

GOODNEWS LETTER
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SERVICE TAKES US ON "MEMORY LANE"

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus." Ephesians 5:19, 20.

Easton Waters is about ten years old. He sat on the front pew, next to Susan Waters, his mother, while his dad, Moderator Steve Waters, conducted the 79th Annual Old California State Missionary Baptist Association last week in Carson, Ca.

It was hymn time and while we were singing, I glanced around. Easton caught my eye. Although I couldn't hear his voice, I noticed that he had no book. He was singing from memory! It blessed me as he mouthed the words of the song we were singing.

Easton's been in church all his life. He's knows a lot of hymns. But nobody knows all the words of every hymn. It was then that I was thankful for Sister Bekgaard and the musicians. When hymns are accompanied with music, it sure is a lot easier to remember the words. They sort of flow.

Adding music from a piano, guitar, organ, or even a tambourine makes the words just keep-a-comin'. Later, I thought a little more deeply about singing merely from memory. And it's not unlike serving the Lord; no, not at all!

Thus, I wrote this soon-to-be an "adage" of the governing power of the Holy Spirit and how the duration of His power keeps us in tune with the Word.

"Like the words of a song that come to mind as we sing, So the Word of God resonates in our hearts as we live and serve in spirit and truth."

We serve the Lord by going and doing. Going and doing are inseparable truths in God's word. "Going and doing" is found everywhere in Scripture - in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Abram's "going" from Ur gave him God's blessing of the inheritance. **"And I will make thee a great nation and I will bless the..."** (Gen 12:2).

In the New Testament, blessing came when the ten lepers were **"cleansed as they went"** (Lk 17:14). And, Jesus gave the Great Commission to His church by instructing them to **"Go"** (Mt. 28:19) and **"do"** - "teach, baptize and teach" (Mt. 28:19). We **"go"** because there's a song in our hearts, Amen?

These **songs** are the experiences of God, put to music. As we "go," **songs** reveal joy of triumph in spiritual and physical times. **"Thy statutes have been my songs in the hours of my pilgrimage," Psalm 119:54.**

And, mainly, **songs** are what we sing when the heart rejoices in deliverance. "**Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance,**" Psalms 32:7.

"**And as they carried the Ark of God in a new cart...David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets,**" 1st Chr 13:7-8.

Indeed, a mind set upon the Lord brings such joyful experience of service. The Holy Spirit always places a melody in a servant's heart. It's where Jesus whispers sweet and low, teaching us prophetically and spiritually.

"**Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and His praise from the end of the earth,**" Isaiah 42:10, 11a.

David describes his awareness of man's plight in prophetic light of what Jesus shall endure. His final analysis was, "**I will declare Thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise Thee,**" Ps 22:22. Or, as Hebrews 2:12 records this passage, "**I will sing praise unto Thee.**"

We sang a lot at the 79th meeting of the OCSMBA. Brother Angel Casarez did an excellent job of leading. And when Angel sang four part harmony with brothers Ezekiel and Joel Perfecto and Glen Marquez of Australia, I cried.

It is a clear truth - when we experience God's work in our lives, He adds a song to make it sweeter as the days go by. The Lord gives us a melody that fills us with appreciation and joy of where we are going, and a profound love for God taking us out of where we've been - the old dying world.

We need God's song in our hearts, for when we leave the front pew and go into the world, we must have His accompaniment in order to sing, "**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know. Fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go**" (from the hymn, "He keeps Me Singing").