

REFLECTIONS

January 14, 2006

**"Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers!
I will sing to the LORD, I will sing;
I will make music to the LORD, the God
of Israel.**

Judges 5:3

Music Makers

The comradery was encouraging and the witnesses inspiring. These are the highlights of the annual Men's Retreat at Laity Lodge, but a lingering memory this year is the joy that came from the music.

Music is always a part of the experience—there is just something about the sound of a group of men in song that touches the heart in a different way. But what captured my heart this year went beyond that. The feature this year was two music makers that honored God with the talent He had given them. There was something very special about how they did it and I think I know what it was.

They sang while playing guitars, pianos, accordions, harmonicas and mandolins. It was a harmony of song blended with different instruments, but to the same music in the same key. One of them would take the lead, the other would listen for a few beats before joining in. During every piece each musician was featured in a solo that highlighted his unique gift to the melody. It was amazing to see as they immersed themselves in the music and transitioned seamlessly between themselves as if of one mind, but without speaking a single word. We all felt their love for the Lord and wanted to be a part of it.

Most of us are not blessed with the musical talent of the music makers at Laity Lodge, but we can honor God by using the gifts He has blessed *us* with. Like the music makers, some play lead roles while others listen for a few beats before joining in. Then together we become a harmony of God's message blended with different instruments, but to the same music in the same key. As we live every day we are each featured in solos that highlight the unique gifts God has blessed us to use. When we honor God with the talents He has given us, we become God's music makers. Our music spreads the message of his love throughout the world.

Others will feel our love for the Lord, and will want to be a part of it..

"You are the light of the world."

Richard +

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Your comments are welcomed and encouraged. Richard may be reached at richard@reflectingthesavior.org.