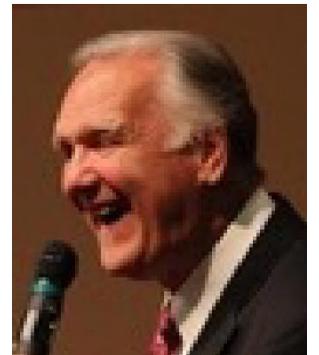
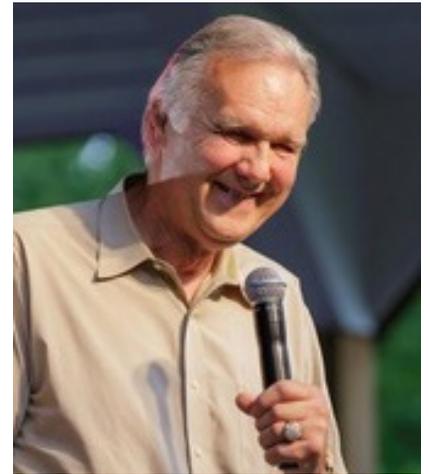
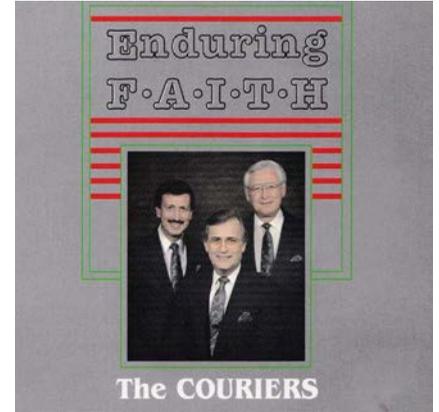
Dave, Duane, and Neil

In all, The Couriers shared the Good News for 55 years, traveling to all 50 states, as well as 80 nations all over the globe. They also recorded more than 40 albums and garnered three Dove Awards.

His daughter Connie posted on Facebook, "Our dad, Dave Kyllonen has passed away and is now with Jesus!! I can only imagine what it will be like! Another soldier has gone home!"

"Reprinted from the June 2019 issue of *Singing News* Magazine. Used by permission of Salem Publishing, Inc."





Champions of the Faith Remember Dave Kyllonen

Duane Nicholson



In September of 1956, I traveled to Springfield, Missouri to begin my second year of Bible School. I was a bit concerned, because I had not had a firm call to be a minister; I wondered privately why I was going back to a school that was dedicated

mostly to preparing men and women for the purpose of becoming missionaries and ministers. There were other courses in music, but not the main thrust of the school.

Upon arriving, I immediately signed up for one of the traveling campus choirs, The Kings Choraliers, that I had sung with my first year there. I loved to sing, and was also taking voice lessons. One day, after being back in school for two weeks, two men approached me and asked me if I would audition for a quartet that they were part of. They were in need of a lead singer, as the former lead had graduated from school. I agreed to at least try out. After being told I was what they were looking for, I said I would think about joining them. I did pray and felt led to join them. One of those two men who asked me to try out was a 6'6" man named Dave Kyllonen. Little did I know that in the coming years, I would spend almost a lifetime traveling with him across the nation countless times and in over 65 nations of the world.



Dave, was a quiet, gentle giant, not only in stature, but in his personal and spiritual life. When Dave spoke, you felt that he was believable in whatever he was saying. Also, Dave never sang a note until he went to Bible School! He often said his family was "tone deaf". Because he had a bass voice, he tried out for one college group and was rejected. When this happened, he determined that he would learn the bass part and when he tried out for a group called The Couriers, he was accepted!

That determination of being successful followed Dave his entire life. It was a mistake to ever say to

him the words, "this can't be done." Dave never proclaimed himself to be a "great" singer. Having said that, when the Couriers later became a trio for many years, he sang what I believe is the hardest part, that of singing baritone. It is the glue that holds a group's sound together.

It is a little known fact that Dave also was the featured speaker at the National Quartet Convention in the convention's early years in Memphis, TN. Among his peers, including the Icon of Gospel Music, J.D. Sumner, he was proclaimed as the best Master of Ceremonies in Gospel Music, a fact that J.D told me himself.

The actual moving of the Couriers group to Pennsylvania was primarily because Dave was from this state and had contacts with the Assemblies of God churches. Although there were some forays into Pennsylvania by possibly the Blue Ridge Quartet, The Couriers began concerts in many a city in especially Central Pennsylvania and pioneered what was known as Southern Gospel Music. Dave's 'can do' spirit was the driving force behind this monumental move to the Northeast.

Dave went on to other areas of ministry, such as involving his entire family in a traveling ministry, only interrupted by a 3 year journey to the country of Barbados, where The Couriers had ministered so many times. He honed his preaching skills by preaching over 300 times a year for those 3 years. Only a call



to pastor a church in Davenport, Iowa changed the course of his ministry once again. After 7 years as pastor, he once again felt the call of evangelism and embarked with his entire family into a group called Home Fires. Although naysayers said this would not work, Dave's 'can do' attitude prevailed and for 17 years, Home Fires conducted 3-day meetings all across America.

By this time, Dave's family had grown larger, with his 3 daughters getting married to ministers and then grandchildren began to arrive. It was then time for Dave to retire, and that resulted in Dave

Champions of the Faith Remember Dave Kyllonen

Duane Nicholson (cont.)

reconnecting with the original Couriers, joining together again for another few years of limited ministry.

The final concert of the original Couriers came about and Dave, Duane & Neil retired for the final time.



But, this was not the end for Dave. His search for ministry was satisfied by being chaplain and online minister for a fledgling new FM radio station in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He also was a mentor to a daughter and son-in-law in a brand new church plant in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dave was a dreamer of ministry conquests. His final dream, at the age of almost 84, was to bring water to a village in Ecuador. That particular story is too long for this article. It was actually accomplished by sheer will power and an overriding sense of ministry. Water now flows to this village because of his final dream. He passed away, knowing that his final ministry dream was fulfilled!

So much more could be said, but I will close with these final words. Neil Enloe and I, his partners and our 'closer than brothers' relationship, is now broken, but his memory will linger until we meet him again

in heavenly places.

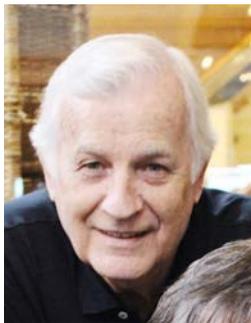
"We will see you in a few days, faithful servant."

On Dave's birthday that followed what would have been his 84th, Duane commented on Facebook: "My mind today is filled with memories, nostalgia and some tears as my part of the Courier family honors our fallen brother, Dave Kyllonen, on what would have been his 84th birthday. It was hard enough when Neil, Dave and I met together and ceremoniously took our color-coded microphones as a final keepsake. That act signified the official end to a lifetime of walking onto a stage, church platform, hospital room, thatched roof church on some far away missionary journey or other venues of rehearsals, 50 some music projects and millions of miles together; but, to stand at his casket was quite another thing.

Even though he towered over me at 6'6", I never felt intimidated on a stage by his height, because he never used that advantage to do so! So, we mourn again today, but turn our thoughts to the Kyllonen Family and find solace and comfort in the fact that DAVE only sleeps for awhile, or his body rests, but he is more alive than ever... Happy Birthday! Your first one in Heaven, my respected BROTHER!

I would trade places with you in a heartbeat!

Neil Enloe



April 28th would have been the 84th Earthly birthday of my longtime music ministry associate in The Couriers, Dave Kyllonen.

While I've been blessed to have many close and treasured friends in this life, Dave and my other singing partner, Duane

Nicholson, had a special unbreakable bond that few, even brothers, had.

Dave was a pure hearted, Christ-honoring believer through and through. There was no guile in

him whatsoever and he was running over with zeal toward the ministry.

Dave's wife and great love, Judy, is keenly feeling her loss, and I would appreciate your prayers on her behalf. Their beautiful family is ongoing in ministry as Dave would have hoped. They are all a tribute to Dave's legacy of ministry first.

Dave is now residing in Glory, where birthdays have been eliminated and replaced with forever. So, for the rest of us who in Christ live in the hope of joining him in eternity, we celebrate a life well lived by my dear "brother", Dave Kyllonen.

Love you, Dave. See you later and forever.

Champions of the Faith Remember Dave Kyllonen

Phil Enloe



In 1965, when Don Baldwin, founder and manager of The Couriers, resigned to pursue a business opportunity. Along with L. D. Young, pianist, Eddie Hawkes and I joined the group to fill their vacancies. Eddie came from West Virginia, where he had his own music ministry, and

I came from Memphis, Tennessee, where I had been a member of The Jr. Blackwood Brothers. Dave Kyllonen, already the senior member of the group, also stepped into the role of manager and took us under his wing. We learned so much from his leadership. Of course, Duane Nicholson, tenor, and my brother



Neil Enloe, lead, were role models to us as well.

Dave's stature, communication skills and deep resonant voice mesmerized audiences. I watched and learned from him concert after concert, as well as in his personal life during the years I was a member of the group. Under his

leadership, The Couriers gained a respected name in Gospel Music. He made sure we were more than Gospel Music entertainers, but a ministry team that used music and The Word to advance the Gospel. He will forever be remembered and hold a place in my heart for his exemplary life and dedicated ministry.



L.D. Young "Little Dave"



"Big Dave" and I had some common likes; at the close of the Couriers part on the program, after we left the stage, we would exchange coats before coming back for a second

bow. The audience loved that everywhere we went.

In the summer of 1964, when the Couriers were in Pensacola, FL, Hal Kennedy (guitarist for the Dixie Echoes), who also was on The Gospel Singing Jubilee, invited us to go fishing. Hal was "The Ling King", catching large ling, also called cobia. The name on the side of his boat was THE LING KING. Big Dave and I were the only



ones to go that day. Hal hooked into a large one, around 50-60 pounds and handed the rod to Big Dave. Dave cranked and fought it for over an hour and said, "I'm wore out. Little David, you reel for a while." By the time I got the reel, Big Dave had worn the fish down enough that



it came on in pretty easily. We considered ourselves partners on that catch. Hal and I continued fishing and caught 4-5 more ling that day.

Dave and his wife Judy were a big help to my wife Colleen and

I when we moved to Harrisburg in 1963. Two of our children, Terri and Mike, were born in Harrisburg. As the Couriers were usually on the road singing, Judy was usually at Colleen's side during those times.

Big Dave's family group, HomeFire Ministries, came through our state of Georgia. They used drama presentations, along with teaching in a family ministry for churches. As they were in our area, Dave and Judy, along with their girls and spouses, came to our house and stayed for a week. While there, Dave and I recorded his book on audio, 'DAVE KYLLONEN, Out Of The Ordinary' at our studio. Both of our families being in music ministries, had much fun, fellowship, singing and preaching in our home, kinda like in a revival meeting.....

GREAT TIMES AND MEMORIES!



Champions of the Faith Remember Dave Kyllonen

J.R. Damiani



My memories of Dave Kyllonen go back to 1954, when I was 13 years old. A 'Bible School' quartet from Springfield, Missouri were booked at Maranatha Youth Camp in Green Lane, PA. Gospel quartet music was very new in Pennsylvania and I was hooked! The high tenor part and the low bass parts fascinated me and put me in a love for the music and a desire to learn how to sing and harmonize. Dave Kyllonen sang bass and I tried to copy him. When I was

19, I started the Eastmen Quartet and Dave and the Couriers became good friends and mentors. It would take an entire book to tell the story of miles traveled, concerts performed, records produced and church services conducted. Dave was a mentor and a friend until his passing this year. He has moved on to his eternal reward, but he has left a legacy of music and ministry that continues until Jesus Comes Again. So, from a short Italian (5'8") to a giant of a man (6'6"), thanks for the legacy and the memories.

See you upstairs!

Cliff Cerce



Dave Kyllonen has been a dear friend of mine for many years. I first saw him in person at a concert with The Couriers and The Blackwood Brothers in Dumont, New Jersey in the late Winter of 1963. I was 11 at the time...about to turn 12 in the Spring several months later.

I first actually met Dave on April 5th of 1965, at the age of 13, just short of my 14th birthday. He took the time to talk with me that night during the intermission at a concert. I actually still have the full recording of that whole concert. He, along with the other Couriers Duane Nicholson, Neil Enloe, and the late Don Baldwin, became lifelong mentors to me...in many ways. Neil got me the piano-playing and arranging job with The Gabriels in the Summer of 1978, and we moved to Camp Hill, PA. They were very generous to us with their TV program on WGAL-TV Channel 8, and we appeared on it every few months.

Soon after The Couriers quit for a few years in 1980, I became Duane's piano player for a year and a half and we did the TV program together during that time. I also played the piano for Dave Kyllonen and his family at that time on local dates, and arranged the music for a new album for them and produced it for them in the studio. It included a song I had written (He Cares), that they were very gracious to sing it...and a Courier Medley I had written and arranged for them, showcasing The Couriers' top songs over the years. They used that piece as the highlight 'sugar-stick' in their concerts. I spent untold hours at their home teaching them the parts to the arrangements for that album and preparing them for that, and young Connie, their youngest daughter, handled her parts like a real pro. Of course, Dave and Judy were established pros already,



and their singing on the album was sensational. I got to spend much time with the family back then, shortly before they went to Barbados.

Dave and I got to work together again starting in 2003, when The Couriers got back together again. Our group, The Cerces, always found it to be a joy to work with them in concerts both here in the MidWest,

and in Pennsylvania...and Dave and Judy insisted that we stay overnight at their home with them quite a few times when we were in the area. Dave, Duane, and Neil and their wives surprised us one Sunday night in 2005 when they all showed up at a concert we did for Dwayne Campbell, the pastor at First Assembly in York, PA on a Sunday night and they thrilled the crowd, as I brought them to the stage to also sing.

They never failed to bring me to the stage to accompany them on the piano on a song if we were there at one of their concerts, but not on the program. And, in September 1976 at their 21st Birthday Celebration at the Farm Show Arena, we showed up that Saturday night, because we were singing in nearby Maryland the next morning. When Dave saw us, he had us "crash the party" and sing two songs at the Farm Show Arena stage on that special night at the close of the intermission, just before they took the stage again. He always went way out of his way to promote our group and our ministry. We would not be in the ministry today, were it not for Dave and The Couriers. I have had a ministry of not only Gospel singing, but of pastoral ministry, and being a Bible College professor at several colleges, as well as being an evangelist and a full-time Gospel radio Program Director and talk-show host; and having produced and engineered the Revivaltime Radio Broadcast for Dan Betzer and the Assemblies of God for 8 years from 1982-1990. Yeah...Dave and



Champions of the Faith Remember Dave Kyllonen

Cliff Cerce (cont.)



The Couriers introduced me to Dan Betzer and got me that job, too.

In April of 2013, Dave invited me to take part in his weekly radio program ...which was on a Trucker Radio channel and

ministered weekly to truckers. Soon after, he persuaded the station owner to give me my own 1-hour weekly show, just preceding his, and so we have spent the last several years ministering to truckers on Monday nights. From there, 5 other stations have picked up my program and I am currently on 6 stations weekly, with a possible expansion to 20 stations by the end of the year. God used Dave to bring this ministry to my wife and me.

Then, in February of 2018, Dave asked me to go with him the following February of 2019 to deep in the Amazon jungle in Ecuador, South America to bring clean and safe water to a very remote village there. We first went to Indiana in August of 2018, to be trained on the water treatment equipment and machinery that we were going to install in the Amazon jungle, and then he and I went with 2 others last October to visit the Amazon jungle village and study their present infrastructure and learn how to best accomplish this. While there, we learned of 4 other villages that also needed clean and safe water. Dave was very instrumental in the vital task of raising the money needed for the equipment, and we purchased it.

However, Dave was too sick to go this past February, so 9 of us went in his stead and installed the equipment and water treatment plant in the first of those 5 villages. This project was Dave's final missionary endeavor, and he was very excited to see this accomplished, with all of the passion that had consumed him for his whole life of

ministry.

Four days before he passed away, Dave called me and asked me to make sure that the remaining 4 villages that we were aware of in the Amazon jungle with unsafe water also received clean water in the future, and he even told me which of the 4 villages he wanted to receive the water treatment plant before the others. So, his missionary work is still continuing. I will be attempting to help fulfill his vision in the days ahead, working with others, as the Lord enables and leads.

I recorded this song by Dave Kyllonen, Duane Nicholson, and Neil Enloe (who was also at the piano) live in Rockaway, NJ on October 21, 1967, when they sang about that great Homecoming day to come. Dave is introducing this song, which was written by former Courier piano player 'Little Dave' Young, who had left the group 2 years and 4 months before this recording was made. This is The Couriers at their best, singing about a time when we will all be reunited with our loved ones...and with our heroes of the faith.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0kJn605EJY&feature=youtu.be>

One thing is for certain...God used Dave Kyllonen and his Courier buddies to influence this 17-year-old young man to put aside his plans of becoming a commercial airline pilot, and to go to Bible College in 1968 to study for the ministry, and I will be eternally grateful to them for that.

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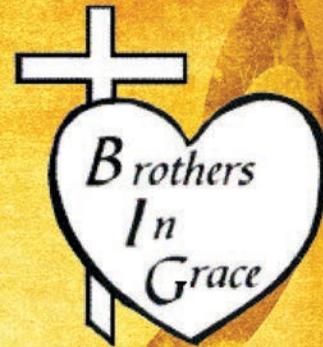
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Fri. May 31:	Hickory Bottom Band - Bluegrass Bedford, PA	Aug. 10:	The Needhams Nashville, TN
Sat. June 01:	Remington Ryde - Bluegrass Harrisburg, PA		<u>Christian Camp Meeting</u> <small>(In the Lake Pavilion)</small>
June 08:	Weaver Believer Survival Revival Santee Nacoochee, GA	Aug. 12:	The Masters
June 15:	The Hagans Family Kinzers, PA	Aug. 13:	Randy Simpson Ministries
June 22:	Curtis Hylar & Jubilation Greenville, NC	Aug. 14:	Servants Heart
June 29:	New Road 2 Chattanooga, TN	Aug. 15:	The Woodsmen Quartet
July 06:	The Fellowship Quartet Big Cove Tannery, PA	Aug. 16:	Victory Express
July 13:	The Jacobs Brothers Dillsburg, PA	Aug. 17:	<u>Gospel Homecoming: 4pm - 10pm</u> <small>(In the Lake Pavilion)</small>
July 20:	The Anchormen Asheboro, NC	Aug. 24:	Dixie Melody Boys
		Aug. 31:	Three Bridges
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