



Newsletter

Volume 36 #14

July 28, 2014

THE CHOIR DIRECTOR



Yesterday we had the opportunity to recognize Sara McDaniel and Hubert Perry for their faithful years of musical ministry at our church. After twenty years, Sara has retired from her position as the choir director and Hubert is retiring from sixteen years of ministry as our organist. We praise the Lord for them and wish them the best in their retirement.

When considering these retirements I began to wonder what the Bible said about choir directors. I knew that some of the Psalms began with phrase "for the choir director" or "to the Chief Musician" (KJV). But I was surprised to find that this phrase introduces fifty-five Psalms! In fact, the only other place it occurs in the Bible is Habakkuk 3:19. So, what can we learn from a study of this term?

First, the choir director is one who was musically skilled. The Psalms indicate that they had to be familiar with various instruments like strings, flutes, the eight-stringed lyre and others like the Gittith and Muth-Labben that are totally unknown to us. They also had to be aware of various tunes like "Mahalath," "Jonath Elem Rehokim," "Al-Tashheth," "Shushan Eduth," and "Jeduthan." The choir director is a good musician.

Another thing I found is that choir directors like Asaph were spiritual leaders. In I Chronicles 25:2 Asaph is called a prophet and he is referred to as a seer in II Chronicles 29:30 and 35:15. He was appointed over the service of song and ministry of singing in I Chronicles 6:31-32, assigned to give thanks to the Lord (I Chronicles 16:7), and trained in singing to the Lord (I Chronicles 25:7). Asaph and the choir he led were involved in the celebration of the Ark of the Covenant's move from Obed Edom to Jerusalem (I Chronicles 15:16-17). Other choirs and their directors were part of the revival under King Hezekiah (II Chronicles 29:30) and the dedication of the rebuilt wall of Jerusalem under Nehemiah (Nehemiah 12:27-47).

Finally the Bible tells us that when Asaph was the choir director he wrote twelve Psalms including Psalm 50 and Psalms 73-83. God inspired this choir director to write the words for Psalms that were used to glorify Himself and encourage His people to keep their focus on God. This man had a very close walk with God.

When we think about really good choir directors, let us remember that they must also be really godly musicians, spiritual leaders and God-exalting songwriters.

Looking Up,
Pastor Chuck Circle