

Week One
Enter the Dream... Ministries of Worship Arts

George Matheson was a bright, promising young musician when he received the most devastating news of his life.

He was going blind.

For several months, as his vision worsened, he had suspected the worst. But more painful than the crushing reality of his blindness was the reaction of his fiancée. When he told her of his condition, she tearfully returned the engagement ring. She said she could not live the rest of her life with a blind man.

Stunned by her reaction and overwhelmed with self-pity, Matheson was reeling like a boxer falling to the mat. Then, it was as if he were literally swept into God's arms, encouraged and uplifted. Still disappointed, yet buoyed in spirit, Matheson sat down and composed a song.

In one poignant moment, George Matheson knew more deeply than ever what is the true mark of the Christian — the unmistakable mark of love.

That's what his song was all about. It's a song sung by believers all over the world, even to this day — the great hymn, "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go!" Through a hurtful trial, he was reminded of the love that would remain forever unaffected. In so doing, he was able even to love the one who had rejected him, as his Lord had loved those who took His very life.

The worship arts ministries at Linglestown Life provide so many opportunities to express God's love. More than that, they allow us all to experience God's love – through the joy of sharing our talents, through fellowship within a performing group, through the connection between audience and performer.

We are poised to expand our ministries and to share these experiences of God's love with the community. But our performance spaces are at capacity, and our facilities are outdated. When we participate in the campaign to build new spaces for performance and worship, we are ensuring that the message of love in Jesus Christ continues to go forth from this place.

In these crucial days, let's look with gratitude to the past, let's exercise faith in the present, let's have true vision for the future; but, above all, let's show a commitment to the challenge before us because of the love He's shown for us.

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Monday

Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Pray for the ministry: Give thanks for the artistic talents God has blessed us with at Linglestown Life and for the willingness of our people to give of their time and talents.

Pray for the future of the ministry: Pray that God will bless and direct our efforts in the music selected and the spirit in which it is played so that we create an environment conducive to receiving God's message.

Pray about your commitment to the ministry: Pray that those who give of their time and talent will be firmly committed to the message they provide through their performances.

Tuesday

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him. *1 John 5:14-15*

Pray for the ministry: We pray that God will enable us to create an environment conducive to receiving God's message, and that our worship arts ministries might provide the "spark" someone needs to make a change in their lives.

Pray for the future of the ministry: We pray that those who provide their talents will be uplifted by the blessing they bring to others by carrying God's message through their performances.

Pray about your commitment to the ministry: Commit yourself to providing an inspirational atmosphere for worship through your prayers, your welcoming attitude, an openness to the Holy Spirit, and support for improved worship spaces.

Wednesday

Sing for joy to God our strength; shout joyfully to the God of Jacob. *Psalm 81:1*

Pray for the ministry: That in their roles as worship leaders, our musicians and performers will set a good example for the congregation, always be inspiring, and always seek to please God and communicate His message.

Pray for the future of the ministry: That God's joy and love would be evident in all of our performers, leading others to participate in the ministry.

Pray about your commitment to the ministry: That you will support the performers with your prayers and your presence.

Thursday

The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. *Psalm 118:14*

Pray for the ministry: May we be faithful stewards of the talents with which God has blessed us, always being mindful of the true purpose for this gift.

Pray for the future of the ministry: That our gifts of performance will continue to grow and be enhanced to spread God's word and suit His purposes.

Pray about your commitment to the ministry: Commit yourself to fully utilizing your gifts to the best of the ability God has provided, showing appreciation for all of the performers and to inviting others to share in using their gifts.

Friday

It is good to give thanks to the LORD and to sing praises to your name, O Most High... For You, O LORD, have made me glad by what You have done, I will sing for joy at the works of Your hands.

Psalm 92:1, 4

Pray for the ministry: That through music and performance, we share with others our love for God, praise for God, and reverence for God.

Pray for the future of the ministry: That our ministry will grow so that our gifts can be shared with others, and that those who hear will be encouraged in their faith.

Pray about your commitment to the ministry: Pray for discernment so that you can come to know God's will in making your financial commitment to support the construction of new facilities.

Saturday

But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Pray for the ministry: Pray that through music and performance, we can reach those who might not otherwise be open to Christ's message of love.

Pray for the future of the ministry: That doors will open for us to share God's love with the community.

Pray about your commitment to the ministry: Pray about how you can use your talents and spiritual gifts to support this active and growing ministry.