

# Singing

"In the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises"  
Hebrews 2:12



Music is the language of the heart. Singing together is a command, a great privilege, a wonderful expression of the heartfelt praise and adoration for God. It has been said to be the "only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing." It washes from the soul the dust of everyday living.

Christianity is a singing religion. When Ingersoll, the noted infidel, died, the printed notice of his funeral said, "There will be no singing." "The fruit of the Spirit is joy," and it finds an outlet in singing. "Is any among you merry? Let him sing psalms." (James 5:13). Happy people are singing people!

Luther once said, "No man is really living until he has gone to his own funeral and comes back singing, 'There's music in my soul today.'" The Christian has a song in his or her heart. When you get to heaven you will sing a "new song." (Revelation 14:3). The "new song" will be in celebration of "redemption."

Movements have ridden to victory on the wings of a song. The singing of great hymns, it has been said, did nearly as much for the Reformation as the sermons.

Isaac Watts, who wrote some 600 hymns (many we sing), once said, "The singing of God's praises is the part of worship highest to heaven, and its performance among us is the worst on earth." May this never be said of us.

Let us all truly "Sing and make melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:19); and then "live the poetry we sing." Great singing grows out of great living!

- Charles Cash - *Lifelines*, Bella Vista Church of Christ, Bella Vista, AR

## Music of the Church

In writing to the churches at Ephesus and Colosse, Paul developed a three fold function of music which applies to the ministry of congregational singing.

1. Congregational singing is **ingoing**: "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Ephesians 5:19). The most vital ministry of singing is to the person himself.

2. Congregational singing is **upreaching**: "Singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16). The hymn serves as a means of helping man express himself to God.

3. Congregational singing is **outgoing**: Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Colossians 3:16). A person's presence and participation in the song service is a testimony to others. Together with the rest of the congregation, he is able to proclaim the doctrines of God to those around him.

- Ken Helterbrand (In Search of the Lord's Way), Edmond, OK - via *Bulletin Digest*

Those who sing their own praises get the wrong pitch.

### News & Notes

**CONFESSION:** Sharon Roberts.

**CARE & SHARE BEARS:** Each Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Join the ladies in this good work making stuffed bears for children.

**IN CLEVELAND:** Dan Williams had his stem cell transplant this past week and is doing as well as can be expected. He and Sharon will be in Cleveland for an extended period of time. Remember them in your prayers. Their address: c/o Cleveland Clinic Guest House, 9601 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106.

**PANTRY:** Spaghetti & sauce.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON SING:** Lisbon, March 1st, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Richard Clutter.

**REMEMBER THESE SHUT-INS:** Harry & Imogene Nice.

**THOSE WITH HEALTH CONCERNS:** Weirton Medical Center: Marilyn Sprout (Skilled), Mabel Sprout, Fred Larrimore, Sr. (Karen Strum's dad). Calcutta Health Care: Docie Moore, Marie Jones. Carriage Inn, Steubenville: Barb Shafer (Docie Moore's mother). At Home: Marlene Reynolds, Kari Spencer, Joyce Murdock, Joann Webb, Sharon Roberts, Karen Main, Crystal Baker (having more tests), Betty Gentry, Linda Wiersbicki, Randy Beagle, Virginia Ferrell, Beulah Rice, Gene Miller, Ruth Brewer, Betty Carlin. Remember others confined to their homes and in nursing homes. Check the bulletin board.

### MEETINGS

Lisbon .....	Feb. 27-Mar. 1 .....	F. Higginbotham
Tipp City, OH .....	Mar. 22-25 .....	F. Higginbotham
CHESTER .....	Mar. 29-Apr. 2 .....	David Hinds

### TOMORROW

He was going to be all that he wanted to be—Tomorrow.  
 None would be kinder or braver than he—Tomorrow.  
 A friend who was troubled and weary, he knew,  
 Who'd be glad of a lift, and who needed it too,  
 On him he would call and see what he could do—Tomorrow.  
 Each morning he stacked up the letters he'd write—Tomorrow.  
 And thought of the folks he would fill with delight—Tomorrow.  
 But hadn't one minute to stop on his way,  
 "More time I will give to others," he'd say—Tomorrow.  
 The greatest of workers this man would have been—Tomorrow.  
 The world would have hailed him if ever he had seen—Tomorrow.  
 But, in fact, he passed on, and he faded from view,  
 And all that he left here when living was through,  
 Was a mountain of things he intended to do—Tomorrow!

- Author Unknown -