



September / October 2011

# The Journal

## JOIN NACM

### Building Visionary Leadership for Authentic Worship.

Membership is open to church musicians, students, and businesses. Membership term is one year from date dues are paid.

#### DUES: \$70/year

\$50 - 2nd member from the same church

\$25 - Student / Retired

\$90 - Industry

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## PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

by Peter Bates, NACM President



None of us really knows exactly how God will use us and our varied talents; and the minute we think we've got it figured out; God throws us a curve ball. Just a few years back, if someone had told me that I would one day be President of NACM, I would have laughed in their face. Indeed, about eight years ago I was told that I was being considered as a potential Board member; I laughed out-loud, but they were serious. So here I am Lord, I pray for the guidance to know what you would have me do and how you would have me lead this organization.

First, I would like to thank (now Past President) Helen Weed for her leadership. During her presidency, Helen has shown us time and again that she has a servant's heart. She has been the Board's spiritual leader these past two years and remains on the Board as the immediate Past President.

Second, there are not enough superlatives I could use to describe our Convention this past July. Thank you (Convention Coordinator) Linda White for doing such a wonderful job in making sure that all we had to do was come and absorb the knowledge that was imparted to us. Thanks again to Helen Weed and Calvary Church for opening their doors to us. Special thanks to all the clinicians who gave of their time and talent to lead workshops or reading sessions and their accompanists. To Priscilla Silver, Convention Accompanist (and my duet partner); and finally, highest praise and thanks to our headliner, Jo-Michael Scheibe, whose easy-going teaching style gave us so very much to take back to our choir lofts.

Third, I must thank our Executive Administrator James Person, whose professionalism and dedicated service keeps this organization functioning. Jim is indeed a gem and the Board truly appreciates all that he does to keep NACM alive!

Finally, thanks to the Board members that will serve with me during these next two years. I have a vision for the future of this organization. NACM continues to have a place in church music; that much is very clear to me. But who knows exactly what God has planned for our future or what NACM will look like two years from now. Together your Board will explore new paths and find new ways to better serve our members.

But I haven't forgotten about you, the backbone of NACM. While the Board serves you, you have responsibilities to NACM as well. After all, we are an organization of people helping each other. One way you can assist is to help the organization grow. Convince that musician at the church down your street to join us. It's as easy as getting them to make a few keystrokes and a couple mouse clicks on their computer to get to [www.nacmhq.org](http://www.nacmhq.org) where they can download a membership form, fill it out and send it in. Then they too can join with us as we shape the future of NACM!

## WE CANNOT GROW WITHOUT YOU

by Dennis Houser, NACM President-Elect



The NACM convention is over and we are all back at our collective desks asking "what can I do for excitement now?" It's too hot to go to the desert, parking at the beach is not convenient, I have already had my vacation, the mountain resorts are too crowded, Disneyland is so expensive and I am bored. Well NACM has some ideas for you.

The theme of this article is "We cannot grow without you," and it is really true. We cannot! What is equally important is that we must grow. The old adage is that if you are not growing, you are dying. Well guess what, we are not growing and therefore...! Our message is vital and it must be spread, just like the Gospel. It is the good news



**NACM National Convention, 2012**  
**July 18-20th**  
**Headliner, Craig Courtney**  
**Covenant Presbyterian in Westchester, CA**

← that many need to hear and we are the messengers. God gave us the gifts to be used for His kingdom.

Looking around at the membership attending the convention in Santa Ana it became apparent to many of us that, although there was great convention enthusiasm, we need an injection to continue into the season. No not Botox, but rather some vitamins. Some energy for our organization.

Let's put this in a musical perspective. Imagine that you have chosen a new anthem for your group and you are so excited to present something NEW to the performers. Remember the preparation that you put into that anthem, your enthusiasm when you presented it and how the choir responded? Your excitement was reflected in their faces.

Now compare that to the response that you get when you present an anthem that you "have to perform" to please everyone but yourself and the choir. The kind of response that you received to something new is the kind of enthusiasm that NACM needs and it needs to come from you and me!

What can I do? I am only one person! Remember the story of the young boy who found a Starfish lying on the beach and threw it back into the water. His grandfather said, "why bother with one Starfish when there are so many, it really will not make a difference." The young boy responded, "but it makes a difference to THAT Starfish."

One ripple on a pond changes the entire pond. One smile can

change an entire day.

Each one of us knows at least 5 Starfish that deserve to be thrown back into the water. All they lack is someone to come along and find them. If each one of us found a "Star" in our personal musical community and brought them to NACM we would need a new convention site with more space and that would be wonderful.

I am asking each of you to prepare a list of 5 "Stars" that you will contact in the next two months. If you need help contacting people, send the list to Executive Administrator, Jim at nacmhq.org and he will forward the names and phone numbers to me so that I can contact them for you. They need what NACM can offer them.

When you do make contact them tell them about NACM and what it has done for your ministry. Please don't forget the enthusiasm that you showed when you presented the new anthem to Your group. Enthusiasm is contagious!

NACM has a wonderful Mid-Winter conference scheduled for February 4, 2012 and our headliner is a local professional who has a powerful message that all of our Stars need to hear.

Dr. Hanan Yaqub, brings years of practical church administration, conducting and teaching. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite one of the new crop of conductors in your area.

Information about membership applications can be found at our website: www.nacmhq.org or contact Jim at the National office 760-992-7947. Now create your own list, make the calls and "Help us Grow!"

*Dennis Houser currently serves as Executive Director of Chorale Bel Canto in Whittier and is Director of Music at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in La Habra. Dennis is also President-Elect of NACM.*

## A BETTER COUNTRY

by Tom Townsend



The contrasts that the Apostle Paul makes between the old and the new in the book of Galatians is pretty clear: There was a law, and we were under it, but now we are no longer under law but under grace through faith in Christ. There was the old way, but now there is a new and better way! All through the Word, God gives His people hope for a better future. We have throughout the history of the Church sung about this future age as a people longing for heaven, and release from the bondage of this "world, with devils filled, that threatens to undo us" (Luther, A Mighty Fortress. But you knew that - !).

One of my favorite hymns to sing is The Solid Rock, which says

When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found  
 dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (E. Mote). →



Convention Photos: Laguna Presbyterian Choir; convention singers; Calvary Celebration Choir, Praise Symphony and Gloria Dei Choir

← We are consistently encouraged by the hymn writers of the past to stand firm and wait for the ‘glorious appearing’ and to ‘tread the streets of gold’. All things will be made new and perfectly complete, or as Charles Wesley states,

Finish then Thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!  
(Wesley, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling)

It’s a long standing tradition that the final verse of a hymn would point to the future age, and give hope to believers for eternal life spent with God without pain or sorrow. Our new modern hymnwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty, gifts from God, also follow the long line of hymn writers when they include lines like this:

One day all things will be made new; I’ll see the hope You called me to.  
And in Your Kingdom paved with gold I’ll praise Your faithfulness of old, I’ll praise Your faithfulness of old.  
(Gettys, When Trials Come)

At the NACM Conference last month I contributed a song of my own after dinner, a country-flavored gospel song that follows that line as well. Though it’s usually sung in places where non-believers live without hope, I like to think it can be an encouragement to us of faith as a reminder of Hebrews 11; the writer talks about longing for a better place, a better country where God has prepared a homeland for all those of faith.

There is a better country, there is a better home,  
a place for all you strangers to come home, and be known.  
A place where no one harms you, and no one gives you grief,  
a place for all you strangers to come home, and find relief.  
Released from all that binds you here, released from all your doubts and fears;  
There is a shining city that paves its streets with gold,  
and calls to every stranger to come home, and join the fold. (Townsend, A Better Country).

## WINDOW ON WORSHIP

by Dr. Wallace Horton



### “Developing a Theology of Worship”

The recent NACM Convention at Calvary Church in Santa Ana was one of the finest NACM/CCG conventions I have attended. Over the past 30 plus years we’ve been privileged to have many outstanding “headliners.” This year’s headliner, Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe,

was very inspiring and helpful. His technical expertise was of the highest quality and exemplary for all of us. Thank you Michael!

If Dr. Scheibe’s presentations were not enough, I also came away from the convention feeling affirmed in the understanding of the importance of what we do as worship leaders in our congregations. While so much of what occupies our time deals with music (and it should!) our role really goes beyond that of parish musician. As my good friend and colleague (and fellow Biola grad) Dan Korneychuck highlighted in his presentation, all of us need to be theologians if we’re going to be all that we can be as worship leaders. Beyond being theologians, we must have a “Theology of Christian Worship.” Without a theology of what worship is and is not, we cannot begin to undertake the high calling of providing settings and frameworks that will help guide our people through worship, the highest priority of the Church.

In John 4:24 Jesus said, “God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” What do we

mean by truth? I would answer that by saying that there are certain non-negotiables when it comes to Christian worship: 1) God initiates worship. 2) Worship is always response. 3) Worship is focused on God, not on us. 4) We may not always feel like worshipping. 5) Worship can change lives, because Jesus is present in worship and Jesus does change lives! 6) Worship is not entertainment. 7) While worship should be relevant, in planning worship we don’t allow the most current whims of the culture to determine what goes into Christian worship. 8) As worship planners, we always are open and sensitive to using means of communication that will help worshipers encounter Jesus in worship and be spiritually transformed by the power of His Spirit. 9) The theological tenets of your denomination should always be a constant guideline for you as you think about worship settings in your congregation. That’s where being a theologian is so very important. It is important to know what your denomination believes and why they believe it so that you can provide worship services that reflect who you are as a denomination.

For each one of you, the content of your services will vary. Even in the strictest of liturgical settings, no two congregations of the same denomination will have the identical setting or experience. However, as you think about your role in worship leadership, be sure that you know what your theology of Christian Worship is AND that you can back it up Scripturally and with examples of the Church’s practice throughout history and into the 21st century.

## LETS TALK ABOUT US - PEOPLE

by Paul Plew



I have heard it said many times among choral conductors, “I would love music much more if I did not have to work with people.” Yes, people can be hard to work with. They are not on time, often miss rehearsals and services, often do not agree with the director, do not get along with each other and more. But then again, WE are people. The longer I am a choral conductor, and uniquely a church musician choral conductor, the more I realize what we do is much more than music.

So let’s not talk about choral technique, blend and balance, let’s talk About US—People. The people I lead in my church choir range in age from 16 to 81. Some are still in high school, some are retired, some work long hours six days a week, many have a one hour commute to work, some are married, some wish to be, some have good jobs and others have recently lost theirs; some love me while others probably just put up with me. You get the picture? I am sure your choir is much the same way. Many of these people see choir as a way of getting together for fellowship and community and not so much for the music. How can our choirs really be an extension of the spiritual ministry of the God and people we serve?

I love and appreciate all four sections of the choir. I always say the basses give us the foundation to build on, the tenors have the most beautiful harmonies, the altos are the glue, and they all support the sopranos who carry the melody. Since the alto section holds everything together, let me talk about this section. In my alto section I have a young lady, Chantel, who got married last summer. She sits next to my daughter Janelle who has been married 15 years. She sits next to Pamela, my wife and we have been married 41 years. Behind her is Carolyn who is 81 years old, (she is not my mother!), and next to her is Heather, age 16. These five people basically represent 5 generations. Often in our churches the youth are with the youth and the older people are all together. Much of the time you do not break out of your age group. However, the choir is a natural place for people to help each other who often times are older and have more experience to draw from. Janelle, by being together every week and doing something she enjoys, just by natural conversation is an encouragement to Chantel.

Chantel will learn about early years of marriage from someone in a natural situation. If there are problems, she has someone to talk to, preferably not during the anthem. The story is the same with each age group. All move away from the “age” format because the choir allows you to be a family. And if families love each other they will work things out because they care too much about each other to throw it all away over “differences.”

So what am I saying? The choir is a family that needs more care than just the glue of music or

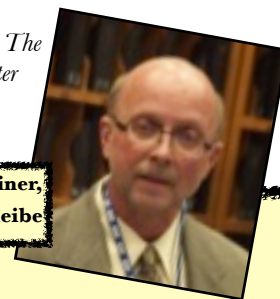
the altos. We as directors are more of a Shepherd than we often want to believe. You have to see yourself as the “head of the family.” And if you are the head you must love the family. Love is defined and discussed in I Corinthians 13:1-13. These verses show us that love is not an emotion; it is action. As directors, we must be living out these verses as our lifestyle, before, during, and after rehearsal. We are told to think more highly of others than of ourselves and to look out for their interests — Philippians 2:3-4. Verse 5 really sums up what we are to do when it comes to everything in life: “our attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Now as you pray together and have a time of devotions together in The Book (Your choir does this—right?), discuss ways that you can have Christ-like attitudes and live like CHRISTians.

Directors, here are some ways to show genuine love and concern from Dale Carnegie’s 1936 classic, *How To Win Friends and Influence People*:

1. Become genuinely interested in other people
2. Smile
3. Remember that a person’s name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.
4. Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves.
5. Make the other person feel important –and do it sincerely.

If you want your choir to sound good, you must love and be genuinely concerned about each singer. Know their names, where they work and go to school, hobbies, hurts, and the deeper challenges of life. Spend time with them outside of rehearsal. Be supportive and sensitive. I am well aware that this does not come easily or naturally for many of us. But I do know that if the whole family is walking down the same path together, your Sunday anthem will not only be great musical art, but it will also be sung from the heart of your choir. And that my friend is true worship.

*Dr. Paul T. Plew is the Chair of The Music Department and Director of choral Activities at The Master's College. He also serves as the Minister of Music at Santa Clarita Baptist Church in Santa Clarita, Ca*



**Convention Headliner,  
Jo-Michael Scheibe**

**CONVENTION RECAP**

by Andrea Hilliard

*It took me many years until I finally had the courage to stand up there and be in the conducting masterclass with Jo Michael Scheibe, our headliner for the NACM summer convention 2011! It's funny to think of how brave I actually am in front of my choir members but how nervous I felt that day. On top of that, I learned how carefully he chose his words for things that needed to be corrected. I am reminded to treat my choir members with respect. I guess conductors never stop learning!*

## MORE CONVENTION RECAP

By Tom Brown

Santa Ana, California - I attended my first NACM conference in July. Amazing speakers, relevant topics and new friendships were the highlights of three days that re-inspired my dedication to music ministry.

Although I belong to 5 different professional choral associations, I have not been to a conference in many years. I suppose there is a certain comfort level associated with doing things the same way year after year. After all, who in your choir will really know the difference? This year, I decided to take a leap of faith and begin the music ministry degree program in the Fred Bock Institute at Fuller Seminary. Doing so has completely changed my attitude toward worship design and implementation. It is the relationship between the Fred Bock Institute and NACM that encouraged my attendance at the conference. God has opened many doors over the past year and learning that such a wonderful group of dedicated musicians can gather in His name to further the art of worship is humbling, inspiring and has been a highlight of the year. Jo-Michael Scheibe, with whom I studied many years ago, was as enlightening as I remember. His phrase, "You may sit up!" is something I remember from my time as a student and still use with my own choir to this day. He was the perfect clinician choice for the conference and gave everyone a renewed sense of excellence and a mountain of useful tools.

It was clear to me that NACM continues to be led by people who are passionate about excellent worship. They also care about people who are in a variety of worship settings. Small churches or large churches; praise music or hymns. Each of us brings a unique talent and ability to our ministries. I was reminded that we are relevant leaders who have an awesome responsibility to creativity lead worship that honors God and serves His people. My thanks to NACM for continuing to lead and inspire church musicians.

by Toni Brosius

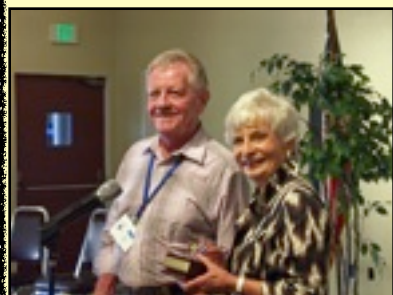
The evaluation forms that we are asked to fill out after each convention usually have a question as to whether the special needs of

our individual programs were met. Even though the music program at my church and my own personal worship needs are highly divergent, I can answer the question of those needs having been met with a resounding, "Yes!" The choir I conduct performs with orchestra, the masses, requiems, and cantatas of the great composers of western music, while our praise band leads the congregation in worship with simple songs accompanied by guitar, keyboard, and percussion; I was raised in the mysticism and deep reverence of the Russian Orthodox Church, and spent 25 years worshipping in the lofty elegance and literary beauty of high Episcopal churches, all the while witnessing the power of God to heal and break every kind of bondage in the gatherings where God was honored and lifted up via praise music. So this convention participant delighted in both the otherworldly presentation of plain-song and polyphony of Dennis Houser's Catholic singers, and equally loved Helen Weed's inspiring Praise Symphony— widely divergent styles meeting widely divergent needs.

Another aspect of this year's convention that I especially appreciated was the solid, but imaginative teaching by our clinician, Jo-Michael Scheibe. He isolated the various components of good conducting and clearly pointed out what type of movements result in what kinds of sounds, both positive and negative. We were given a multitude of simple but effective ideas regarding choral production: "Sing with a pear in your mouth with the stem sticking out." "For freer high notes, push your tush into your chair." And his teaching modeled the gentle, positive, humorous, healthy spirit that is needed to nourish the well-being of any choir.

Attending NACM's conventions consistently year after year has birthed some other cheering benefits. It's just nice to learn among familiar faces; names now stick and come easily; friendships are formed. New ideas that are presented are energizing, and familiar, material when taught by musicians of differing backgrounds and personalities, takes on a fresh importance. All of this means that we music-makers, often more than a little weary from the relentless pace of the church year, returned home newly invigorated. And that is what convention is all about!

Photos: Jan Sandborn presents the Fred Bock Lifetime Achievement award to Dan Bird; Vocal Exercises



Photos: Convention Accompanist, Priscilla Silver; Carver Cossey teaching Gospel music



## CHAPTER NEWS

## LA / SFV

Anthems that Work, September 26, 2011

The Little White Chapel Christian Church.

1711 N. Avon St, Burbank 91505.

Dinner 6:30 pm. \$8.50 per adult \$5.00 per student. Dinner includes beverage and dessert...a bargain!

At least three choir directors from the L.A. Chapter/SFV Chapters will present anthems that have been successfully used at their churches.

Bring your choir members too. We will do lots of singing!

Call Judie Stroh 818-989-3559 for reservation by Sept 23.

## Ventura County

Sunday, October 9th, Handbell Workshop and Bell Concert Handbell Director, Boude

Moore, Director of Music at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Woodland Hills. The

workshop will begin at 3:00 pm at Camarillo United Methodist Church, 291 Anacapa Dr. in Camarillo. We will break at 4:45 pm, and a Bell Concert will begin at 5:00 pm. All are welcome to the workshop or concert or both! If you are planning on attending in the

workshop, please R.S.V.P. so that we have enough bell octaves available so all can participate! Contact Ruth Elin Drossel, e-mail:

[ruthelin@aol.com](mailto:ruthelin@aol.com) or call (805) 520-7486

## Orange County

NACM Festival: April 29, 2012 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Reformation Lutheran Church

15750 Magnolia Street

Westminster 92683

Clinician: Jo-Michael Scheibe

For information: Priscilla Silver, [Priscilla.abby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Priscilla.abby@sbcglobal.net)

Combined Anthems:

Bright Morning Stars SATB Arr: Shawn Kirchner SBMP 594

We Come, O Christ, To You SATB Shackley HMC2247

Roll, Jordan, Roll SATB Arr: Ken Berg SBMP 819



Photo: Donna Hyde and Diane Landis

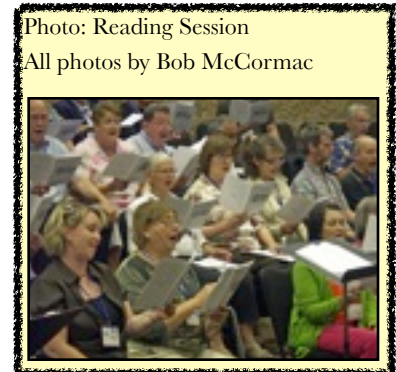


Photo: Reading Session

All photos by Bob McCormac

## MID WINTER SEMINAR

February 4, 2012

St. George's Episcopal Church, Long Beach

***"Church Music, a Terrible Beauty"***  
***-Meeting the Challenges, Finding the Treasure***

Featuring:

**Dr. Hanan Yaqub**

***Don't miss this chance to re-connect with fellow NACM members.***



***The ever-popular "anthems that work", conducted by 3 members will round out the day.***

Look for details in the November ***Journal***

## JAMES' PERSONAL POSTINGS OF POSSIBLE POSITIONS

by James Person, NACM Executive Administrator

Please send listings of open church positions to James Person, [nacmhq@dc.rr.com](mailto:nacmhq@dc.rr.com). Be sure to include the title, name or church or group, the location, salary, requirements and contact information including phone number and email.

Director of Music/organist/pianist:

Woodland Hills Presbyterian Church

818-346-7894 – [whpreschurch@yahoo.com](mailto:whpreschurch@yahoo.com)

The Monday Morning Email (MME) from Creator magazine also has a link to many job posting sites.