



From the Director's Desk:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! This newsletter comes to you with a big THANK YOU For helping to make this past season a big success. We had great crowds, great music, great food, and great fellowship.

Next season is shaping up to be another great year, with more kids' things happening on the 4th of July weekend and more Bluegrass at our Festival on August 20, 2011. The last weekend of the year will be for the people of the Barn. We will close the last weekend with our own music and special things happening then. The MGMA will be the Friday before our last weekend. We will have the Royal Heirs coming to close our last Saturday service. I have one new quartet coming and I'm sure you'll like them. They are The Helmsmen Quartet. I am also working on three very special nights. More on that next year.

Our storage project is just about complete (check out the photos on the last page of this letter), and I would like to thank all the many people who have helped not only on the storage project, but throughout the year to make everything work at the Barn. I want to say a **SPECIAL** THANK YOU to Gordon and Hinke Beukema. Gordon has been there whenever I have needed something done. The four of us have traveled to Fremont, Michigan and to Bremen, Indiana to pick up chairs and an organ, respectively. (Yes we will have an organ in the Barn for next year. It will be a nice addition to our Sunday Morning Worship Service.) His/their willingness to do whatever needs to be done has been a special blessing to me, personally, and to the GMB. We all need to thank the Lord for all the people like this who make up the unsung heroes of the Chapel in the Pines Gospel Music Barn.

Keep praying for us (Doug and Shirley), the GMB, the Arntz's, and all of you who make doing this a pleasure. Have a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

'Til the Trump Sounds!!!

Douglas Zwylghuizen
Director

Louisiana Cowboy – David D. Dickerson by Joy Bartlett

The following is an interview with Dave Dickerson, an inductee into the Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame and frequent performer at the Gospel Music Barn.



How and when did your music career commence?

At age twenty two, shortly after I was born again, God gave me a new song called, "Singing Till the Saints Come Home." He has kept me busy singing ever since that day.

That was your first. How many songs have you written since then? Nearly 300.

Four of them are award-winning. Which songs are they? "Who's That?", "God's Little Lamb", "I'm a King James Bible Man", and "The Land Used to Shine."

Have you ever performed with any big names? Yes, I have worked with Nashville Recording Artists such as Billy Walker, Jack Green, Connie Smith, Hank Thompson, Leroy Van Dyke, Michael Twitty, Tommy Cash, David Frizell, etc.

You've been tagged, "Louisiana Cowboy". How did that come about? Bill Auckerman of Prairieville Old Fashioned Farm Days called me that one day, and it stuck. I was born and raised in Louisiana and moved to Michigan around 1969 where I married Chris, a girl from Charlotte, Michigan.

Do you have any children? We have two—Danielle and Clint.

How many CD's have you produced, and do you have plans for any more? Seven, so far. Perhaps my last will be called, "Gun Barrel Straight" although I also want to do one for my daughter called, "God is Love."

Have you always performed solo or have you had a band? Yes, my son played bass or lead guitar, my daughter played bass and sang harmony, and Mrs. Daniel played the piano and I played rhythm.

Do you ever get together with other musicians and jam? Sure do...very often.

Can you tell me about your conversion? I became a Christian in 1972 and gave my life to Jesus.

How did that come about? A fellow worker at the Oldsmobile plant shared the Gospel with me.

Are you involved in your local church? Yes, I have served the Lord as deacon, Sunday School teacher, song leader and youth director.

You have been coming to the GMB for a long time. When was your first performance? I think it was 1985. We sang at the drive-in church. The kids had a blast doing that with all the horns honking.

Do you have an idea how many times you have sung there? About 75 times.

Your song about the Chapel in the Pines is on the GMB website. How did you happen to write that song? In about 1987 pastor Leland and his wife were joking with me about writing a song about the Chapel in the Pines. So I did.

Do you have any special memories of those days? Yes, watching Brother Leland run all over the parking lot chatting and praying with all the people. Everyone I've worked with at CIP has been great. I really enjoy Brother Harlan. He's a great guy who has been a faithful man to Chapel in the Pines.

Thank you, Louisiana Cowboy, for taking the time to provide us with information about your life. God bless you as you continue to serve Him with your music.

Douglas Zwyghuizen - Director

Who is he? How did he get here?

The following is a glimpse of Doug's life that led him to the GMB.

By: Joy Bartlett

Isn't it interesting how the Lord can take a life, and over the years, develop it to meet His needs. Biblical examples are plentiful, but Douglas Zwyghuizen is a simple example for today.

Doug was born in a house in Grandville, Michigan. The house is still there on Prairie Street. His family went to church, but were not saved yet. As a young teen, he was influenced in spiritual matters through his grandfather, Hemmo Zwyghuizen, the church camp (Camp Geneva), and YFC (Youth for Christ). He trusted Christ as Savior before his 16th birthday.

During his high school years, he was involved in the local YFC club, at Grandville High School, being elected to VP of the club in his junior year, and Pres. in his senior year. The summer before his senior year, he went to the YFC Convention at Winona Lake, In., and that Tuesday night at the meeting, dedicated his life to the Lord. Also during that week, as singers were booked for GR YFC Saturday night rally's, Doug would book them for the club meetings at Grandville. Sounds like he was getting his feet wet in PR work. Who could know (except the Lord) that one day he would again be booking musicians for the Chapel in the Pines?

Doug began his own musical ministry by playing Cornet in band and singing in the youth choir at church. His senior year brought many more changes. He was able to sing in the high school choir (bass in the 1st semester and tenor in the 2nd) as well as being in the band. Saturday night YFC rally's at the Mel Trotter Auditorium, brought an opportunity to play his trumpet in the fifteen piece brass band and also to sing lead in his first quartet called The Blazers Quartet. In 1969, he sang 1st tenor with the Calvary 4 Quartet, from Green Lake Calvary Church. In 1990, he started singing with the Staffmen Quartet that lasted for 7 ½ years. In 1998, he formed the first version of the Melody Masters Quartet, and they are still singing today.

Also in the 1980's, he did solo work in church and at the Chapel in the Pines, both in the drive-in and at the barn. It was during those years that he met Mark Kaniff.

After the 2008 season ended, Yvonne Arntz called Doug and asked him if he would like to help out at the barn. "Yes" was the answer, and by late May Doug asked Yvonne, "What do you want from me?....Do you want me to do Dick's Job?" "Yes, yes," was her answer. Then he started looking at things differently, and in talking to someone said "If they want me ...things are going to have to be organized! I don't fly by the seat of my pants!"

This past year is evidence of that statement. Countless comments have been made about the improvement of the building and the excellent groups that Doug has been able to book. Because of the new look, the new sound system, and the quality of music, the crowds have been larger and the people have been blessed. PTL!!!

This ministry has been a long time dream for Doug. He loves what he does, but it is not without a challenge now and then. Booking groups and then filling the spot when they have to cancel, is just part of the work. His wife, Shirley, knows how much time is involved. She says, "The phone is constantly ringing and he is working on one thing or another seven days a week". As you can see, it would be impossible to count the hours Doug has invested. Being the organizer that he is, Doug has records of the number of trips he makes to the GMB. Summer months can average about 25 trips per month, which include: changing the sign, cleaning,

maintaining the facility, trouble-shooting, and preparation for each service.

What is the biggest challenge? Doug says that for the past 44 years, the Arntz's have done a marvelous job of building up the Chapel in the Pines, and now we are in a transition stage of: age of the Arntz's, and being in the 21st century. The challenges are numerous in order to keep the GMB going and building upon what has already been done. They, the next generation of leaders, have their work cut out for them. The people, of The Chapel in the Pines Gospel Music Barn, own the buildings and everything in them but do not own the land. The vision for the people of the Chapel in the Pines Gospel Music Barn, is to have ownership of the land also, and to develop a board of men to oversee the operation and to ensure that this ministry will continue to survive for years to come.

Doug's dream is that someday local churches, individuals, business, and corporations, would see the value of supporting this ministry. Perhaps at that point, workers such as Doug and other faithful volunteers could then receive some compensation for their hard work.

Doug's answer to 'the biggest challenge' question is: "Waiting on the Lord to lead, direct, and show us what 'His Will' is, is tough. He knows what is best and how to get there. I just need to listen, be faithful, and trust in His leading."

We all need to be in prayer for Doug, and all those involved, as they wait and follow the Lord's leading.

Thank you, Doug, for all you have done the past two years to provide quality programs and an attractive and practical place to enjoy them in.

Life and Loves of Martha Vugteveen

Following is the life story of Martha Vugteveen, one of the regulars at the GMB and also one of the singers on the GMB website.

I grew up on a dairy farm in Coopersville with my parents, Mel and Millie and two younger brothers Mark and Marty. I was Martha Stroven back then and the only musical one in my family.

I started singing at a very young age, but the first public singing I remember doing was for the Wednesday night prayer meetings at our church. I believe I was only seven years old. When I was a few years older, I was asked to sing for our minister's thirtieth anniversary as a pastor. I sang the song that was later to be the title of my first album, "The Longer I Serve Him." Someone from another church was present that night and asked me if I would like to sing at their church. This was the first of many churches that my parents would chauffeur me to over the years.

In the early years, my cousin Cindy Stroven, would accompany me on the piano. This became more difficult the busier we both got, so at the age of twelve I began to learn to play the guitar. When I was thirteen, I accompanied myself for the first time at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. I still sing there every third Sunday of the month. This is my thirty-seventh year. It has been such a blessing to

be able to give back, even a little, to the many veterans who live there.

When I was twenty-one years old I recorded my first record album in Hodgenville, Kentucky. One of the songs on that album was "Hallelujah Square". I was very privileged to sing this song many years later with the writer, Ray Overholt, at the Chapel of the Pines. That is among my most special memories at CIP. It's just not something that many have the opportunity to do. My recording of it back in 1981 can be heard on the GMB website.

I don't remember exactly when I first sang at the Chapel or the barn, but it must have been about thirty-five years ago. The barn looks much different now. It used to be red and much smaller.

I met my husband Ed in our early 20's after I sang at the wedding of one of his cousins. He remembered me from a few years back when he had first seen me at the home of our guitar teacher, Art Bouwkamp. He called Art for my phone number and the rest, they say, is history. We now have twenty-six wonderful years together and three beautiful children that God has blessed us with: Emily, Melissa, and Andy.

We have always been involved in our church. I grew up in Coopersville Reformed Church and now our family attends North Blendon CRC.

Other highlights over the years would include singing at the Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival where I was introduced by Bill Monroe, who was and still is known as the father of bluegrass music.

My second album, "Consider the Lilies", was recorded in 1998. I am currently working on a new one.

Editor's Ramblings

November 2nd, Election Day and recent Veteran's Day, events reminded me again of how much we have to be thankful for here in America. The same day we went to the polls, Iraqi Christians in Baghdad buried about 50 fellow believers. All of them were victims of a terrorist group that denies Christians the right to exist. I receive news alerts daily by email about all the atrocities that our Christian brothers and sisters are experiencing while we sit here in comparative comfort; i.e., "Tariq's mother was stripped naked and dragged through the streets by the assailants..." For lack of space I cannot give more examples. Please go to VOM.com to read about ways you can remember those in bonds, even as if you were there with them... as directed in God's Word. (Hebrews 13:3)

Also... We are a team at GMB, all members of one body. So if you have any suggestions for this newsletter or general suggestions, please let me know. Email joyteeb@gmail.com or call 863-9647.

Turkey Talk

Just have to insert one smiler: Which side of the turkey has the most feathers? (Look for answer on page 4)

"Name That Group" Answers

Last month we tested your recognition of some of the musicians who have performed at the GMB. Here are the answers:

- 1.) Charlie & His Angels
- 2.) The Staffmen
- 3.) Sweetwater Gospel
- 4.) Gordon Beukema
- 5.) The Calvarymen
- 6.) The Baukamps

- 7.) Sentimental Journey
- 8.) The Staffmen (just checking to see if you are on your toes!)
- 9.) Melody Masters Quartet
- 10.) Stoney Creek Gospel
- 11.) Corkey's Pals

Turkey Talk Answer: "On the outside!"

Be sure to visit our website!

www.gospelmusicbarn.org

Photos of our Storage Project Progress:



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