

Pastor Bill Scales – Autoharp Clearinghouse October/November 1999

William Clinton Scales, Jr. entered this world on 18 March 1935 in Charleston, West Virginia, before the family relocated to Cleveland, Ohio. His father was also a “Man of the Cloth,” and both of Bill’s parents were musically talented. At the age of eight, Bill and his mother were seriously injured when a drunk driver collided with the car in which they were riding. Following their recovery, Bill made the decision to give his heart to the Lord and be baptized, with the goal of becoming a minister of the Gospel.

His folks, William and Myra Scales, believed in the importance of Christian education and sent him to Ramah Academy, Oakwood Academy and Oakwood College. He graduated in 1956 and was awarded the Bachelor of Arts with a major in Theology and a minor in Music (Voice). He received the MA degree in 1958 from the Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary with a major in Bible and Systematic Theology and a minor in Counseling and Guidance.

During his schooling, Bill performed with the original Cathedral Quartet of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. The group assisted evangelist E.E. Cleveland in major evangelistic campaigns throughout North America and also in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. The Quartet also recorded for Chapel Records.

Elder Scales was ordained to the Gospel ministry in the Central States Conference of the SDA in Kansas City, Kansas in 1962. He has served as pastor-evangelist for the Central States Conference in Missouri, Iowa and Kansas and for the Allegheny East Conference in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia and Maryland. In 1978, he was called to serve as the Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Association for the General Conference of SDA and, in 1985, he was elected to serve as Ministerial Association Director for the North American Division. Bill held this position until his retirement in October of 1997, following forty years of service to God’s Church.

Bill has been recognized and honored around the world for his accomplishments in leading souls to Christ and in leading leaders to effective ministry. He was inducted at Atlanta’s Morehouse College into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers, and honored as a world-class preacher-evangelist. Bill and his father are co-authors of the Real Truth Bible Course Series, and founders of the Real Truth Crusades. His ministry for Christ has taken him to over 85 countries.

In September of 1956, Bill married the former Lois Nila Ruth Yates. That union produced a son, Larry Wayne and a daughter, Linda Wanette. Along with Bill’s parents, he and Lois performed and recorded as the Singing Scales Family until Lois passed away on 9 February 1998.

Following the death of his wife, Bill went through an understandable period of mourning and depression. After much prayer, his mind was opened to the idea of using his music as a means of spiritual and emotional therapy. As a solo performer, Bill realized he would need an instrument with which to accompany himself. That led him to call the House of Musical Traditions, which is not too far from Bill’s present residence in Beltsville, Maryland. He explained that he was looking for an instrument on which he could play chords behind his singing. The proprietor

suggested that they had just the thing Bill was looking for and that he should come right over. Enter the autoharp.

Bill went home that afternoon with an Oscar Schmidt 21-chord 'harp and a couple of recordings by the Mill Run Dulcimer Band. That led him to making contact with Neal Walters, who also lives in that general vicinity. Bill made a trip to the Walters' home, where Neal gave him a crash course in autoharp basics and also told him about an upcoming musical get-together hosted by Kathy Ferguson in Springfield, Virginia. At that gathering, Bill met Alan Mager, who has been giving him private lessons as often as they will fit into the busy schedules of both gentlemen. (Although Bill has retired from the pulpit, he travels extensively in connection with Real Truth Ministries, Inc., an association he formed with fellow evangelist Tim Lewis.)

Bill prefers to refer to himself as a person who uplifts Christ through his ministry of music rather than an entertainer. With his autoharps in tow (he has added a second instrument), he visits hospitals, nursing homes and other extended-care facilities in an effort to bring comfort and encouragement to the sick and the elderly. Now you can also experience the joy of listening to his songs of faith, hope and courage because Bill has recorded three cassette tapes of his rich baritone voice accompanied by autoharp. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these albums will be donated to The Scales Memorial Worthy Student Fund at Pine Forge Academy and Real Truth Ministries Evangelism. The recordings are \$11 each postpaid from: P.O. Box 688, Beltsville, MD 20704.

Morning Train: I'm Going Home on the Morning Train • When the Roll is Called in Heaven • Canaan Land • Free at Last • I've Got Peace Like a River • Poor Wayfaring Stranger • Let's Go Down to Jordan • Thunderin'...Wonderin' • Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child • Think of His Goodness • O Mother, Don't You Worry • I'm Thankful

The Old Ship of Zion: The Old Ship of Zion • Is It Well With Your Soul • On the Battlefield For My Lord • This Little Light of Mine • I Have A Friend • Working on the Building • I Feel Good • Lord, Look Down Upon Me • Somebody's Calling on Jesus • If You Want Joy • If You Know the Lord •

Coming Home: Lord, I'm Coming Home • Cleanse Me From My Sin • He's Only a Prayer Away • Jesus Calls Us • Room at the Cross • There's a Wilderness • I Know the Lord Will Answer Prayer • Homesick for Heaven • Don't Let It Be Said, "Too Late" • The Last Mile of the Way • Jesus Will Hear You Pray • Thank You, Lord

About eight months ago, Bill met a lovely Christian lady in Toledo, Ohio. Her name is Madeline Patricia Barnett, but most people call her "Pat." After getting acquainted, it didn't take very long for Bill and Pat to realize that they enjoyed each other's company, and had the following things in common:

- a. Both lost their spouses around the same time.
- b. Both had experienced a very happy and successful marriage.
- c. Both love God supremely, and are putting Him first in their lives.
- d. Both love people.

- e. Both love introducing people to Jesus Christ.
- f. Both love music, and are fascinated by the autoharp.
- g. Both love helping people and making others happy.

After much communication and prayerful consideration, Bill and Pat fell in love, and are confident that they have been brought together by the providence of God. The good news is that they are now engaged to be united in marriage on Saturday 27 November at 5:00 PM in Toledo. The couple solicits your prayers and best wishes!