

My History at SABC by Ed Swackhammer

I met Becky when I was 18, and I was saved at 19 and then went forward at a Sunday morning service. Tootie Harper said to me that morning, "Now you can join the choir". Shortly after that, Becky and I did join the choir. Walt Bridges was the director at that time, and Glenda was the pianist. We were faithful choir members from the time we started coming until the choir was no more. I very much enjoyed those years of singing for the Lord and learning more about Him through the songs. Becky and I both enjoyed singing, and we often sang specials, solos or duets, and were part of many cantatas.



I went to Practical Bible Training School and took some courses on choir directing, song leading, and Hymnology. I became the assistant choir director when Duane Sunderland was the director. When he gave up the choir directing position to devote more time to his Creation vs. Evolution work, I became the full-time choir director. It was very challenging to me, and I felt so inadequate, but by God's strength and guidance, I managed and He blessed. In the following years the choir continued to grow, and we performed many Sunday morning songs as well as many Christmas and Easter cantatas. God used many talented people to bring worship to Himself.

I remember some years we would have a *kick-off* for the choir in September. We would rehearse for an hour or two, then have lunch and play some softball or something, then rehearse another hour before going home. By then we would have a special number ready for Sunday morning.

After a few years, the church voted to have a music committee. This eased my load, as anyone who knows me knows, I am not an organizer. Often I would work late on Wednesday nights, and get a quick bite to eat and a shower before heading off to choir practice. Sometimes I wished I could stay home, but off to choir I would go. God gave me strength, and I always felt His blessing. My thanks to all who were on that committee over the years, who helped me to be more efficient, by taking care of the details like selecting the music, getting it out on Wednesday evenings, and putting it away again after practice. I always felt God's blessing on the choir, the people and their talents for the Lord. Thank you to all of them, pianists, organists, soloists, women's groups, men's groups, and committee members. All together, they made up the important ministry of causing people to praise and glorify the Lord, and to thank Him for who He is, and what He has done. I know some people wish for *the good old days* again, but what is important is that God is worshipped, and through the music He is glorified and praised.

It pleases me to see the young people at church now so involved in our worship service, may it continue to bring Him honor and glory.