



September 1, 2008

# Ministry Tools

Bob Burroughs

## Quote

"**O**ne of the great sins of God's people in this generation is the support they give to sick and rebellious churches through money, attendance and participation." Steve Brown

## Scripture

**S**ince you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. 1st Corinthians 14:12

## Prayer

**G**racious Father, Redeemer, Most High God, Creator of this world and beyond, Sustainer of human life and Giver of all good and perfect gifts, I offer this prayer today for the church—Your church. Knowing that Your church will never be perfect till the end of time, I pray for wisdom among church leadership of every denomination to stand tall and be the kind of leaders You have them to be. Obviously, one cannot lead in a spiritual way if their heart is clouded by the sins of the flesh. Inspire and lead Your people to honor You and the church with their best gifts, building up the church for all to see. Make Your church once again a strong fortress of salvation to where people can run and be safe—and this will only come to pass by Your Holy Spirit working miracles in our lives. I pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, who can heal our lives and make us clean again—if we but ask Him. Amen.

# What Think Ye?

This Isn't Your Father's Oldsmobile!

or

The Church, As We Have Known it, May Be In Trouble

**D**o you remember that commercial of several years ago...where GM was trying to convince the younger public that the newer oldsmobiles were updated, slick and "not your father's oldsmobile. They don't make this car any longer. How about the new line of Cadallics? The ads are appealing to younger generations and the old stodgy line is all but gone.

So, how does this relate to "today's church," you ask?

August 1-2, I had the privilege of attending [Promise Keepers, 2008](#) in the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, near Atlanta. This church has 25,000 members and has two Sunday services, each averaging in the neighborhood of 10,000. It is a fine facility, led by a very dynamic pastor, having served there for 22 years.

In the two days, 9000 men were present. An outstanding worship team led us in singing both dynamic and rememberable praise choruses as well as standard hymns done in "praise & worship" style. 9000 men—singing these songs of Zion—heartily and fervently—is a sound to behold and many times, I just stood and listened, letting my heart be refreshed to my very soul.

We heard dynamic and soul-moving messages by outstanding men of God. What was most interesting to me was that in each their messages, every speaker mentioned "the church" and where it stands in the USA today.

So, where do you think the church stands today? Is the church of today following biblical principles? Is the church of today moving forward, growing, winning non-believers to Christ as they teach the Bible, doctrine, and grow leadership? Is the church of today interested in folks who don't look, act, smell, or think like the members do? Is the church in general doing the same old same old, sticking with programs that are out-of-date and not drawing lost people--or even dedicated people?

Here are some of the comments for consideration, gleaned from the speakers:

- We were told that 70% of men in today's churches in the USA are involved in some way with pornography. Sadly, many of these are pastors and staff members. How can pastors preach the love of Jesus and how can men lead in the church today if they spend much of their spare time on the Internet surfing porn sites? How can staff members teach Godly principles while being a slave to porn? It is no wonder true, Godly leadership is difficult to find or is missing in many churches!

A survey was taken at PK—on the spot--with cell phones—and put on the screen in real time. The #1 problem of the men present was—you guessed it! Pornography. Second was drug usage. Third was neglect of their family.

Dwight L. Moody said: "If I walk with the world, I can't walk with God." Truer words were never spoken.

- Homes without fathers are causing havoc in today's culture and society--and the church is doing little or nothing about it. The largest people group in the world today that needs our help, love, care, and compassion is single Moms, who are trying to raise their kids without a father figure. When is the church going to wake up to this reality and begin a ministry to them—and believe me, this people group is near every church in the USA!

- Sadly, there are few pastors in churches who are committed to excellence—and as we recall from scripture, God demands our best, in worship as well as the giving of tithes and offerings or service. Many pastors as well as worship leaders seem content to please the congregation and make sure the boat doesn't rock—than preaching, teaching, singing the words of God, driving them straight to the hearts of God's people. The main theme of many churches is evangelism, when most of those in the pews are already believers. There is little preached on how to live a Godly life from Monday to Sunday...how to witness in the marketplace of life...how to be Godly parents...how to hear God's voice...how to be better parents...how to witness in the marketplace...and other profound subjects that are so desperately needed in today's culture.

We will pay the price for churches that are not true to the teachings of Jesus, leadership that is Godly on the outside and impure on the inside, and ignoring obvious problems around the church and community.  
If not now, soon.

What think ye?

## Leadership

### Leadership Mantras for Success

#7 - When you stop asking questions, you stop learning.  
Great leaders...are great learners.

**T**he Bible has much to say about learning. It tells us everyone should be acquainted with Wisdom and continue in the learning process, no matter our age, till we go Home to be with Him in the heavenly realm.

In the book of Proverbs, chapter 4, verse 13, hear these words: Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

Proverbs 4: 7 says: Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get Wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding!

2 Timothy 2: 15 says: Study...to show thyself approved unto God... a workman that needs not to be ashamed.

When one continues to learn and grow in Wisdom, usually the following takes place:

- There is continuing education on a regular basis
- There is a continual renewal of basic skills
- There is a learning of new and/or improved techniques

These are essential for all ministers, whether they be music, pastors, youth, education, senior adults, singles, or children's ministry.

Learning does the following things...and more:

- broadens the scope of your vision
- broadens the outlook on life
- provides the opportunity for continued honing of skills
- gives a better life experience
- provides the perfecting of natural abilities that make the person a better and more disciplined minister

Continual learning

- stretches the person and his innate skills
- makes him more confident and secure in this fast-changing world
- provides opportunity to see beyond one's self and gets him out of the "fortress" mentality

One is never too old to be learning something new. There is a certain magic and renewing of the personal spirit when one is learning new, exciting, and useful tools for ministry.

Thankfully, some churches offer sabbatical leaves or other time off for learning and improvement—and the churches are the richer for it. They receive the direct benefit of the educational process. It is a "win-win" situation for all.

If a sabbatical leave is not available, some ministers use their vacation or time away for study and training. Some go to seminars across the country to meet their specific needs. Others go to the local college or university to obtain a special study program on an individual basis in an area of interest with qualified individuals. Some even travel overseas to study. The opportunities are there.

And by the way, a "week long anthem reading session, with golf in the afternoon and premieres of new works at night" is NOT a continuing education experience. If these offer conducting seminars, children's choir workers' seminars, ministry seminars, etc., then such an event might be worth consideration.

If you feel you have stopped growing and feel the need for a refresher course in your skill areas, get away for a time. Rethink your priorities, calling, and ministry. Ask your church for a sabbatical to renew your music and ministry skills, and to have the opportunity to be refreshed. Search for new ideas and new techniques that will challenge you. Look for a new challenge.

It is not too late.

# Marriage & Family

Contributed by David J. Stipech

## You're Missing the Truly Important Stuff If ...

- your kids are startled when you want to play with them.
- a "fun-weekend" for you is working at the office or working in the yard, by choice and not of necessity
- there are many days that you don't see your kids because you're out of the house before they wake up and come home after they are asleep
- you'd rather spend your evening on the internet than sleeping under the stars with your child
- "Not now! I'm busy!" is a common phrase in your home, while "Come sit and tell me about it" is just not in the vocabulary
- you're never off the cell phone or walk in the door and head straight for the computer
- you know Chipper Jones' batting average--but haven't a clue about your son's batting average
- when you say: "I'll play with you later," you actually believe there will be a "later."

If you think treasured times seem to be passing you by:

- Stop wherever you are reading this. Use your cell phone and call your kids to say, "I love you today" wherever they are! It will make their day.
- Update the family photos in your wallet. Replacing pre-teen photos with graduation shots should serve as a "wake-up" call.
- Treasure every "routine" activity at every state of every age...including baths, play, devotional times, and bedtime reading!

These are a start in the right direction!

## Inspirational Corner

Dr. Donald Paul Hustad

### Tuning Your Instrument

It is my distinct pleasure and honor to present the September Inspirational Column written by a gentleman who really needs no introduction, for he is known, loved, and respected across the USA, by church musicians, organists, former students, and peers. **Don Hustad** is one of God's choicest servants, a man of honor and distinction, a professor who had much to say about life as well as music, and a friend to many. If you wish to communicate with Dr. Hustad to express your appreciation for him and/or for this article, his email address is: [dhustad980@aol.com](mailto:dhustad980@aol.com)



**R**ecently I ran across a blurb by one of my favorite preachers--John Donne, mystical poet and Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in the late 16th century. It remains even now over my desk--as a voice of conscience.

Since I am coming to that holy room where with thy choir of saints for evermore, I shall be made thy music, As I come, I tune the instrument here at the door, and what I must do then, think here before.

I was reminded first of the many times on Sunday morning I have stopped to pray with the choir and ministers, as we prepared to enter the room to perform our duties (and delights) in Christian worship. Having rehearsed the music carefully, we were also asking God to "tune our hearts to sing your praise."

But these days, I'm preparing for an even more auspicious performance. Believers often wonder needlessly about their occupation in heaven; to me it seems obvious! We'll all be singers and assigned to a place in the Heavenly Choir. After all, God created us with a larynx as the body's self-contained instrument!

Some of us have tuned that instrument during a lifetime of study on earth; others will possibly discover that one of their heavenly rewards is a redeemed "voice box" which suddenly allows them to sing like Pavarotti!

Of course, tuning isn't always "heavenly." It involves tension—the tightening of strings and membranes, taut and supple muscles controlling the embouchure, with intense, almost painful "listening," so as to be "in tune."

My wife, Ruth, and I have discovered that our "golden years" also brings physical deterioration, and our bodies can't do the things they have always done; we are learning that God's grace continues to meet the needs of these new challenges.

We recently had to "downsize" in order to move closer to our loving, caring family, and that meant "letting go" of many things we loved--a home, a community of friends, and such "indispensable" things as books and music and recordings. This, too, is tuning the instrument, and preparing for the new choral assignment. "Nothing in my hands I bring; simply to thy cross I cling."

Part of our preparation has come from our students and other friends. So many have written or called to echo our own gratitude for our hours together in the studio and classroom! We look forward to seeing you in that great Heavenly Choir. Remember its traditions! It sang when God created the worlds (Job 38: 4), with a second performance in the skies over Bethlehem when our Lord and Savior was born. (Luke 2: 13, 14) Encores will certainly include the great hymns of Revelation 4 and 5:

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Revelations. 4: 11)

You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth. (Revelations 5: 9-10)

Now--will someone please sound an "A"?!

## This Idea Will Work

### Always...Be Prepared!

**H**ere are suggestions for the director's consideration that may make rehearsals a bit more interesting, fun and exciting for the choir, orchestra or ensemble:

- Have all the proper music in the folder.
- Make sure everyone has a copy of the music.
- Have the rehearsal room a comfortable temperature--even a bit chilly. It will warm up—or it should!
- See that the room is clean, chairs are straight, in place, and the evening's order is on the board. If there is no board, get one!
- If you have a weekly paper, put it in the folder slot or on each chair.
- Don't make any announcements in the rehearsal. Place them in the paper and let it take care of all details. Teach your people to read the material! If there is no weekly paper, allow the President to handle the last part of each rehearsal and use part of his time to emphasize all BRIEF announcements.
- Begin on time--every time--and end on time--every time! This is a very important point!
- Begin the rehearsal with something familiar, in a good low register so as to warm up gently--yet, still teaching and working on tone.
- Work fast, work hard, work smart, and keep the choir busy at all times not allowing any time for conversations, whispering, or jokes. The highest compliment a conductor can be paid is this: "You didn't give us any time to talk tonight!" Always stay ahead of the ensemble!
- When finished with the rehearsal, even if it is not 9:00, quit! Turn the rehearsal over to the President and go sit down. Let him/her finish the time with prayer requests, a devotional thought, any major announcements and a prayer.

Remember: rehearsals that are consistently

- stimulating
  - interesting
    - refreshing
      - innovative
        - challenging
  - exciting
  - humorous
- spiritually beneficial
- and musically fulfilling...

...will entice the ensemble members to come consistently, for fear that if they miss a rehearsal, they may miss something really great. Build this spirit in the group and it will work for you.

This Idea Will Work!

# Tips for the Smaller

## Rehearsals: Part 3 -- How to Teach an Anthem

Choir Directors in smaller churches who attend conferences or workshops and who, for the most part, are untrained in basic musicianship, usually ask this question: "Is there a secret to teaching an anthem to my choir?" There are no secrets. It is all wrapped up in knowing what to do--and when to do it.

Here are some thoughts and suggestions that will help you know how to teach a new anthem: .

1. Select material that is within the capabilities of your choir. Don't challenge them with a piece that is so far over their heads musically that they will become discouraged before they complete the learning process! Be very selective in the types of material you choose to offer the choir. Someone told me recently: 'Give the choir some things they want to sing so you have the privilege of teaching them some of the things they should be singing.'
2. As the choir director, you MUST know the anthem(s) before the choir begins their work. You should go through the anthem carefully, marking in yellow or red pen the problems spots as you study the piece so you will be prepared to properly teach the choir when those mistakes are made.

Know the following:

- when the altos will have a strange leap
- where the basses will miss that low note and sing something not in the chord
- the places for the choir to breathe.
- Where the sopranos do not have the melody
- Where the tenors could use some help

In other words, know the music well! You can't teach it properly if you don't know what to teach! If available, listen to a recording of the piece to help you learn it.

3. Make sure you have gone over the anthem(s) with the accompanist. Never spring a new and difficult piece on your accompanist in a rehearsal and expect to remain friends! Make sure your accompanist is aware your tempo for the piece. Help with difficult sections. Give advice as to how to improvise a spot or two, if the music is too difficult and if the accompanist is not capable.
4. Search, search, and search again for music that you know your choir can sing and enjoy. Ask friends with similar size choirs what their choir loves to sing. Secure copies of music from any resource and choose carefully what you give your group.

September Issue: Rehearsals – Part 4

# Humor

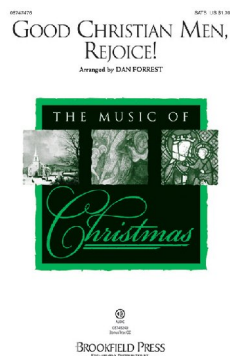
## Possible Problem Sentences for Parents

**F**or each sentence, estimate the total number of times it is used per parent--per week:

1. I don't care what the other kids get to do. You can't do it!
2. And...this time, I really mean it!
3. You come out of your room one more time, and....
4. You're going to put your eye out with that!
5. See! I told you somebody was going to get hurt doing that.
6. Now we're REALLY going to be late.
7. One...I'm counting...two...I'm counting!
8. Just wait till you Daddy gets home!
9. Let's not discuss that at the dinner table!
10. Why is your brother/sister crying?
11. Okay...but only five more minutes.

## Anthem Reviews

GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE!, Arr. Dan Forrest, SATB, Four-Hand Piano, Brookfield Press (Hal Leonard Music) #08747476, \$1.70, (Available separately: SATB Bonus Trax CD)

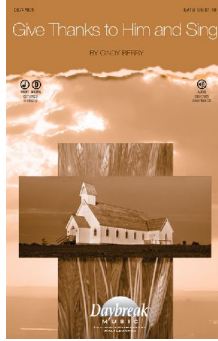


**D**an Forrest is becoming a very familiar name in church music circles these days. He is writing very singable, inventive and delightful music—and church and school choirs are really enjoying his creativity. I had lunch with Dan recently, got to know him, and he is a charming young man. He is the Composition Professor at Bob Jones University, Greenville, SC.

This chart will challenge the pianists—for sure. If you want to both challenge and show off your keyboard people, this is the arrangement to choose. The accompaniment is both challenging and fun to play—and hear. The choral writing is excellent. This is a fresh chart of this old and familiar carol. I particularly enjoyed Dan's creativity in measures 61-66!

Your choir will enjoy singing these measures, as well as the whole piece! This will be a show-stopper, so get a copy, review it, order it and place it first or last in your Christmas Program! It will bring down the house! Very good work, Dan!

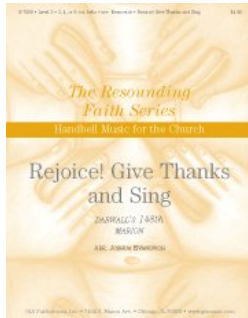
GIVE THANKS TO HIM AND SING, Cindy Berry, SATB, Piano, Daybreak Music (Hal Leonard Music) #08747921, \$1.70, Orchestration score and parts, Arr. Keith Christopher, available digitally!



**C**indy Berry has the gift of melody that is always intriguing to me! She has the knack for being able to create a very singable melody that is rememberable and beautiful. This is no exception. This anthem literally flows from beginning to end with hardly time to breathe! There are triplets to consider, and a rhythm in measure 6 that will need to be taught right the first time for it occurs quite often, and other than that, this piece is smooth sailing. It is perfect for a celebration Sunday, Thanksgiving, concert or general use. The choir will enjoy learning and singing it and the congregation will probably applaud with the big ending—if your congregation applauds. Very nice work, Cindy!

## HANDBELL REVIEW

REJOICE! GIVE THANKS AND SING, Darwall's 148th (Marion), Arr. Joshua Evanovich, GIA Publications #G-7288, Level 3, for 3, 4, or 5 octave handbell choir, \$4.95 – 11 pages



**L**ooking for a “barn-burner” for your Fall Handbell program, or Thanksgiving emphasis? Look no further. This is the one for you. Joshua Evanovich has provided three interesting things in this arrangement:

(1) a strong treatment of the hymn, Rejoice the Lord is King

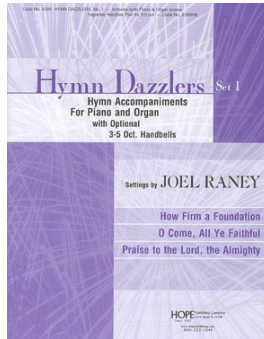
(2) interspersed with a short motif from the refrain of the familiar hymn, Rejoice Ye pure in Heart

(3) a reflective original theme which suits the chart like a glove.

The handbell chart also features moderate to aggressive writing for the bass bell section! Directors may feel free to simply if necessary, but your bass ringers will enjoy their workout! There are three key changes: from Ab to Bb to C, and a rousing ending that should have the hearts of all stirred—most especially the bell choir! This is one fine chart. Good work, Joshua!

## NEW PRODUCT

**HYMN DAZZLERS, Set 1, Hymn Accompaniments for Piano and Organ, with optional 3-5 Handbell Choir, settings by Joel Raney, Hope Publishing Code #8389, \$24.95; Handbell Parts Code #8389HB, \$4.50**



**OK**—I admit it. I confess. I really do enjoy the surprises and creativity that **Joel Raney** brings to his music! The sounds, chordal and rhythmic surprises, and energy always inspires me. He has outdone himself with this collection of three familiar hymns:

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
2. How Firm A Foundation
3. O Come, All Ye Faithful

The score comes with the organ and bells. In the middle of the organ score is a pullout for piano and bells, so these tunes can be performed either way—or with organ, piano, and bells! It works ever so nicely.

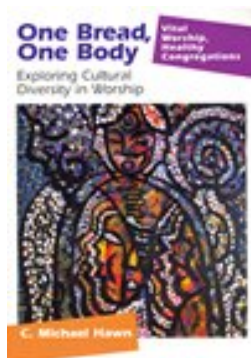
After nice introductions, each stanza 1 is standard harmony; stanza 2 is a fresh reharmonization, and after a transition modulation, stanza 3 is slightly broader an tons of fun to hear and to play. The congregation should be singing their lungs out by the time you get to the end, where there is a short “ending” for each of the three hymns. This is a great way to include the handbells into the service with organ, piano and congregation.

One more thing: this collection can also be a concert format and just enjoyed by a listening congregation!

I’m always impressed with your writings, Joel!

## Book Review

**One Bread, One Body--Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship, C. Michael Hawn, TheAlban Institute, Available on Amazon.com for \$16**



My friend, **C. Michael Hawn**, and his Perkins School of Theology colleagues given worship leaders and pastors a remarkable book that would be a most exciting book to study on a staff retreat away from the church. This book is filled with challenges for churches of every denomination. It allows to think about worship in ways both theologically informed and shaped by the emerging circumstances of our society--not an easy task!

The book is in three parts:

Part One provides analytical tools for evaluating a congregations's cultural context.

Part Two comprises case studies of four congregations that chose to participate in this study.

Part Three examines one of the most crucial aspects of multicultural worship, music leadership and congregational singing, offers specific guidance for congregations pursuing "culturally conscious worship" and draws heavily on the experiences of the four congregations and what was learned from them.

There is a wealth of material for the discerning church body that wishes to reach out to their community and do ministry through cultural diversity. I challenge you to get a copy of this fine book--and you will have your eyes opened to the reality of true and meaningful worship that is centered on Christ and those whom He loves and not just those we love.

## Conferences/Workshops

*Celebrating 33 years*

# Church Music Explosion

<p>John Weaver, Concert Organist          Christopher Aspaas, Choral Director, St. Olaf College          Craig Courtney, Composer          Allen Pote, Composer          Martha Alford, Handbell Clinician          Randy Edwards, YouthCue Director          Vince Treadway, Children's Choirs, Music and Worship          Christopher Garvin, Music and Worship          John Wilson, Director of Music, Coral Ridge          Samuel Metzger, Senior Organist, Coral Ridge          Gail Smith, Pianist, Coral Ridge</p>	 <p>Randy Edwards and 8 other presenters  <b>YouthCue Evening</b>  <i>Massed youth choir in rehearsal and performance</i>  <b>Some of the Class Topics</b>  <i>The care and feeding of youth choir students</i>  <i>Planning programming to meet pressing needs nearby</i>  <i>It's not as scary as you think! &amp; A Roundtable &amp; Reading Session</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Highlights</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Two Evening Concerts • Three Cameo Concerts</i>  <i>Evensong • Two Roundtables</i>  <i>Seven Reading/Repertoire Sessions</i>  <i>Conducting, Organ and Piano Master Classes</i>  <i>Augsburg Fortress Bookstore • New Special Hotel Rates</i></p>	 <p>Vince Treadway, Chris Garven &amp; Martha Alford  <b>Roundtable</b>  <i>Pastors are from Venus and Musicians are from Mars</i>  <i>Creating a Win-Win Environment and the politics of church work</i>  <b>Plus</b>  <i>Two Demonstration Children's Choirs (ages 4-6 &amp; 7-12)</i>  <i>Evensong with music, scripture and silent prayer</i></p>

[www.musicexplosion.org](http://www.musicexplosion.org)

January 5 - 9, 2009

Please call 954.334.6178

Church Music Explosion is offering **MME** readers a \$50 discount on registration and not available to anyone else! To get this discount, you must [call](tel:954.334.6178) 954.334.6178 and ask **Shirley Reymond** for the special **MME** discount, and give your name/address. [Click Here](#) to see the full brochure!



The **American Choral Directors Association** is dedicated to the art of choral music, conducting, choirs and much more. Their new Executive Director, and my long time friend, **Timothy Sharp**, is known to many as a former professor of music at Belmont University in Nashville, through his "Hallelujah!" column in **Choral Journal** for the past five years which has been geared toward the church musician, and through his own compositions and arrangements. **MME** feels as if we have "one of our own" as the new Executive Director of ACDA! I asked Tim to write a brief article about ACDA.

Congratulations, Tim, from **MME**.



Thank you for sharing my desire to see more and more worship leaders, music directors, and pastoral musicians become active leaders in the **American Choral Directors Association**. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention this coming March 4-7, 2009, and the time leading up to this incredible gathering of choral musicians is the best and most opportune time for our colleagues in music ministry to become active in **ACDA**. I would like to personally invite each one who reads **MME** to become members or renew their membership. This is a member organization, and for **ACDA**. to become an even more powerful resource for church musicians, we need the brightest and best of church musicians that love the choral instrument to be involved. As you and I have discussed, as the new Executive Director of **ACDA**, I want their involvement for two important reasons:

- 1) I know what great benefits, encouragement, fellowship, and inspiration they will receive from **ACDA**
- 2) I know that we are at a moment where their collective voices as members can reshape **ACDA** for the future. You know that church musicians have a friend and advocate with me, and now is the time for them to enlist. Thank you for what you continue to do for all of us in church music ministry, and thank you particularly for encouraging the **MME** readership to go to [www.acdaonline.org](http://www.acdaonline.org) and join us today."



**ChoirFest International--The Singer's Choral Festival!** What a great thought. This festival is not necessarily for your entire choir. It is designed for 2-5 of your best singers, who would enjoy the experience of being in a great European city (Prague) and singing with an internationally known conductor (Rene Clausen) and performing with The Empire Brass and---singing with 299 other singers who have the same interests in great music! This grand event has been promoted now for two issues of **MME** and lots of conversation and interest is already happening. You can go to [www.choirfest.com](http://www.choirfest.com) for full details or click on the logo.

Don't miss this grand opportunity for singing the songs of Zion in the City of Prague!

HARMONY INTERNATIONAL'S

2009

# NATIONAL SENIOR ADULT CHOIR TOUR

OCTOBER 1-9, 2009 † IRELAND

Last month, MME promised you a big surprise event that would be of interest to those of you who have senior adult choirs, who work with senior adults, or who just wish to be involved in a very exciting Concert Tour to Ireland!

The National Senior Adult Choir Tour is set for October 1-9, 2009! Not 2008. It promises to be a grand event, with between 100-150 senior adults and others performing 2-3 concerts in special places on the beautiful Isle of Ireland, plus several spontaneous concerts in cathedrals and other public places, and in addition, seeing some of the beautiful places that up to now have only been seen in books or on TV.

The leadership team for this Tour includes the following:

Bob Burroughs, Conductor  
Esther Burroughs, Spiritual Director  
Benjamin Harlan, Pianist

To go to the website and discover the full details, click on the Logo--and see full details...or email Bob Burroughs to [bbur65@aol.com](mailto:bbur65@aol.com) and a brochure will be in the mail to you immediately, giving full details of the trip.



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## Bits 'n Pieces

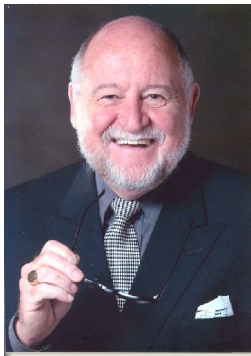
MME wishes to express our deepest appreciation to **Scott Revo** and **Pine Lake Music** for sponsoring the next four (4) months of MME. **Scott Revo**, President of Pine Lake Music, has designed a special MME website, where only MME readers can find specials just for us! You will be impressed. See above for full details! Thank you, Scott!

## Final Thought

School is back in session. Most church music programs are up and running. There is excitement in the air as children, young people and adults begin to concentrate on the Season of Christmas and the performances that will honor the birth of the Christ Child by voice, orchestra, handbells, keyboard instruments and more. Remember: God desires and deserves **QUALITY** over **QUANTITY**. Don't allow yourself to be caught up in numbers and volume of sound and people in place of insuring right notes, proper breathing, diction, and attention. In other words, **QUALITY!** The Father will be pleased.

Blessings to you through the matchless grace of Jesus Christ.

Blessings.



Bob Burroughs lives in Greer, South Carolina. He has been married 50 years to noted author and speaker Esther Burroughs, and together they have two adult children, 4 granddaughters and one grand grandson. Bob is a church musician, a composer/arranger, and educator, was a faculty member at Samford University, Mercer University (Atlanta campus), and Palm Beach Atlantic University, and served the Florida Baptist Convention for 8 years as Director of the church music department. He is currently the editor of **CREATOR** magazine, and has been writing **MME** for 11 years. You can email Bob by clicking his name below.

**[Bob Burroughs](#)**

