

NOVEMBER 2007



Scot Cameron, left, his wife, Amanda, and Ben Burchfield grab a bite to eat after the performance.



Ian Leitch and Joseph and Sue Martin pause for a photo while eating in the Welk restaurant.



Huw Priday's associate, Paul Griffiths, Jamall Badry and Greg Buchanan go over the program for the Saturday matinee.



Greg Buchanan talks with fans outside the Welk Theater.



Johnny Hall meets with old friends following the Friday night performance.



Liz Priday and Carolyn Reed visit in the lobby of the Welk Theatre.



MEF Newsletter editor Dana Williamson and Ben Burchfield relax after the final performance.



The artists met every morning to plan the performances. Above are Jamall Badry, Hew Priday, Jeannette Clift George and MEF office manager Sherin De Trou.



The A.D. Players, through drama and music, performed four skits on the life of Joshua.



Young at Heart choir from Albuquerque, N.M. lines up to perform. The group, directed by Connie Atkinson, sang at all four performances of "Down From His Glory."

## 'Down from His Glory' — a review

by Dana Williamson  
Newsletter Editor

Greg Buchanan, the Burchfield Brothers, Scot Cameron, John Hall, Joseph Martin, Russell Newport, Paul and Marjorie Ferrin, The Messengers, Huw Priday, Carolyn Reed . . . not household names in the music industry. Yet, is there any better talent anywhere?

While thousands of people are paying big bucks to get into concerts featuring Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Justin Timberlake or Garth Brooks, Music Evangelism Foundation is hosting one of the best musical performances in the nation with talent that most people have never heard of.

A different venue, a different style, perhaps even a different format—yes—but it would be hard to find more outstanding ability on the stage and a better and more diversified show than the one presented Oct. 24-27 at the Welk Theatre in Branson, Mo.

"Down From His Glory" performed to four sold-out shows, something that rarely happens in Branson, with many people attending all four performances.

When you add actress Jeannette Clift George and her A.D. Players and Scottish preacher Ian Leitch to the mix, you have something that is unique to the performing industry.

In how many theaters in the world can people leave with changed lives? This year, as in the past, many people in the audience raised their hands saying they had committed their lives to Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Combining entertainment with the Gospel is unique to the theater, but in this day and age in America, so needed.

Although I enjoy great music, I admit I am not a music critic. But I do value the opinions of those who have made music their lives, and as I listened to several ministers of music talk about the program, I realized I am not far off in my assessment of "Down From His Glory."

In just a 10-minute span, I heard comments like the following from trained musicians:

"Are you ready to be taken up?"

"This is phenomenal."

"Those guys (Scot Cameron and Carolyn Reed,

who sang 'I've Just Seen Jesus') rival Larnelle Harris and Sandy Patti. In fact, I think they are better."

"There is nothing like this that I know of anywhere."

"This is the best thing I've ever seen."

"It is so much more than you can describe to anyone."

"I would not miss this."

And it is a pleasure to watch the performers interact with each other, praising, encouraging and supporting one another, not worrying about the amount of time they are on stage.

"The stuff we are doing here is something most people are not getting in their churches," said tenor soloist John Hall from Atlanta. Hall added that he couldn't believe how everyone on the platform was so unified.

"No one is pushing an agenda," he said. "They are here to glorify Jesus."

"It just gets better every night," said Carolyn Reed, soprano soloist from Nashville.

Although unashamedly Christian, the performances are not "high church" or stiff in anyway. In addition to gospel selections, the audience heard the haunting song "Danny Boy" by Priday, who hails from Wales, and were entertained by "Bumblebee" several times by the Burchfields, who live in Nashville.

The A.D. Players, sponsored by George's theater in Houston, performed four skits about the biblical character Joshua, who was chosen to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land.

George, in her own inimitable way, kept the audience laughing with stories of her travels and experiences as a working actress, while, at the same time, bringing home the message of Scripture.

She said being on the stage with so many wonderful musicians was intimidating.

"When I sing in church, people hand me cough drops," she noted.

Leitch gave short sermonettes presenting the Gospel in a succinct manner during every performance.

"There is a Heaven to gain and a Hell to shun," he said. "The only answer you need is Jesus."

Next year's performance will be Sept. 10-13.

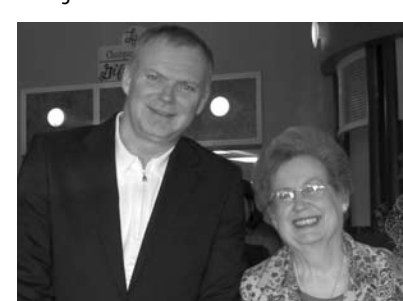
**For information on changes in next year's "Down From His Glory," see page 2**



The Messengers, Lyn Johnson, Victor Wood and Mike Sebastian, minus bass Don Johnson sell tapes in the Welk Theatre lobby.



Russell Newport and Paul Ferrin go over a song during rehearsals.



Jon Burchfield poses with Karen Dingus from Lamesa, Texas who worked his booth.



Connie Christian, MEF office worker, visits with Farris Badry, Jamall's brother, at dinner.

# 2008 MEF Bible Conference speakers announced

Next year's Bible Conference will be June 23-27. Mark it on your calendar now.

Speakers will be:

**Erwin Lutzer**

**Ray Pritchard**

**Mac Brunson**

**Ian Leitch**

**Tom Elliff**

## Help for hundreds of families

Once again, the MEF staff is asking the Lord for great weather for the Dec. 15 project where we will give food, clothes, toiletry articles and gifts for children. Last year, the weather was a God-send, and almost every item was given during the three-hour give-away which began at 9 a.m.

The day was electric. To see poor children smile and receive gifts that may be the only ones they get during the holidays is a wonderful experience. Our thanks go to Colorado Springs Department of Human Services

and Goodwill Industries for their help.

If you would like to help by giving nice toys, clean clothes or other items, such as soap, shampoo, cleaning agents or other items that cannot be purchased with welfare help, bring them to the parking lot at 105 N. Spruce by 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 15. Or you can mail the items to our office at 411 Lakewood Circle, Suite 205A, Colorado Springs, CO 80910, or send a check to P.O. Box 6617 to help cover expenses. You'll be glad you helped, and God will bless.



People line up in Colorado Springs to receive food and other items during the MEF Christmas "give-away."

## Changes necessary for Branson

I praise the Lord that He trusted Music Evangelism with the project of presenting gospel music and the preaching of His word in Branson again this year. More than 9,000 attended those four days of ministry, and many raised their hands when Ian Leitch gave an invitation to accept Jesus as their Savior following his superb message each evening.

Two important and critical things have changed for this ministry. First, the date for next year will be changed to Sept. 10-13, because that is the only date available to us for the Welk Theatre. Second, to meet the expectations of the Welk Theatre, MEF must charge a fee of \$20 for each presentation. A lesser fee will be available for packages of two, three and four presentations and some gratuity tickets will be available upon request. We are even now working on that availability.

The bottom line is we must pay our bills for that ministry which is being increased no matter what we do. I'm sure each of you who knows me realizes it is very difficult for "The Old Singer" to venture into this area. Our whole Branson group, including all of the artists, met with the Welk leadership for two days. Each person had a say and voted to charge a fee—not for their own good, but so MEF can pay its bills.

Thank you for understanding and for your prayers that we absolutely will do the right thing for this ministry. All other ministries for MEF will stay as they are—open to all with no charge whatsoever.

Please feel free to weigh in on this decision by letter, e-mail, FAX or phone call if you wish. I welcome your ideas and comments on this decision. And, if you have an extra \$100,000 to invest in the lives of thousands of people, let me know and all the above will go by the board. And, mail me the bottle of smelling salts too!

In the battle,  
*Jamall Badry*

## The resurgence of Islam and the response of the church

by **Erwin Lutzer**

Early this year, I attended a conference in New York on the topic of Islam that included speakers from Africa, Europe and Australia. The task before us was ominous: what should we do about radical Islam and its intention to destroy the church? Speakers from Africa gave statistics and described the burning of churches, the killing of families and seizing of property. Representatives from Europe reported on intimidation and threats, and yes, killings too. Europe clearly remembers the "cartoon crisis" when innocent people were killed in the violence. Because the percentage of Muslims in America is quite small in comparison to most other countries, we are, at least for now, more exempt from the Muslim threat. But our day is coming.

Muslims—those who take their faith seriously—cannot be integrated into Western society, with its emphasis on freedom of re-

ligion, respect for the rights of women and democratic rule. Of course, many Muslims here in the U.S. are Westernized, but at the expense of ignoring many of the teachings of the Koran. Jihad (struggle or holy war) lies at the root of the Islamic religion, as taught in the Koran and exemplified in history. Indeed, a new version of the Koran published in Saudi Arabia identifies Jihad as the sixth pillar of the Muslim faith. There is no example in history where Muslims have given Christians equal rights. All Muslims who take the Koran seriously believe that they should work toward having a Caliphate, that is, the Muslim rule of the world. Clearly, our conflict with Islam is here to stay.

In our country, Muslims are deeply involved in our universities, many of them have departments to propagate the Muslim religion. Muslims also support hate crimes legislation. The reason: hate crimes can also

## Merry Christmas from MEF



When I was a child and a teenager, I thought Christmas would never arrive. Then, all of a sudden, it was over. Now, with four major ministries, Christmas seems to arrive faster every year for MEF.

The board of directors, staff and I wish you the best Christmas ever this year. And, we thank you for making this 29th year one of the best ever ministry-wise. Thousands of people every year are influenced toward Christ and Christian principles through your prayers and financial help.

We do wish you a Merry Christmas and the best New Year you've ever experienced. Just know we are still in the battle.

*MEF Board and Staff*

**Jamall Badry**  
**John Hall**  
**Will J. Roberts**

**Wally Mark**  
**Peter Schmidt**  
**Sherin De Trou**



## Invitation to Wales, Scotland, Ireland

Huw Priday, tenor soloist for MEF and his assistant Paul Griffiths have invited the MEF team of musicians to Wales next May for a series of concerts. Robert Bell, Ian Leitch's assistant, also feels we can present two of the concerts in Edinburgh, Scotland, since we would have to fly into that city to get to Wales. There will also be opportunity for concerts in Ireland.

As it now stands, the concerts will begin about Saturday, May 10 and end Thursday, May 22. We have been told 10 percent of those who live in Scotland and Wales attend church on a regular basis. Only the Lord knows what these concerts will bring forth in decisions for Christ.

If you would like to participate in the trip, let the MEF office know.

## MEF artists open for concerts in June

**Carolyn Reed**—Soprano Soloist, 615/585-4856

**John Hall**—Tenor Soloist, 404/274-3714

**Scot Cameron**—Tenor Soloist, 817/307-2036

**Paul and Marjorie Ferrin**—Piano and Organ Soloists/Duet, 719/548-1488

**Huw Priday**—Tenor Soloist, [sprice@adelphia.net](mailto:sprice@adelphia.net)

**Joseph Martin**—Piano Soloist, 512/422-1937

**Ian Leitch**—preacher, Sunday, June 24 only, P.O. Box 2002, Livingston EH540AT

**Greg Buchanan**—Harpist, 714/571-0798

Call today. You will not be sorry.

## Choir music for sale

Since we will no longer have a volunteer choir for the Conference, we are selling most of the choir music. If you are interested in purchasing some, call or come by the MEF office located on the second floor of the Satalite Hotel, at 411 Lakewood Circle, Suite 205A. Cost will be 25-50 cents a copy.

reason. Here in America, they have freedom to think about their religion more objectively and are therefore more open to the Christian faith. It is my conviction that millions of Muslims would turn to Christ if only Islam would drop two of its basic tenets (1) that those who convert from Islam to Christianity are to be killed and (2) that the Bible must be outlawed in Muslim countries.

God has commanded us to love and respect all people and that includes the Muslims in our midst. If we approach them with kindness and a willingness to learn about their faith, they will also be more willing to listen to us. It is a privilege to represent Jesus Christ to those who are strangers to our Savior.

Erwin Lutzer is pastor of The Moody Church in Chicago, Ill.

Our biggest mistake is to "write off" the Muslims in our midst without realizing that God has brought them to our country for a

## From the old singer . . .

### A real Scottish greeting

When I arrived at the Edinburgh airport, Ian Leitch and Robert Bell had arranged for a bagpiper to greet me just outside the airport exit. I had asked for “red-carpet” treatment, but they went a step better and got a bagpiper. It’s the first and probably the only time for the old singer to be greeted in such a magnanimous way.

### Seeing Eric again

While I was in Scotland, Ian Leitch drove me to Glasgow so I could have lunch with Eric Alexander. Eric will not be able to speak for our 2008 Bible Conference because he has to stay with his wife, Greta, who has an ailment that prohibits her being left alone.

Eric had to cancel all scheduled meetings in the U.S. for this year and next. We certainly understand and have issued an invitation for our 2009 conference.

Eric looks as well as I’ve seen him, and is just as jovial as ever. I’m sure your prayers for Greta and her well-being are much appreciated.

### Hope to keep going

Billy Graham is 86 years of age. George Beverly Shea is 99, and Cliff Barrows is 84. And, even with physical liabilities, they still minister for our Lord just like they did when I was in high school. (None of your business when that was.)

To be honest, that gives me hope and the will to keep going though there are days when the weight of the battle seems more than I want to bear.

The financial battle has always been an



uphill struggle and still is. You should know that you are making a difference by supporting MEF so generously, and for that I thank you. Our daily work is to make the truth known and strengthen believers for all the challenges this world places in our lives.

I trust I can count on your support again. We need at least \$60,000 over what we already have to pay for our ministry in Branson, which sounds like a big number. But when you consider the thousands who are in attendance at crusades in Africa, the Colorado Springs Bible Conference, the Branson presentation and the giving of food to more than 1,500 families each year at Christmas, it is not that much. We pray you will help us again this month so the ministry will finish strong this year.

Thank you again for your faithfulness to the Gospel and your dedicated partnership with Music Evangelism. Your friendship is a daily encouragement to me.

### Are you ready to die?

Following is a gem of a quote from Ray Pritchard who will be one of the speakers at our 2008 Bible Conference.

“What if you don’t know Jesus? You aren’t ready to die even if you think you are. No one is ready to die until they know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Sometimes people say, ‘Life begins at 40.’ How wrong they are. Life begins at Calvary. Life begins the moment you put your trust in Jesus Christ. Life begins at the cross when you bow the knee and say, ‘Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying for me.’ Until you come to Christ, your life has no beginning. You have existence, but you don’t have life.”

## A letter from the past

As I was going through old letters and “stuff” I came across a letter from Paul Goble, which once again said to the old singer: “Keep going—it is the right thing to do.” I share it with you, and trust you will be blessed too.

“Congratulations on another successful (edifying, enjoyable) conference.

It occurred to me that you might be interested in, or entertained by, some of the thoughts I’ve had regarding ‘What is the MEF Bible Conference?’

**My first reaction upon hearing about the conference:** A foundation! Wow, I wonder who had the money to endow a foundation? I see that the foundation sponsors a conference for music evangelists. There must be some good seminars there on music theory, copyright issues and life on the road.

I’m just an amateur musician . . . I wonder if I’ll feel out of place at the conference?

**After attending a conference or two:** What great preaching! What great music! I’m surprised there aren’t more seminars about music or evangelism. What makes this thing tick? And how do they keep the Calvinists and Armenians on such good terms with each other?

**After participating in a few more conferences:** This thing really seems to have a deep impact on people’s lives. Mature Christians in need of healing really need to be here. It appears that ‘Bible Conference’ is the key concept, not ‘Music Evangelism.’ Apparently a ‘Bible Conference’ is some Southern thing. But I don’t have to understand it to appreciate it. It sure is hard to describe to people when I invite them to

come.

**After reading *To Move a Mountain* (MEF history book)** Ah, it IS some Southern Baptist thing. But it’s a great idea. I hope more young people can be exposed to (and hence inevitably addicted to) the powerful ministry of a Bible Conference. How can I encourage people who’ve never heard of a Bible Conference to attend next year? Perhaps society is changing in a way that will help . . . in this postmodern era, it’s becoming less necessary to articulate a concise definition of a Bible Conference, and more important to share a personal testimony and a personal invitation.

So that you have some context, I’ve attended approximately eight of the conferences, sang in the choir twice and played in the conference orchestra twice.”

## We get letters . . .

Once again, the Lord has done exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think. The conference was superb, and the Lord was magnified and glorified in every facet of the services. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of what God is doing in Colorado Springs through MEF. We will be praying for you and the ministry to which the Lord has committed to your care.

While I appreciate the incredible honorarium and the privilege of sharing at MEF, the greatest blessing was just being there, hearing the preaching and music. It was a long overdue time of refreshment for me—albeit far too brief. Thank you for everything, and please tell your hospitality folks that they are the greatest.

More blessings than you have time or patience to read about were, and continue to be, ours as we go about our daily tasks and listen to the music over and over. Thank you for your gracious giving of yourself, your money and gracious spirit to fill us up with energizing blessings from our Lord through you, your ministry and all those who attended and participated. We look forward to your newsletters through e-mail and any opportunity we have to spread

the good news of your ministry that we pray God gives you the life, energy and finances to continue.

The conference in the Springs was a tremendous blessing to my husband and me. And CDs we’ve listened to since have continued that blessing. Thank you for this vision and for the wonderful support it gives to these musicians and speakers and the joy it brings the rest of us.

I had feelings of withdrawal after I left the conference. It was a magnificent time for me. My gratefulness to you for the generous gift of love in the financial giving and the basket in my room along with the expenses.

Praise God for you. I have lived in Colorado Springs for 10 years, but this is the first I have heard of you. I wish I could have been at every session you have had for 26 years. A lady at church gave me your program. I had heard Greg Buchanan on gospel radio in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Colorado, but I never ever thought I’d see him live and in person. He is the fastest and best. What a night. Everything was excellent and God blessed. The preaching on Tuesday was powerful and the music was Heaven sent. Wednesday was even better. Thursday was so good I can-

celled my plans for Friday night and went to MEF. Thank you for bringing MEF to us. After the first night, I emptied my wallet every night and I brought extra money on Friday night. I have been wanting to give to you ever since, and God has provided and extra \$40. You said to give according to how you were blessed. I owe you much more.

There is no good word I know to let you know how I appreciate for the blessings I received from you and the Conference. I do not remember any good conference like that in my life where people are bring spiritually refreshed and empowered by the Word of God and fellowship. I praise God for you, Sherin and those anointed speakers.

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus. Since I reached home, I came to realize that Satan was at work during the time I was out. The place where we were using for worship, the owner said he wants his place, so we must look for another place to use. I am in struggle for looking the place where we can use for short time while we are looking the good place which we can build the church building. Please remember me for this shock at my ministry. I hope God will open His door for us to have our own church building where we can worship our God freely.

Dear friends in Colorado Springs, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus. Thank you very much for your e-mail. I want to thank God for you people of Colorado due to the great love you show me when I was there. I do not have the good language to use instead of thank you very much. Our church is looking forward to move from the place which we were used due to the high rent from the owner. Pray for me while I am looking to the another place to use for worshiping.

Our family is so honored that you accepted the invitation to sing for my dad’s funeral. He would also be so happy. He went to as many of your Bible Conferences as he could. He and my mother have all your tapes. You are their favorite. His favorite song is “Sweet Beulah Land.” I could never say thank you enough. May God continue to bless you.

Thank you so much for your ministry in Branson last weekend and for the wonderful dinner before we left. We want to be a part of your ministry and help you spread the word to people in Northwest Arkansas. I had just been through a really tough time in my life and Down From His Glory brought so much healing to me. Thank you is just not enough to say!

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The Kihumulo Baptist Church choir and Katembe Baptist Church choir, both in Tanzania, sport choir robes donated to the churches by Music Evangelism Foundation.

**DVD/CD Order Form**  
**“Down From His Glory”**

DVDs \$25  
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**MEF MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Music Evangelism is to spread the Gospel among the unchurched and to deepen the Christian life among church members through the instruments of outstanding music and expository preaching.

The Foundation also seeks to minister to the physical needs of people both in the United States and other countries around the world.

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Nothing that man does takes him lower than when he allows himself to fall so low as to hate anyone. Forgiving does not mean whitewashing the past, but it does mean refusing to live there. Forgiveness breaks the awful chain of bitterness and the insidious desire for revenge. As costly as it is to forgive, unforgiveness costs far more. —**Ray Pritchard** from his book *Stealth Attack*

## Ex-Muslims celebrate Christmas

More Muslims converted to faith in Jesus Christ over the past decade than at any other time in human history, said Joel Rosenberg, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Last Jihad*. As a result, a record number of ex-Muslims are celebrating Christmas this year, despite intense persecution, assassinations and widespread church bombings.

In Iraq, more than 5,000 new Muslim converts to Christianity have been identified since the end of major combat operations, with 14 new churches opened in Baghdad and dozens of new churches opened in Kurdistan, some of which have 500-600 members. Also, more than 1 million Bibles have been shipped into the country since 2003, and pastors report Iraqis are snatching them up so fast, they constantly need more Bibles.

In Egypt, reports say 1 million Egyptians have trusted Christ over the past decade. Last year, 600,000 copies of the Jesus Film were sold, plus 750,000 copies of the Bible on tape.

In Afghanistan, only 17 Muslims converted to Christianity before 9/11/01, but now there are more than 10,000.

In Kazakstan, there were three known Christians in 1990, but now more than 15,000.

In Uzbekistan, there were no known Christians in 1990, but now more than 30,000.

In Sudan, more than 1 million Sudanese have converted to Christianity since 2,000, and some 5 million have become Christians since the early 1990s, despite a radical Islamic regime and an on-going genocide that has killed more than 200,000.

In Iran, in 1979, there were only 500 known Muslim converts to Christianity, but today Iranian pastors and evangelical leaders say there are more than 1 million Iranian believers in Jesus Christ, most of whom meet in underground house churches.

One of the most dramatic developments is that many Muslims—including Shiites in Iran and Iraq—are seeing dreams and visions of Jesus and thus coming into churches explaining that they have already converted and now need a Bible and guidance on how to follow Jesus, Rosenberg said.

## 2008 Faith Promise Dinners scheduled

April 4, **Lamesa, Texas**, First Baptist Church

April 5-6, Sonora, Texas, Concerts only

April 11 or 12, Open for a dinner in your area. Call the MEF office to schedule—719/591-7481.

April 18, First Baptist Church, **Dallas, Texas**. Concert only

April 25, **Oklahoma City**

May 2, **Colorado Springs**

## A loving tribute

Ruth Graham, wife of Billy Graham, died at the age of 87. After her death, Billy Graham issued this statement:

“I am so grateful to the Lord that he gave me Ruth, and especially for these last few years we’ve had in the mountains together. We’ve rekindled the romance of our youth, and my love for her continued to grow deeper every day. I will miss her terribly, and look forward even more to the day I can join her in Heaven.”