

## Who Were The Christian Minstrels and Why this website was created?

Contributed by Sandy (De Silva) Reaume  
Monday, 05 September 2005  
Last Updated Sunday, 11 September 2005

The Christian Minstrels were high school students attending First Church of the Nazarene, Pasadena, California during the years of 1964 - 1974. To be a "CM" took commitment. There were no auditions or talent requirements. Each member agreed to live according to the demands of rehearsals, performances and other outlined points of discipline throughout the year.

During the time when newspapers screamed protests of war in Vietnam..... violence on college campuses.....LSD....race riots....and universal anarchy the Nation cried, "Where do we go from here?" and "What is the answer?" While thousands of youth were telling the world what they were against, the CMs found pleasure in telling the world what they were for. They knew where to go; they found the answer in God.

In 1964, Dale and Judy Bailey founded the CMs. The group numbered about 15 at the beginning and soon began to travel to small churches in the Southern California area. Upon graduation from college, Dale and Judy moved on to a new ministry. The new Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene Pastor, Earl G. Lee, with his commitment to youth within the church, decided to bring his Youth Pastor from Nampa, Idaho - E. Dee Freeborn. Dee took leadership of the group and what happened over the next few years was phenomenal.

Directed by E. Dee Freeborn the CMs went on a tour that first year with 33 high school students and a brand new album, "The Mighty Power." Each summer for the next six (6) years, Dee with his wife, Vi and a patient assortment of sponsors, took as many as 90 high school students in two buses for tours across the United States and into Canada. They traveled each summer for "40 days and 40 nights", and performed full concerts of contemporary and traditional gospel music. The choir saw America in all of its wonderful diversity.....they laughed, cried, and sang with all of their hearts. They were touched deeply within their spirits, and saw God at work transforming lives. The second album was appropriately named.....they had experienced life and come to realize that God was "The Answer." Concerts were different from what many were used to hearing from youth choirs. Professionally recorded soundtracks, live rhythm and brass sections, multi-media presentations, and choreography made these performances exciting, and especially attractive to other young people across the country.

Those of us who were fortunate to live within reach of Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene have incredible memories and emotions that still live within our hearts.....and amplify the grace of God in our lives. We received leadership and direction that became the spiritual landmark around which we built our lives.

This web site was created in the Summer of 2005 to help reunite the members of the group in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Pasadena First Church of the Nazarene, which the CM's called Home.

If the site proves to be useful in helping members locate one another, and develops a community of visitors, we intend to "let it run" as long as

there is interest.

You can stay abreast of developments and receive notice of news and events by registering on the site. Our occasional newsletter type mailing will let you know what is happening with regards to the reunion concert, and other CMs in the community.