

from Stan Wikle Gospel Music Promotions.....

# THE CONCERT CONNECTION

"Our 185<sup>th</sup> Issue"



## WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

*Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, [a] wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."*

*When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.*

*So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler who will shepherd My people Israel.'"*

*Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."*

*When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

*Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.*

*Matthew 2: 1-12*



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## CHRISTMAS IS LIGHT

When we think on the Christ child at this Christmas season, we remember the tender story surrounding his birth. Many of the story's elements are symbolic of the gospel principles we try to cultivate in our lives.

We are reminded that we are all innkeepers. We try to warmly welcome in the Savior with all our hearts rather than renting him a single room. Hopefully he has come in to lodge as a permanent guest and not as an itinerant traveler.

The shepherds were humble men who, while keeping watch over their flocks, did not hesitate to put their business aside to go with haste and find the babe. From them we learn when to put our own temporal affairs aside and seek the more spiritual.

We remember the wise men from the east who searched out the Son of God. These were spiritually sensitive men who came to worship the King. After much searching, inquiry, and effort, they found Him. Truly, wise men still seek Him. These magi presented treasures to the Christ child that were offerings from their hearts and hands. The gifts they bore were their very best. When we offer a gift to the Savior from our hearts it is our very best.

Light also abounds in this simple story. In many instances the symbol of light was chosen to herald the Savior's birth: The prophet Samuel predicts of the great lights in heaven where a day, a night, and a day would be as if it were one day and no night...and it shall be the night before He is born.

Samuel also tells of a new star that shall appear "such an one as ye have never beheld."

The shepherd witnessed the light of the Lord's glory as it shone round about them in their fields. The wise men were directed by the light of the new star in the east, that went before them until it came and stood over where the young child was.

The light of Christ is both real and symbolic. We see it in the faces of each other and those who have come to accept His gospel. We are anxiously engaged in bringing this light to people in the Lord's kingdom. We wish you a sweet and joyous holiday season and may your lives be filled with his light.



## TOP SONGS IN GOSPEL MUSIC

As reported in the "Singing News" Magazine

<u>This Month</u>	<u>Song Title</u>	<u>Artist</u>
1	He Made A Way	Whisnants
2	There's A Hole In The Heart	Nelons
3	Your Healing Is On The Way	Greater Vision
4	He Sent Him For Me	Inspirations
5	After All	Mark Trammell Quartet
6	Middle Of Nowhere	Southbound
7	You Have Always Been My Shepherd	Legacy Five
8	Storms I Never See	Peach Goldman
9	Be Ready	Karen Peck & New River
10	Praying For The Prodigal	Kingsmen

## CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

**A good conscience is a continual Christmas. – Benjamin Franklin**

**Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.**

**I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.**

**It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.**

**All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing  
Without the presence of Christ. – David Jeremiah**

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## NO BETTER TIME

Dollywood's Kingdom Heirs take to the road soon with their No Better Time Tour for 2025. Celebrate Valentine's Day (February 14) with the Kingdom Heirs in concert at First Baptist Church in Bluefield, West Virginia. This will be your only opportunity to see the Kingdom Heirs in West Virginia or Virginia so do not miss this concert.

Tickets will be available in the church office beginning Monday, January 6. Mail orders are being accepted now. All seating will be General Admission; children 10 and under will be admitted free. Please make checks payable to SWGMP, 234 Sunny Drive, Princeton, WV 24740.

It will be a "sweetheart of an evening" on Valentine's Day when the Kingdom Heirs return to First Baptist Church, 1325 Augusta Street, Bluefield, West Virginia.



Concert begins at 7 PM with complimentary refreshments provided by the church.

### THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE

• When the usher noticed a man stretched across three seats in the movie theater, he walked over and whispered "Sorry sir, but you are allowed only one seat." The man moaned but didn't budge. "Sir," the usher said more loudly, "if you don't move, I'll have to call the manager." The man moaned again but stayed where he was. The usher left and returned with the manager, who, after several attempts at dislodging the fellow, called the police. The cop looked at the reclining man and said, "All right, what's your name, joker?" "Joe", he mumbled. "And where are you from, Joe?" Joe responds painfully, "The balcony!"

• Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

• A college professor asked the class which book had helped them most in life. One student replied with perhaps the most honest of answers, "My father's checkbook."

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