

Ob Elbert - Childrens Vesper Service

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Why am I smiling? Why not?

Think of the five days of convention we've had.

Every general convention that we've been to has been a unique blessing. But to be here in this place for five days with you dear brethren, and not just necessarily me, having fellowship with each and every one of you, though I hope I got to speak to all of you, if not most of you, I watch from the sidelines and just see how engaged you are in your fellowship and in the joy that is brought to this place in this time. We are blessed. Wednesday evening is always a high point. Film sales in the old days, remember the cameras that had the film in it that you took pictures with?

Film sales in the area of the general convention went through the roof. But now we just have the little digital phones and Sweet Memories are recorded, and they are very precious, and tonight we have a precious choir. I've heard them practicing. Don't get nervous, guys.

No, get nervous. Be nervous. You'll perform better. We're looking forward to them singing and rejoicing in the Lord tonight.

And I have something to read to you that explains tonight's choir performance.

Are you ready?

This group of young people.

I'm going to go off script. Is one of the most diverse that we've ever had. Normally we have like three or four different groups. Tonight, they're all together as one. Their ages range from nine to 17.

Did I get that right? 17. Nine to 17, good. They're the only group that's going to sing in tonight's service. So you may recognize most of the songs, but just in case.

Here we go. The first was written in 1966, and it's called the Long Road to Freedom. That's one of my favorites.

The next song is Based on Luke 19, verses 1 through 8, and it's about a short man who became a disciple. You may think of Zacchaeus as a very short man, but who was the one. Who was the shoe height? Bill, dad. The shoe height.

I think the short. It's a bad joke. A dad joke. I'm sorry, Bill, Dad. The shoe height.

But you'll recognize the song about Zacchaeus. It's a great song. Love it. The third song, written in 1772, may be one of the most well known and beloved hymns in Christian hymnology, and of course, you'll recognize it immediately if you haven't already presupposed what the title of this amazing song about grace is, One of the first songs you may have learned to sing.

Is the fourth song for this service, written in 1859, and tonight it will be sung as a lullaby.

The fifth song, written in the 1860s, right before the Civil War broke out, at a time when this nation felt like it was carrying a heavy burden, was on the verge of crumbling.

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It is titled down by the Riverside.

I like to take my burden down by the riverside and leave it there.

The final song was written in 1967 by a sister who wanted to teach her children the entire plan of God in only three verses and a chorus. It was first sung at the Bloomington General Convention in 1968. The Sister who wrote it, Carmelita Fernetz.

And if her daughter can get through it without crying too much, you will enjoy it very much. The song is called Father Adam, and now, my friends, my young friends, please come forward and make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Sister Charlene, please.

Ram.

There.

Sam.

Keep us awful.

Sa.

Ram.

We.

Close.

He.

By the riverside there down by the riverside down by the riverside Wanna lay down my sword shield there down by the riverside Ain't gonna study more no more I ain't gonna study more no more Ain't gonna study more no more Ain't gonna study more no more Ain't gonna study one no more.

Lord.

No more Ain't going to study war no more Ain't going to study war no more.

When the church has gotten younger Jesus came when was born in 2000 years you and he gave his life for Adam Come ahead For you and me what a way God has forgiven his precious promises in the holy shadow.

When the church has gone up yonder.