



# Moses' Song Ministries, Inc.

## SUMMER NEWS 2004

### SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

#### MINISTERING TO EACH OTHER

I was feeling a little discouraged one day because I received a phone call from two of my relatives who had listened to *The Christian's Hope* CD. They thought that I was not using my voice to its capacity and suggested that I put more "soul" into the music.

Although I understood intellectually that they were not aware of my deliberate efforts to keep the music simple, still the human desire for acceptance and understanding arose. I took my feelings to the Lord and He assured me that the most important thing is to have His approval.

He directed me to *The Great Controversy* page 509 where I read: "Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ."

The thought came to me that the music many people are accustomed to, whether or not they realize it, is designed to entertain. The Lord made it very clear to me that His purpose for me is to point people to Him. "Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard." The Lord, in His kindness, has chosen to send comments such as these:

"*The Christian's Hope* is fast becoming our favorite CD!" ... "My sister and her husband are going to Papua New Guinea, and we gave them your new CD. They love it! She was so glad to receive it; she said it will help them to remember why they are there."

I received a phone call from a sister who lives on the east coast. She appreciated the fact that I did not use unnecessary vocal and instrumental manipulations which draw attention to the performer. She said that it was a blessing to her entire family to hear a brother sing and play the guitar with such simplicity. The messages in music

Be sure to check the materials list for the new Scripture song CD, *Knowing the Time*.

have reinforced their desire to step out from the rat race and pursue an Enoch experience instead of their current fast-paced lifestyle.

Another confirmation from the Lord was visiting the home of a special family in Portland, Oregon, and finding the whole family singing and humming these advent hymns throughout the day.

This is why we make the CDs! To encourage God's people to press on in pursuit of our blessed hope. These families, and the many others who have expressed appreciation for Moses' Song Ministries, do not realize how they have min-

istered to us. Thank you!

By the way, we have just received shipment of the new Scripture song CD, *Knowing the Time*. If you have enjoyed *The Path of Life*, be sure to order *Knowing the Time*. These Scripture songs are a great aid in hiding God's Word in your heart!

#### NORTH CAROLINA FAMILY CAMP

We would like to thank the North Carolina Family Camp staff and Empowered Living Ministries for the opportunity to present the Message of the Music Seminar at the North Carolina Family Camp meeting in April.

We were encouraged by the positive response that we received from adults and young people alike. At one meeting, the presentation was not yet finished, and the schedule called for Family Freeze Tag. We mentioned that we would have to cut the meeting short to accommodate the game. It was a blessing to hear several young people ask us to continue—that they needed to hear what we were saying.

Several people have expressed an interest in having the *Message of the Music Seminar* brought to their church. If you would like this to happen in your area, please contact us so that we can, by God's grace, make this a reality for your church.

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As we see the developments around us we are so grateful for this small window of time left in which to labor for the Master. Our hearts yearn to help God's people to be able to stand in the last days. We see how the enemy is using music to divert the church from its high purpose. "Satan is continually seeking to overcome the people of God by breaking down the barriers which separate them from the world." *The Great Controversy* 508.

God has called us to share the principles of His music. He wants His people to understand how to hold fast to His standard for music in our homes and churches, and how to resist the strong arguments presented for the new worship program. We solicit your prayers in this regard, that we may continue in the strength of Jesus Christ.

*Detroit and Cindy Sawyer*



## HYMN SINGING IN YOUR CHURCH

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[In the Bible] hymns were sung regularly by God's people for inspiration, edification, and expressing praise and adoration to God. For example, among the most familiar hymns is the "Song of Moses" (Deuteronomy 32). Other songs include the "Song of Miriam" (Exodus 15), the Song of Deborah and Barak" (Judges 5), the "Last words of David" (2 Samuel 23), the Song of Hannah" (1 Samuel 2), the "Song of Zacharias" (Luke 1:68-79), the "Song of Mary" (Luke 1:46-55), the "Song of Simeon" (Luke 2:29-32). There are many more.

There has been a trend for some time of replacing hymns with praise songs and choruses. These replacements tend to be musically and textually repetitive. While hymns may be just as emotional as choruses, they are so because of the depth of the text; in contrast, choruses tend to be emotional at the expense of depth. The hymn's particular balance between reason and emotion makes it unsurpassed as a vehicle for praise, admonition, inspiration, adoration, exhortation, education, and narration.

One key to making hymn singing come alive in your church is familiarizing people with them. The following is a list of suggested practical helps for this purpose.

- Make a general long-range plan, asking the question: "What do we, as a church, need to be doing hymn-wise, five years from now?"
- Make a specific one-year plan. Include the hymns you wish to use and the exact method of introducing, learning and retaining them. It is better to know five hymns well than twenty-five perfunctorily (carelessly).
- Choose hymns first on the basis of the text. Use those which are theologically rich, and avoid those which are weak, trite, or doctrinally unsound.
- Ask the pastor to integrate the biblical/theological material of hymn texts in sermons and meditations, identifying by name any hymn which is used.
- Circulate articles about the new hymns in your church newsletter and bulletins when appropriate, perhaps printing the text in poetic format without music.
- Try to introduce the new hymn over a period of weeks before actually asking the congregation to sing it. For instance, it could be used as a part of the prelude, offertory or postlude.
- If you have a church choir, they could sing a stanza as an opening acclamation, introit, call to worship, call to prayer or benediction.
- The hymn could be sung as a solo.
- It might be played as an instrumental solo for a prelude or an offertory.
- If the hymn as a refrain (such as "For the Beauty of the Earth,") the congregation could sing the refrain and the choir (or soloist) could sing the stanzas. Staggering the amount of new material given the congregation at any one time is helpful, especially in the introductory stage.
- After the introductory time, when the congregation is ready to sing the hymn, keep the tempo as brisk as the particular hymn will allow. The accompanists should play the hymn all the way through once as the introduction.
- The choir should sing the tune in unison on all stanzas.
- (Accompanists and choir should be well rehearsed.)
- Pitch the hymn in a practical singing range.
- Make it a practice to sing all stanzas. The poetic thought will be incomplete if some are left out.
- Encourage the congregation to sing, but do not make a fuss over the hymn's being "new."
- Use the hymn as often as possible especially during the first six months. Subsequent repetitions of the hymn may become more festive. The use of part singing, choral and instrumental descants, certain stanzas sung a cappella will add to the new experience. Occasionally plan an entire service as a hymn festival. Such an endeavor is a wonderful way to experience the theological, biblical, and musical richness found in our Christian heritage.

These ideas were found in Calvin Johansson's book, *Discipling Music Ministry*

## THE MUSIC SEMINAR

“Music’s Role in Character Building” This subject as the foundation for the seminar. We will discuss the effects of music and answer the question, “Is music amoral?”

Do you desire your children to make wise choices in life? Have you found inspiring principles from God’s Word to help avoid wrong choices? The message “Teaching Standards and Developing Convictions” provides practical help for training your family in every area

of life, including the area of music.

“Where Do We Draw the Line?” This two-part message will give valuable tools and tests to help make your own decisions about music.

The seminar ends with a sacred music program: songs from the heart, for the family, for the home. We pray you will hear in the music the song of Moses: “The Lord is my strength and song; and He is become my salvation.”

## FAMILY CAMP

If you have been to any of our meetings you may recall our mentioning the blessings we have received at “Family Camp.”

What is so special about Family Camp? It is different from any other campmeeting you have attended! A first-time visitor commented, “There are no children’s meetings, yet the children seem content to listen to the main meeting. I don’t see bored young people hanging out together.” That’s right! Even the little children enjoy the

messages from families to families. It is also a great opportunity to meet other families striving to walk with God.

If you have never been to a family campmeeting you should plan to attend one this year! You will never be the same. For information on the location and times for your family camp please visit [www.empoweredlivingministries.org](http://www.empoweredlivingministries.org) or [www.restoration-international.org](http://www.restoration-international.org).

## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Hello! I was at most of your Seminar at the \_\_\_\_ Church today, and I just want to thank-you for the work you do, and for your insightful and well-prepared presentations. The Lord is definitely using you in this extremely necessary and timely ministry. The information you shared touched my heart and made me once-again stop and rethink how I am touching the lives of my students. Am I teaching according to His will? Am I compromising with the music I choose? Does the music we are singing draw them closer to the Lord? Is it a prayer to Him when they sing the songs I teach them on the playground? Thank-you for giving me a new shot of energy and conviction. And thank-you for sharing with our community. J—California

We are really enjoying our books! Your seminar has encouraged us to go higher in our music standards and our son is willing to go higher also, praise God! Please do not stop sharing the wonderful information the Lord has placed in your hands. V—California

I enjoyed your seminar! I appreciate the spirit of your presentations. I have heard messages on music before but the manner in which you present it makes it easier to accept! A—California

One day last week, my 4-yr old son was humming a certain song. I hadn’t yet tuned in to what he was humming, and then my 20 1/2 month old daughter (just learning to talk) pipes up “BaBa Oh.” I heard her and tried to interpret, asking her what she had said. She repeated, “BaBa Oh.” And then I heard what James was humming — He has learned it from your newest CD *The Christian’s Hope*. It’s called *I Saw One Weary* (page 371 of the OLD SDA hymnal). The final phrase is “The Blessed Hope.” Now, whenever we sing it, we pause to hear the little “BaBa Oh.” It’s become more clear in the last week. Now it’s more like “BaBa Ho.” We love listening to all of your CDs. It is music even the youngest in the family can learn and enjoy. We enjoy learning the songs and sharing them, also!

N—California

## MINISTRY NEEDS

Moses’ Song Ministries has an urgent need for a new recording system. At present our ability to record CDs is at a standstill. During the time we recorded *The Christian’s Hope* and *Knowing the Time* CDs we had serious problems with our recording equipment. We prayed, asking the Lord to get us through the projects, and as you know, we gratefully completed them. But we must replace the equipment.

We have been researching the options and are looking at an investment of \$5,000 for recording equipment and sound proofing improvement. If you have been blessed by the music that you have heard thus far, please consider allowing God to use you to help us meet this need.



The need for support continues month by month with the ongoing ministry operating expenses. This ministry is supported solely by donations and the sale of our materials. The Message of the Music Seminar is presented on a donation basis. If you believe in what Moses’ Song Ministries is doing, please prayerfully consider helping us financially. All gifts are tax-deductible. We ask for your continued prayers, as you are in ours!



## MUSICAL NOTES

### When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

A poorly clad fourteen-year-old girl, Bessie, the child of a drunkard, was sitting on the broken-down steps of a broken-down house in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Professor James Black (1856-1938), a Sunday-school teacher, saw her there and asked, "Would you like to come to our Sunday school?" She replied, "Yes, I would like to go but..." Black answered, "I understand."

The next day he sent a parcel of clothing to the young girl, including a dress and new shoes. Bessie came that week and attended

Sunday school faithfully for many weeks. As president of the youth society Black would call the names of the members who answered the roll call by repeating Scripture texts. He always looked forward to Bessie answering to her name when the roll was called. But one Sunday there was no response to Bessie's name. Thinking perhaps she had not heard, Black called her name a second time. Still there was no answer. He soon learned that Bessie had been suddenly taken ill and doctors held little hope for her. As he went home that day in 1893 the thought came to him that perhaps Bessie may never answer again. Professor Black was a pianist and a published poet of note. Remembering Bessie, words started to

flow through his mind about another roll call. He wrote them down, sat at the piano and composed the music, and this famous hymn was born. Black said that it all was written in about a half hour and he never changed a single word or note of what came to him in those minutes.

In just ten days Bessie died of pneumonia. The words that Black wrote before she [died] have spoken to many hearts through the years. It challenges each of us to be ready [for] when the "roll is called up yonder."

*When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and  
time shall be no more,  
And the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;*

*When the saved of earth shall gather  
over on the other shore,  
And the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.*

*On that bright and cloudless morning  
when the dead in Christ shall rise,  
And the glory of His resurrection share,*

*When His chosen ones shall gather  
to their home beyond the skies;  
and the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.*

*Let us labor for the Master  
from the dawn till setting sun,  
Let us tell of all His wondrous love and care;  
Then, when all of life is over,  
and our work on earth is done,  
and the roll is called up yonder, we'll be there.*

Taken from *Songs in the Night* by  
Henry Gariepy—see our book list



## SUMMER SCHEDULE

May 27-30 Northwest Convocation, Rufus, OR

June 2-6 Restoration International Family Camp, Loon Lake, WA

June 11-13 Dawson Creek, BC (Seminar) For information call (250) 789-3168

June 18, 19 Eureka, MT (Seminar) For information call (406) 889-3946

June 22-27 Modern Manna's Lodi Grape Festival, Lodi CA

June 30-July 4 Empowered Living Family Camp, Hood River, OR

July 13-17 North Idaho Campmeeting, Bonners Ferry, ID

August 28 Clark Fork, ID (Seminar) For information call (406) 847-2078

September 18 Farmington SDA Church, WA

September 25 Stateline SDA Church College Place, WA For information (509) 386-8510

Updates to our schedule will be posted on our website: [www.MosesSong.org](http://www.MosesSong.org).

Please share this website with your friends and loved ones!



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**TO:**

**\* THE LORD IS MY STRENGTH AND SONG;  
AND HE IS BECOME MY SALVATION.\*  
EXODUS 15:2**