Gospel Reaching Out Volume 2, Number 1

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Gospel Reaching Out

Gospel Music News from the “Hart” of Kentucky

Volume 2 - Number 1

Horse Cave, Kentucky 42749

January 1974

Hart County Convention Elects Officers

The last meeting of the Hart County Singing Convention for 1973 was held on December 1 at the Camp Ground United Methodist Church. An election was held to select officers for the coming year. 1974 officers are: President - Jimmy McCubbins; Vice-President - Carlie Stanton; Secretary and Treasurer - Donna Stanton.

These people earnestly solicit your prayers and support to make 1974 a great year for gospel music.

Sego Brothers & Naomi

One of Nashville’s well-known groups, The Sego Brothers and Naomi will be at the Hart County High School Cafeteria, 7:00, Jan. 12th for the Hart Co. GMA, co-sponsored singing. The group has recently added two Kentuckians, Stanley Greer and Ronnie Bowles, both from the surrounding Glasgow area. These fine Christian people will be sure to sing you a song that will bless your soul. The Voices of Faith, the co-host will also be singing.

There will be no charge at the door but a free will offering will be taken for the Sego’s.

If you enjoy good clean, wholesome entertainment and also a time of inspiration, then you will want to hear The Sego Brothers and Naomi. What makes this group so different is...they are all God-called and not man-made. They have devoted their life to giving the message in songs all over the country. God also gave more than just one talent to this famous group. The two Sego Brothers, James and W. R., have written hundreds of songs, a talent that God does not place in the hands of just any and every one.

There is an added incentive for coming to this singing. As a “New Year’s Special” we will offer memberships at no charge. This will be held at the January GMA Sing sponsored by the Voices of Faith.

Happy New Year

Let’s All Work Together to Make 1974 The Very Best Ever in Gospel Music.
From The Hart County GMA President

By Johnny Melloan

The beginning of a new year always seems to be a good time for setting new goals and making new plans. It is definitely a good time to write about these things, as can be seen in any newspaper or magazine that you read this week. So here is our contribution to the list of ideals which might make 1974 a better year.

The first goal for gospel groups could be to work a little harder and longer than you have ever done in previous years. By doing so you can make your program the best that it can be. People often go to a lot of trouble to come and hear you sing and they deserve no less than your best effort.

The next goal is probably more important than the first. It is to show up on every program on which you are scheduled to appear. There are very few things which cast a worse reflection on a group and gospel music in general than for a group to not show up when scheduled. As was said before, people have come to hear you and they should at least see something. There is also a problem created for the promoter since he has gone to the trouble to organize and publicize the event only to have the group not show up.

There is a goal which promoters should set for 1974. It is to do more work in publicizing and advertising their singings. By doing this larger crowds will be present at singings and that will make everybody feel better. Singers always like to sing to big crowds. Promoters like to have big crowds at their singings. And audiences like it when they don’t feel lonesome while at a singing.

Singers, audiences, and promoters need to set a goal to make 1974 the best year ever in gospel music. Gospel music is “Good News” music so why not make it a point to say good things about it and be good at whatever your place happens to be.

THANKS GO TO EVERYONE

So many people these days are waiting for the mail to bring their Hart County G.M.A. paper. They read it to find out who next month’s special group will be. They read it to find out what Minister is giving his opinion. They read it to see if there is a personal testimony in it. People are interested. People are enjoying this little paper that comes into their homes once a month.

This paper was started less than a year ago. Already we have over 400 members. The paper is getting into the hands of many more than that.

We thank each person who has helped get this paper started. We thank each one who has shown interest in the paper. We thank each church, school, organization for helping support the efforts of this paper. And, too, we can’t forget to thank those who have bought ads and given donations for this paper. Everyone has been so nice about helping, we feel that we can’t thank you enough.

The support we have received from these sources has gotten this paper off the ground and circulated throughout several states. We are so glad we had a small part in the promotion of this new and worthwhile project. Our prayers are with this paper and with the Gospel Singing groups.

Continued on page 8.
By M. J. Cook

Your bus drives slowly up the winding driveway. A Large Stone Building looms ahead.

You greet the guard at the gate and explain to him that you're a Gospel Group, that you're scheduled there for the evening service to entertain the prisoners.

He tells you to pull up in front of the building, that you must all sign the register before entering the prison yard and to be certain to sign out as you leave.

You enter the building the inside structure is quite artistic, but the bars, Marble, and stone give the place a cold forbidding appearance.

The only decoration is a large desk, a water fountain, and a few uniformed guards.

A sudden little chill runs up your spine and you notice your hand shakes slightly as you sign your name.

Your told to drive around back to the other guard house.

Silently you all troop out to the bus, climb in, and about half way there somebody shouts (I'm scared). Everyone agrees that the feeling is mutual.

You see the trembling shoulders, the tear stained faces of the ones that have come. You notice several more faces in the back and judging from their saddened expressions they are trying desperately to believe that God loves and will forgive them. Give them hope and peace. You give another invitation. No one else makes a move.

Up front men are rising two at a time begin coming and kneeling at the altar.

You see the guards escort us up to the Chapel where we are greeted by the Chaplain. A very nice fellow who tells us he has been a Minister at the prison for many years.

Jokingly he adds. "Your safer here than on the streets of downtown Louisville".

You go in the back entrance and enter the pulpit area.

Suddenly your looking out at a sea of faces, some white, some black. All the faces express eagerness, hope, and look inquisitive.

Unlike your ordinary congregation where the worst you have to face is maybe a few hypocrites. This is a congregation of convicted thieves, rapist, murderers, dope addicts, and only God knows what else.

The doors are barred and the guards are in place.

Your throat feels like sand paper, your palms are damp.

You smile, pick up your microphone and make a comment like (I'm glad I'm only passing through).

You tell them you've come to worship with them and sing about Jesus.

You go into your first song and are surprised at the response of several Amen and Praise God.

Suddenly you feel that sweet presence of the spirit of God.

You no longer notice the surrounding. There's no reason for fear.

You sing your heart out, you witness and praise God and listen to some other people's testimonies that have come to be with you.

The Chaplain tells us that the prison choir would like to sing for us.

We sat in awe as we listened to about Ten or Twelve men sing. It was truly beautiful.

You've made no bones about being in a prison or why you've come. You give an invitation, begin to sing.

Several men on one or two at a time begin coming and kneeling at the altar.

You see the trembling shoulders, the tear stained faces of the ones that have come. You notice several more faces in the back and judging from their saddened expressions they are trying desperately to believe that God loves and will forgive them. Give them hope and peace. You give another invitation. No one else makes a move.

You see the prisoners love calling out. come back to see us, God Bless you. Thanks for coming.

We're ushered out. The bus is checked and we pick up our pocket knives and aspirins. We're outside the gate heading for home.

We're far richer then we were when we came. Not money wise.

We knew when we came we wouldn't make a cent.

:Question: Would we do the same thing again.

:Answer: You'd better believe it.

The Cook Family Singers are in the process of scheduling a return trip to La Grange Prison.

Just think suppose one of those prisoners became a Preacher or won some cell mates to Christ.

You see its so simple to present the Gospel to these men.

Six words might do the trick. (God loves you - I love you).

Many of these men may have never heard these words before.

Even if some of the men only come to the chapel to see the Women.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if they left the Chapel having caught a glimpse of God.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN JANUARY

THE GOSPEL SERVANTS
Box 52
Munfordville, Ky. 42765
Phone 524-9974

7:00 P.M.
5. . . Hart County Singing Convention.
Old Methodist Church In Canmer.

THE GOSPEL VOICES
Horse Cave, Ky. 42749
Phone 786-2777 or 786-2465

2 & 3. . . Recording in Nashville.
7:00 P.M.
6. . . Green County Singing Conv.
Bethlehem Baptist Church.
1:30 P.M. Near Greensburg.
12. . . Tracy Methodist Church.
7:30 P.M. Tracy, Ky.
19. . . Community Church, Lehman Ave.
Bowling Green, Ky. 7:30 P.M.

THE SINGING STANTONS
Bonnieville, Ky. 42713
Phone 531-2205

5. . . Hart County Singing Convention.
Old Methodist Church In Canmer.

THE CHRISTIAN SOUND
P.O. Box 423
Horse Cave, Ky. 42749
Phone 786-2495

THE COOK FAMILY
Bonnieville, Ky. 42713
Phone 531-1701
or
110 Buttercup Road
Louisville, Kentucky
Phone 239-9161

THE McCUBBINS FAMILY
Munfordville, Route 3
Kentucky 42765
Phone 524-9702

THE VOICES OF FAITH
Box 49
Glasgow, Kentucky
Phone 678-2467 or 524-2191

5. . . Hart County Singing Convention.
Old Methodist Church In Canmer.
Guests — Sego Brothers & Naomi
7:00 Hart Co. High Cafeteria.
13. . . Barren County Singing Conv.
Caney Fork Baptist Church.
Etoile, Ky.
19. . . Community Church, Lehman Ave.
Bowling Green, Ky. 7:30 P.M.
Tompkinsville Elementary School.
7:00 P.M.
The McCubbins Family would like to take this opportunity to thank their friends for the support they have given them in the past year. We want to continue to do what the Lord wants us to and we still request your prayers in the future. This work is a big responsibility and we all certainly need God's help to fulfill this purpose.

There are still a lot of lost people to be won because the coming of the Lord couldn't be far away.

We intend to do more in the future and we hope to see each of you, our friends. If you have time write us: The McCubbins Family, Route 3, Munfordville, Kentucky or call 524-9702.

See You Soon!

HART COUNTY
CONVENTION

The Hart County Singing Convention will be held at the Church in Canmer (Old Methodist Church) on Saturday night, January 5 at 7:00 P.M. The newly elected president, Jimmy McCubbins, invites everyone to attend the year's first convention.

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HART CO. GMA
JANUARY MEETING

The January business meeting of the Hart County Gospel Music Association will be held on January 10 at the home of Courtney Spradlin. The meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. and all interested people are urged to attend.

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Leon M. Logsdon,
Sales Manager
Leslie H. Ross,
Manager

NO. 1 - 786-2524
Elroy Ross,
Floor Manager
H. Lovice McKinney,
Manager

NO. 2 - 786-2629
Earl Dossey & Herbert Bratcher
Floor Managers
REPORT OF GMA MEETING

Last month’s article about the November meeting received such terrific response, we decided to try to make it a regular feature. The December meeting was held on December 13 at the home of Jim Cottrell.

A classified section was added to Gospel Reaching Out. Rates were established at $1.00 for the first 15 words and $.05 for each word over that. Anyone wishing to place a classified ad may call Wilma Spradlin at 524-2191.

A New Year’s membership drive was discussed. For information on this see story about the Sego Brothers and Naomi on page 1 of this issue.

Another idea was to sponsor singings and promote the organization in other areas. This might help get a more widespread membership and bring groups from other parts of the state into the Association.

The January meeting will be held on Thursday night, January 10 at the home of Courtney and Wilma Spradlin.

Donna Stanton, secretary
Hart County GMA

NEW MEMBERS OF VOICES OF FAITH

The Voices of Faith have made a few changes or additions to their group that we feel the public would like to know about.

First of all, each member of the group is a dedicated Christian and feels a responsibility to the church they belong to. Each member feels a great need to put their church first in their activities. We need the prayers and support of our church, too.

Secondly, we now have with us Jim Cottrell, formerly with the Son-Rays and recently with Revival Fires. He has joined the group as pianist and he sings also. He is the brother of Don Cottrell, tenor singer for the group. Jim has recently joined Calvary Baptist Church and is serving them as pianist.

Another addition is Larry Thornton, a bass singer from Coral Hill Baptist Church in Barren County. Larry, his wife Jo, and two children, Tammy and Todd live at Coral Hill. We are glad to have Larry with us.

We would like to thank the churches where we belong for their support and prayers in our behalf. We would like to thank the Lord for each member of our group. We feel that with each addition, we are a little stronger and that we can get the gospel message through a little bit better.

The hope and prayers of the Voices of Faith are that someone would be saved or that a weaker Christian would be strengthened through our efforts.

GOSPEL REACHING OUT

EDITORIAL — January 16
ADVERTISING — January 18
CONCERT DATES — January 23

Gospel Singing can add to the spirituality of any congregation. It is music that moves the heart and soul of the singer and also of the listener. It can change a formalistic church into a super aggressively evangelistic church.

Dr. Blair Whittington

I have known the singing of the gospel to do God’s work in a soul when all other means had failed.

Rev. Billy Compton

Gospel Music has become an “evangelistic arm” of the church. This idea is not new, but indeed God’s people have always been known as a “people with a song.”

Rev. Gary Ervin

Gospel Music is now and has always been a source of inspiration and Joy to God’s people thru the ages.

Rev. Theodore McCubbins

Ministers’ Comments

DEADLINES FOR FEBRUARY

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Tom Turner, Mgr. Phone 524-5571

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HORSE CAVE STATE BANK
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HORSE CAVE, KY.
By Donna Stanton

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake."
St. Matthew 24:9

I switched on the TV just in time to see an interview with the leader of a group of Jesus People. Eleven of his fellow believers had been arrested the previous weekend for “harrassing” shoppers in a big shopping center. This “harrassment” consisted of witnessing and handing out Biblical tracts - sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

I suppose the owner was within his rights because they were on his property. Even the police were puzzled as to why they were called to arrest these peaceful young men when the country is so filled with crime.

I can hear some people yelling that I’m defending a bunch of freaks. Well, I know some Jesus People and they are freaks! They don’t wear fancy clothes. Most of them have long hair and beards. They speak in everyday slang, always talking about God and love. Materialism doesn’t mean a thing to them - many don’t even have jobs. Commentaries written by learned professors are useless to them because they take the Bible to mean just what it says word for word. Wierd, aren’t they?

John the Baptist wore clothes of camel’s hair and skins. He ate locusts and wild honey. And what’s the accepted concept of what Jesus looked like? Long hair, beard, sandals, funny robe - right?

At a time when it seems everybody is trying to tear down instead of build, would you consider a simple “Smile God Loves You” heard above all the shouted obscenities, harrassment? A man from the forest service came to the door and questioned me about logging operations on the neighbor’s property. He asked me if I was a Christian. I told him that I was. He smiled and said, “Praise God.” He was a stranger but the fact that somebody was interested made me feel good all day.

Singers receive much criticism as do preachers, Sunday School teachers, and other involved Christians. Jesus said it must be that way. If you’re not being persecuted for what you’re doing, then maybe you’re not doing anything.

The Green County Singing Convention will be held at the Bethlehem Baptist Church on Sunday afternoon, January 6, at 1:30. The guest singers will be the Gospel Voices.

Gary Elfvin, who is well-known in this area, is the pastor at the church. The church is located near Greensburg.
GOSPEL VOICES IN THE SHOW BARN

The Gospel Voices are shown in a recent appearance at the Lincoln Jamboree in Hodgenville. The group has been receiving a great response at the Jamboree and future engagements are being planned.

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GOSPEL VOICES RECORD NEW ALBUM

The Gospel Voices are scheduled to be in Nashville on January 2 and 3 to record a new long-play album. It will be recorded at Superior Sound Studio and will be produced by Wayne Hilton.

Some of Nashville's top studio musicians will be used on the album. Superior is one of the most modern studios recording gospel music and this will enhance the overall quality of the production. In keeping with the effort to make a top quality album in all respects, the full-color jacket is being designed by Ken Harding.

The album is scheduled for release in early February. Disc jockeys interested in copies should address their requests on station letterhead to:

**THE GOSPEL VOICES**

Horse Cave, Kentucky 42749

THANKS GO TO EVERYONE

Continued from page 2.

Groups in and around this county that they can continue on in good faith to promote gospel music as a means of spreading the gospel. May God richly bless each member of the paper and all those who read it.

If you enjoy this paper and what it stands for, let us hear from you. We need your support.

Courtney and Wilma Spradlin

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