LIFESTYLE WORSHIP

by John F. MacArthur

A number of years ago I read a newspaper account of a christening party in a wealthy Boston suburb. The parents had opened their palatial home to friends and relatives, who had come to celebrate the wonderful event. As the party was moving along and the people were having a wonderful time eating and drinking and celebrating and enjoying one another, somebody said, "By the way, where is the baby?"

The heart of the master jumped, and he instantly left the room and rushed into the master bedroom, where she had left the baby asleep in the middle of the massive bed.

The baby was dead, smothered by the coats of the guests.

I've often thought about that in reference to how the Lord Jesus Christ is treated in His own church. We are busy supposedly celebrating Him, while He is smothered by the coats of the guests. One of the great tragedies of contemporary Christianity is that we have allowed the concept of worship to degenerate so that Christ can be neglected or even opposed by those who think they are worshiping Him.

What is Worship?

Many are not even certain what worship is. Some Christians think of worship as sitting quietly and piously, dreamily contemplating some abstract and ethereal phenomenon. Other Christians see worship as liturgy—a structured system to be followed at a certain time, in a specified place with the proper atmosphere and just the right words and music. Still others equate worship with motion or emotion or even volume. To them, intense feelings, loud noise, or frenzied activity are essential to fervent worship.

Modern Christianity as a whole tends to view worship as an activity that takes place usually in church on Sunday, and perhaps occasionally in the prayer closet during devotions, or with the Bible study group. Consequently, the spate of books and articles recently published on the subject has focused largely on the forms of worship—style, order of service, and ritual—often missing the real point that worship is a lifestyle, consuming the whole being.

Worship is not just mystical; it is intensely practical. It is not rigid, void of spontaneity. It is not mindless emotion and activity. Worship is nothing if it is not continuous, deliberate, purposeful, active, and dynamic. It is all that we are, reacting rightly to all that God is.

According to 1 Corinthians 6:19, every believer is a living, breathing temple in which God dwells. That means believers can worship anywhere, at any time—God goes with them in an abiding presence. A Christian can worship Him at the beach, in the mountains, driving down the road, sitting under a tree, walking in the woods, running in the country, sitting in the living room, sitting in a church building, or anywhere under any kind of circumstance or condition. The sphere of worship is unlimited, and worship reaches its most sublime heights when the worshiper is living continuously in God's presence, in the glow of His glory, a life of worship.

Worship involves not just the thought process, not just physical presence, but not just the emotions, but all that is inside a person, all that is outside a person, and all that takes place within the corporate assembly of God's people. The life of a true worshiper is a joyful, vibrant life of actively seeking to glorify God.

Biblically, worship is simply honor and adoration directed to God. The New Testament uses several words for worship. Two of them particularly are noteworthy. The first is proskuneo, a commonly used term that literally meant "to kiss toward", "to kiss the hand", or "to bow down". It is the word for worship used to signify humble adoration. The second word is latres, which suggests rendering honor, or paying homage.

The Anglo-Saxon word from which we get our English word is seaxworlege, which is tied to the concept of worthiness. Worship is ascribing to God His worth, or stating and affirming His supreme value.

All of those terms carry the idea of giving, because worship is giving something to God. When we talk about worship, we are talking about something we give to God. Modern Christianity seems committed instead to the idea that God should be giving to us. God does give to us abundantly, but we need to understand the balance of that truth—we are to render honor and adoration to God. A consuming, selfless desire to give to God is the essence and the heart of worship. It begins with the giving first of ourselves, and then of our attitudes, and then of our possessions—until worship is a way of life.

Three Dimensional Worship

A key adjective, often used in the New Testament to describe proper acts of worship, is the word acceptable. Every worshiper seeks to offer that which is acceptable, and at least three categories of acceptable worship are specified in Scripture.

Sharing. First, worship can be reflected in how we behave toward others. Romans 14:18 says, "For he who is in this way serves (latres) Christ is acceptable to God". What is this acceptable offering given to God? The context reveals that it is being sensitive to a weaker brother. Verse 13 says, "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—nor..."
Dear friends:

This is a defining moment in the history of The Master's College.

In recent years, God has blessed us with remarkable strides in enrollment, academic programs, and faculty. Now, to accommodate and continue our progress, we are compelled to expand and upgrade campus physical facilities. In response to that need, we are implementing Quest 75, a capital campaign designed for expansion. Quest 75 is scheduled to conclude in 2002, the college’s 75th anniversary year.

As the central part of that campaign, we will construct a new chapel/performing arts center. The chapel will be the most defining building on our 100+ acres campus, because it will affirm our commitment to keep Christ and His Word pre-eminent and enhance our three-days-a-week chapel services, the central spiritual activity of campus life. The chapel/performing arts center is critical to effective preaching, and will also play a wonderful role in lifting up the Word of God through praise and worship.

A stunning two-story structure of glass and stone, amid a setting of mature California live oak trees, The Master’s Chapel/Performing Arts Center will have 1,200 permanent theater seats on a sloped floor. The acoustic design will allow for various music performances with or without electronic sound reinforcement, and enhance congregational singing and worship. The large stage, accommodating up to a 200-voice choir with orchestra, is also adaptable to smaller performances. The front rows will have removable seating with adjustable height orchestra pit to allow for a thrust stage for bringing speakers closer to the audience as well as a setting for more formal stage performances. The facility will have state-of-the-art lighting, sound and multi-media systems. This will be the most significant addition to the campus ever.

The Master’s College fills a rare need in American higher education. At one time, nearly all private colleges in this country upheld and taught Christian principles. Today, while many colleges claim a Christian heritage, only a few uphold the Word of God and exalt Jesus as Lord. That commitment truly sets us apart and reinforces our strategic mission. Our graduates are well prepared to enter the workplace, whether they serve in ministry, other career fields, or at home. Since they have the potential to fill significant leadership roles in the world, we must make sure we provide the necessary spiritual and academic resources and facilities which will reinforce our efforts to recruit and retain students of high caliber—men and women who will become tomorrow’s Christians.

Please pray along with us as we endeavor to be faithful for the opportunity in this defining moment in our history and move forward for the glory of our Lord.

Yours for the Master,

Jed H. Mathes
to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way." In other words, when we treat fellow Christians with the same spirit of discernment, that is, an acceptable act of worship. It honors God, who created and loves that person, and it reflects God's compassion and care.

Romans 15:16 implies that evangelism is a form of acceptable worship. Paul wrote that special grace was given to him "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, that my offering of the Gentiles might become acceptable." The Gentiles who were "were to Jesus Christ by his ministry became an offering of worship to God.

In Philippians 4:18, Paul thanks the church for a gift of money to help him in his ministry. "I have received everything in full, and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice to God. Here, acceptable worship is described as giving to those in need. That glorifies God by demonstrating His love.

So worship can be expressed by showing love to fellow believers, sharing the gospel with unbelievers, or meeting the needs of people on a very physical level. We can sum it up in a single word: acceptable worship is sharing. It is a love that gives.

Doing Good. A second category of worship involves our personal behavior. Ephesians 5:8-18 says, "Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth), trying to please what is pleasing to the Lord." The word "pleasing" is from a Greek word that means "acceptable." In this context, he is referring to goodness, righteousness, and truth, saying clearly that to do good is an acceptable act of worship toward God.

So sharing is an act of worship, and that is the effect of worship on others. Doing good is also an act of worship, and that is its effect in our own lives. There is one other relationship that is affected by our worship—our relationship with God.

Praying God. This third category, which marvelously sums up worship, is described in Hebrews 13:15-16. Verse 15 says, "Through Him, then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name." As we look at worship in its Godward focus, we discover that it is thanksgiving and praise. With verse 16, the passage brings together all three categories of worship: "And do not neglect doing good and sharing; for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Shining with others, doing good, and praising God—"all legitimate, scriptural acts of worship. That draws into the concept of worship every activity and relationship of human living. The implication is that the believer should be dedicated in every aspect of life to the activity of worship, consumed with a desire to use every moment of his life to devote himself to doing good, sharing, and praising God.

Worship does not occur in a vacuum. As believers, we are responsible to the rest of the church to maintain a consistent lifestyle of genuine, acceptable worship. Our failure to do so will adversely affect the rest of the Body of Christ, just as Achan's sin had disastrous effects on the whole nation of Israel. What we do throughout the week will affect the members of the church with whom we worship on Sunday.

It is not unusual to hear someone say, "I didn't get anything out of church." My response is, "What did you give God? How was your heart prepared to give?" If you come away from church only having scrutinized the soloist, analyzed the choir, and criticized the message, you are missing the point of your being there. We've been too long conditioned to think that the church is to entertain us. That is not the case. Soren Kierkegaard said, "People have the idea that the preacher is an actor on a stage and they are the critics, evaluating or praising him. What they don't know is that they are the actors on the stage: he is merely the prompter standing in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines." And God is the audience.

If you go to church selfishly to seek a blessing, you have missed the point of worship. We go to give glory, not to get blessed. An understanding of that will affect how you critique the church experience. The issue isn't, did I get anything out of it? But, did I come from my heart give glory to God? Since blessing comes from God in response to worship, if you aren't blessed, it isn't usually because of poor music or preaching (though they may occasionally prove to be insurmountable obstacles), but because of a selfish heart that doesn't give God glory.

Symbiosis

Although it is intensely personal, there is nothing self-centered about genuine worship. If believers are to maintain a consistent lifestyle of continuous worship, they need the fellowship and encouragement of other believers as they assemble for group worship. Individual worship and corporate worship feed each other. On the one hand, you need the fellowship of saints. On the other hand, the community of saints needs you to live a consistent life of worship.

If you go to church only when it is convenient, you will never be victorious and productive as a Christian. You can't succeed on your own; you need to have the spiritual stimulation of fellow believers. We live in such an easy-come, easy-go, casual, flippant society that people don't make consistent, faithful commitments, and then they wonder why they fail. The answer is clear. Spiritual success requires commitment to others.

The church is not the brick-and-mortar building in which the assembly meets; it is God's people in whom He dwells. We must bring into the church a worshiping heart to stimulate others while being stimulated to love and good works (Heb. 10:23-25). At that stimulation affects our souls we do good and share. The cycle is complete when we live out the Overflow of praise and a continual heart of thanksgiving. Then our worship is a way of life.

How Are We Doing?

The source of most of the problems people have in their Christian lives relates to two things: either they are not worshipping six days a week with their life, or they are not worshipping one day a week with the assembly of the saints. We need both.

Tragically, the element of true worship is largely missing amid all the activity that goes on in contemporary Christianity. We have many activities and little worship. We are big on ministry and small on adoration. We are disarmingly self-centered and pragmatic. All we want to know about is what works to our benefit. We want formulas and gimmicks, and somehow in the process, we lose out on that which God has called us.

We are like Martha—so deeply entrenched in activity that we miss the real priority. We are programmed and informed and planned and busy, and we slight worship! We have our functions, our promotions, our objectives, our success-driven, numbers-conscious, traditionalistic, even faddish efforts. But too often acceptable, true, spiritual worship eludes us.

A distinguished explorer was making a trek in the Amazon jungle. Native believers. We live in such an easy-come, easy-go, casual, flippant society that people don't make consistent, faithful commitments, and then they wonder why they fail. The answer is clear. Spiritual success requires commitment to others.

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Worship defined is simply stated, action and interaction between God and man; it must be worthy action.

William Temple says, "to worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, and to devote the will to the purpose of God."

The early church included six important aspects of biblically based worship. These include preaching, prayer, church ordinances, reading of scripture, giving of our substance, and singing.

Recognizing that worship is not something done for us but by us, the Christian must look at two aspects: Preparation and Direction.

How does one prepare for worship? Do people prepare? Should people prepare? Hebrews 10:22 states, "Let us draw near (to God) with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." Verse 22 is not indicating bodily washing but daily confession and spiritual purging.

Does the worshipper who is striving for godliness simply "show up" for worship? Where is the accountability? How does the believer prepare?

Think about how you will prepare for worship this weekend. This list may help:

1. When you sin, confess it immediately.
2. Keep Saturday night as free as possible and let your actions reflect a looking forward to the Lord’s day attitude.
3. Lay out clothing and necessary preparations for family and yourself on Saturday.
4. Saturate yourself in the Word, prayer, and solid Christian music, not the television set.
5. Rise early on Sunday. There will be distractions. You will hit every traffic light. Plan five to ten minutes extra time to get to church than needed. If worship starts at 9:00, arrive ten minutes early.

When in the pew give attention to final heart preparation. God wants a humble and pure heart. A rule to live by while waiting for the service to begin is, talk to God at least as much as you talk to the people around you.

Imagine the genuine worship that would happen if all God's people were confessed up and ready to enter into the presence of God.

The second area to look at is direction. Psalm 45:11 reads, "because He is your Lord, bow down to Him." Psalm 95:5 says, "Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; holy is He."

Today the culture of America is in a video age. The Los Angeles Times recently took a poll and discovered the average American watched television 35 hours weekly. That is nearly a full-time job.

In the book, Amusing Ourselves to Death, by Neil Postman, professor of Communication Arts and Sciences at New York University, he writes, "American television is devoted entirely to supplying its audience with entertainment. It is largely aimed at emotional gratification. The problem is not that TV is entertaining, but that it has made entertainment itself the natural format for the representation of all experience. All subject matter is presented as entertaining. I believe I am not mistaken in saying that Christianity is a demanding and serious religion. When it is delivered as easy and amusing, it is another kind of religion altogether."

Has the congregation of God died? Are the people the audience or is God the audience. Said to say we have become producers of our culture. Television has changed the congregation into an audience.

Our culture has made us an entertainment society.

"Worship defined is simply stated, action and interaction between God and man..." Therefore, worship has to be entertaining. The unstated question people ask is "what is it for me?"

Worship is a verb. Worship demands involvement and action. It is not passive. God’s people are not spectators but participants. He is the one that is to be seen and uplifted. Worship must be vertical to Him and not simply relational to each other. In God’s house it is paramount that He is seen as the important One. As the gospel song says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace."

Next Lord’s Day strive for appropriate preparation with a participant persuasion. Be involved and connected with every portion of the corporate worship experience. Your life will be challenged and convicted, and God will do His work in you.

It is our commitment to worship that sets the standard of excellence for the Department of Music. That commitment is the 'backbone' that permeates all aspects of the department from the level of performance to the atmosphere of the Department of Music. Music is often thought of in terms of entertainment. We are driven by the belief that our most important audience is the Lord himself, as a result, the department is characterized by the following elements:

- **Attitude:** Humility. We recognize that He has given us the talents which we are "investing".
- **Spirit:** Encouragement of others. We are all a part of the Body of Christ, seeking to honor Him. We work to build each other up instead of competing with them. Our growth as musicians is not measured as a comparison to others, but against his standard for us.
- **Standard:** Excellence. He is worthy of perfection. We strive to use all our abilities to honor Him in the best way we can.
- **Goal:** Equipping the Body of Christ. As faculty, staff, and students at The Master’s College, we apply ourselves in the classroom and practice rooms to be prepared and ready for the concerts and churches so that we can help equip others. This focus on honoring the Lord with excellence has benefits for the students. Academically, they tested as the 99 percentile on the ETS major field exam in 1998. Their concerts are highly praised and well attended. The Master's Chorale and Majestry are often requested to record for major arrangers and composers, such as David L. Clydesdale, Dan Mould, Phil Harbo, and Bob Krieger to prestigious works at Mira California. They are invited regularly to sing in Israel and this year in Tokyo and Ireland.

As individuals, they are especially sought after for church music positions and in music education. The interdisciplinary emphases of music/communication, music/youth ministry, and music/education are focused for those specific goals. Graduate school for some will be seminary, while others have goals in musicology, theory, or performance. Several alumni sing professionally with theatre and/or opera companies. In any of these areas, however, the goal remains the same: Glorify God and bring honor to Him.
Striving for Musical Excellence

The Department of Music at The Master's College continually works to create for the entire student body, an atmosphere which is conducive to cultural growth and an appreciation for the fine arts. The department aims to give a well-balanced scope of many styles of music and opportunities for exposure to those styles. The curriculum offered is designed to serve the entire college community. Applied Music courses (private lessons, ensembles, etc.) are available to all students of the college for active music participation and development of individual musical skills. Additional courses are open as well, for growth in the knowledge of the musical arts.

The department offers the music student a major leading toward a variety of careers in music. Students select from seven emphases: applied music (vocal, piano, instrumental), church music, music education, church music composition, or an interdisciplinary major: music/communication, music/theology, and music/youth ministry.

The College offers a state-of-the-art computerized music technology lab. This lab features Macintosh/Roland music work stations, each complemented with the most recent music notation and sequencing software application programs. The music student has access to the latest in computer generated composition, digital sequencer recording, and educational technology.

Opportunities for musical expression include Majesty, The Master's Chorale, and Collegiate Singers. Instrumental groups include the Symphonic Band, String and Wind Ensemble, Pep Band, Jazz Band, and Handbell Choirs.

Majesty, a ten-voice music ensemble conducted by Dr. Paul T. Plew, presents music and testimony that appeals to all ages. The group, comprised of full-time students at The Master's College, has recorded four albums and travels throughout the West Coast during the school year. During the summer, they also tour throughout the United States and various foreign countries. Past tours include Italy, Spain, England, Israel and the former USSR. This summer they will tour Ireland as the guests of Evangelical Churches of Ireland. The Master's Chorale, conducted by Dr. Paul T. Plew, consists of 65 members chosen by audition. The students represent 30 states and virtually every area of study. The Chorale sings sacred music from every major period, including a selection of great works from the past few years. Musical excellence is of the highest priority with spiritual truth presented in a way that will focus hearts on the Lord Jesus Christ and relate to people today. This group has toured many parts of the United States, the United Kingdom and Israel. They will be the guests of the Ministry of Tourism in Israel in the spring 2001. The Master's Chorale has recorded for Six Flags Theme Parks, Bob Krogstad, Don Marsh, and Phil Barfoot. Other recordings by the Chorale are "Again I Say Rejoice" and "The Majesty of Christmas" (which was nominated for a Dove award) by David T. Clydesdale and Word Publication. This year, the Chorale will premier Clydesdale's "A Christmas Invitation" at MusiCalifornia, a conference of over 2000 musicians.

The Collegiate Singers is a college community choir composed of 140 students. They perform at the annual Christmas Concerts and at the Hall of Crucifixion and Resurrection in Glendale, California during Passion Week. Works to their credit include Haydn's Creation, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Handel's Messiah, Brahms' Requiem, Rutter's Gloria and Requiem, Poulenc's Gloria, Faure's Requiem and additional shorter works.

The Master's College Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Stephen Order has performed works by Melillo, Chance, Latham, Smith and Sousa. During the Spring Concert on May 7, the band will perform selections which include Prelude and Fugue in Bb minor by Bach, Four Scottish Dances by M. Arnold, Variations on a Revolutionary Hymn by C. Smith, and Rolling Thunder by H. Fillmore.

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Each fall semester the Department of Music presents Evenings of Opera Scenes. All of the scenes are costumed and staged and are sung in English. Dr. Kimberly Jones lends her expertise in opera production to the preparation of the students for the opera scenes. She is also responsible for staging the works and conducting the performances.

The students learn the importance of stylistic singing and stage deportment as well as the necessary aspects of costuming set design and construction. The high level of expectation has enabled TMC students such as, Matt Kitcher, to experience success in the competitive world of professional music.

Matthew, a former music major at TMC, is beginning to make his way in the opera world. In the spring of '98, the Royal Danish Opera invited him to take over the role of Pinkerton in Puccini's Madam Butterfly for the ailing tenor. His performances were so well received, he was invited to return in the fall to sing the same role. The year before, he was present on the opera stage in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Last summer, Matthew was in Rome working with famed operatic soprano Renata Scotto and singing concerts throughout the country. Matthew has recently been the cover for the principal tenor role in Verdi's La Traviata at Carnegie Hall with the Opera Orchestra of New York, conducted by Eve Queler. The literary voice of opera, Opera News Magazine, interviewed him after his dress rehearsal performance. While at The Master's College, Matthew was an opera and voice student of Dr. Kimberly Jones.

Faculty

A quality person is dependent on quality faculty. Working with minimum resources, the music faculty at TMC has done a remarkable job. Paul T. New came as the Chairman of the Department of Music at The Master's College in 1979. He received his Bachelor of Sacred Music degree from Baptist Bible College of Pennsylvania as well as a Master of Music degree from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. He has done graduate studies at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and received his Doctorate in education with music specialization from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He is a member of the ACDA, CCG, and the Santa Clarita Valley Choral Directors' Association. He is also Minister of Music at Santa Clarita Baptist Church in Canyon Country, California.

Kenneth R. Mays is Professor of Piano and Music Theory at The Master's College. He earned his Doctorate at Indiana University and has played solo recitals throughout the United States, Canada, and Great Britain for more than 20 years. He was on the staff of the Conservatory of Music at Wheaton College for 15 years before coming to The Master's College in the fall of 1986. In 1982, he was personally invited by the coordinator to attend the European Piano Teachers' Conference in London, England. He has also presented papers at several American Musicological Society conferences. Aside from his commitment to the college, he is presently Minister of Music at Valley Presbyterian Church.

Stephen Opfer received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from the University of Northern Iowa and his Master of Music degree in instrumental conducting from California State University, Fullerton. He holds a Doctorate in music education from the University of Southern California. He has taught music in all levels of education since 1970.

Kimberly Jones received a Bachelor of Music degree in voice from Mississippi University for Women, and a Master of Music degree in voice from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in opera performance, also from the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Jones has sung in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, England, and Wales, as well as the Southern, Southwestern, and Eastern Seaboard states, and has over 25 opera roles to her credit. She has also sung in solo recitals, chamber music concerts and oratorio performances.

Lawrence Mumford received a Bachelor of Music degree in theory from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., a Master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, a teaching credential from Indiana University, and a Doctorate in composition from the University of Southern California. A published arranger and composer, he has also served as President of the East San Fernando Valley Music Teacher's Association, minister of music at two churches, and Professor of Music Theory at California State University, Northridge.

Serge Martinchuk was born in the former Soviet Union and graduated with honors from a music school there at the age of sixteen. He continued to study music after moving to the United States, receiving a Bachelor of Music degree from California State University, Los Angeles. He went on to get a Master's degree in piano from the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition to teaching piano at The Master's College, he serves at Slavic Evangelical Baptist Church of Hollywood.

Claire Blackwell received her Bachelor of Arts in mathematics from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. She has been ringhandbells since 1977 and has a special interest in folk writing. This has led to co-authoring a book on solo techniques for handbells, as well as teaching in workshops and national and regional handbell conferences. In the fall of 1982 Mrs. Blackwell came to The Master's College to teach ringing techniques and handbell choir direction.

Ruta Bloomfield received her Bachelor of Music degree from Bennington College, Vermont, and her Master of Music degree in musicology and harpsichord from Northwestern University, in Evanston, IL. She joined the faculty in 1989 and teaches Introduction to Music and Art. She performs on her Dowd French double harpsichord whenever possible.

Gail Costa began her musical studies of the violin and viola at the age of 8. Coming from a family of violinists, she was awarded scholarships to Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, University of Illinois String Festival, Miami University in Ohio, Bay View Chamber Music Festival and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. An A.B.M. was awarded from UNC-Greensboro where she studied with Carla Mutschler and performed with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Acosta was also awarded the William J. Stone Award for performance excellence and was winner of the University Concerto Competition. The University of Southern California granted her a teaching assistantship to study with Eudice Shapiro and perform with the USC Graduate String Quartet coached by Gabor Rejto.

Her M.M., suma cum laude, was completed in 1981 and she was awarded the String Chamber Music Award for 1981. As an active performer, Ms. Acosta has performed with the Santa Barbara Symphony, The Orchestra of Santa Fe, Mozart Amerata, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Ernest Block Music Festival, and La Folia Chamber Ensemble. An avid teacher and supporter of music education for young students, Ms. Acosta has taught across the United States at many major string workshops and universities.
Call them brothers, or call them friends—just don’t ask who the best is, you won’t get an answer. Humility clothes these young men, but don’t be fooled—the Welch brothers’ rare talent and character still stir the hearts of all those they have led—and those they have served.

One by one, Kyler, 29, Kreston, 27, Kirk, 26, and Kory, 22, left their South Carolina home to further their education. At their father’s bidding, they chose The Master’s College, and The Master’s College chose them—all of them—to join its elite singing group Majesty.

"Majesty provided me with experience in planning and leading," said eldest brother Kyler, who blamed the trial that his brother would follow, transferring as a music major from Free-Will Baptist College in Nashville, Tenn, in 1989.

"Majesty has been our leader," said Kreston, who served Majesty from 1990-1993. Kirk joined the singing group in 1992, the same year the four Welch brothers sang the national anthem at Dodger Stadium. Kirk passed the torch to Kory in 1994, who sang until 1998.

"Music was their way of contributing to the church," says father, Leroy Welch, who became familiar with The Master’s College during a pastor’s conference at Grace Community Church in 1988. Majesty, a ten-voice music ensemble, travels throughout the United States, often touring foreign countries such as Italy, Spain, England, Israel, and the former U.S.S.R. Dr. Paul Plew delegates the task of leading these expeditions to one "student leader," a position held by each of the Welchs.

"They’re all great leaders—and great followers," says Dr. Plew’s wife, Pam.

But the force behind Majesty’s success isn’t just great singing—it’s relationships. "Majesty affords you the privilege of making friends with those you sing with," says Kirk, who now serves as a Youth Pastor in Auburn, California.

The Welch brothers recognize Majesty as being instrumental in the growth of their current ministries. Kreston, also a Youth Pastor in Stockton, California, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in theology, asserts "nothing, not even my degree, prepared me for the ministry more than Majesty." Majesty did more than prepare the Welch brothers for ministry. "Majesty brought us closer together," Kreston says. But let’s give credit where credit is due. Besides gratitude for their parents’ influence, they share a common admiration for Dr. Plew and his wife, Pam.

Dr. Plew has been a second father to all of us," says Kory. "He’s absolutely the greatest conductor I’ve ever seen," Kirk says, while emphasizing Dr. Plew’s dedication to training his students. "He has an unbelievable heart for teaching worship," Kreston agrees.

"Their gracefulness is best revealed in the words of Kyler, who recently received a master’s degree in choral conducting and serves as Minister of Worship at River Park Bible Church in Fresno, California. "When I’m uncertain about how to treat my wife, I think of the Welchs.

Dr. Plew is proud of the Welchs. They are "strong leaders and credit to any organization they are involved with. "Plew credits the Welchs’ success to their parents, and considers it a "privilege to have invested in their lives."

The Welch brothers faithfully perform an annual "Welch Brothers Concert." They expect to perform this spring in Stockton.

Their dedication to each other and gratitude to Majesty is best said in their words. When asked independently "what do you think of your brother?" each said — "my brothers are my best friends."

"I would like them to say that they have found me to be a faithful and obedient believer." This is the legacy that Louis Herwaldt, Board Member at The Master’s College, wishes to leave his grandchildren.

Mr. Herwaldt began his life’s journey Nov. 30, 1932 in Chicago, Ill. Just twelve years later, he moved with his family to Fresno, Calif., where he still lives today. After graduating from high school in 1950, he started down the road toward an all-American success story. He did not attend college, but rather joined a job department of a new car dealership. Over the years, he worked his way up through the parts, service, and sales departments, becoming manager of each. Finally, in 1969, he purchased his first dealership. Since that time, he has owned a myriad of dealerships, selling every make and model from Volkswagen to GMC Truck. Today he sells Saturn and Mercedes.

Mr. Herwaldt’s spiritual life is no less successful than his business life. Born into a Christian home, he was taught the truths of Scripture as a child. At the age of 15, he accepted Christ as His personal Lord and Savior. He made his decision during a revivial meeting at Zion Congregational Church, which he attended at the time. He has remained faithful to the Lord throughout his life. On March 8, 1952, he married Joan, his wife of nearly 42 years, whom he met at church. She is a loving husband, and father of two children, who have blessed him with five grandchildren, all believers. "My testimony is that the faithfulness of God is so evident, that we can trust Him and His faithfulness to us," Herwaldt said. "It is wonderful that we can have a relationship with Him that He leads and guides and directs us; and daily keeps us close to Him as we walk on this earth."

"Plew’s church has been the Fresno Rescue Mission. Above all, however, he said, "My prayer is that I would continue to trust [The Lord] and allow Him to use me in any way that He sees fit."

Herwaldt’s home church has been supporting The Master’s College since it was Los Angeles Bible College under the direction of Dr. John Dunkin, Herwaldt’s personal friend. One of his daughters attended TMC for a year and he became president. Herwaldt said his vision for the college is simple: congruity and growth, that the Word of God might spread to the world.

At 60 years of age, Mr. Herwaldt is strong and vital with no plans to retire. He is comfortable as owner of the business he built. He has no reason to retire, he said, and plans to see this thing through for years, wanting to. Both his children and grandchildren are already involved in the dealership.
Ten Biology majors desirous of attending medical school and Dr. Taylor Jones visited Loma Linda Medical School in early March. Second year medical student Dallas Bales, 97, hosted them. They attended a class on the pathology of diabetes, toured the anatomy laboratories, including a brief lecture on cardiology with a heart from a cadaver, and had a most informative meeting with the Dean of Admissions, in which they were told the types of questions they would encounter at an interview at LLMS. The students commented on what a wonderful opportunity this had been.

Dr. Dennis Englin will attend a summer course at the Yellowstone Institute this summer dealing with the ecology of the headwaters for two major United States rivers, the Yellowstone-Missouri-Mississippi and the Snake-Columbia. This particular ecosystem is of interest because of the minimal impact of man and the resultant comparisons that can be made between this ecosystem and others to assess the overall health of a stream.

As part of the Quest 75 campaign, plans have been made to complete a major renovation of the laboratories in Reese Academic Center. Installation of additional laboratory benches, replacing lab coat, fitting labs for digital data acquisition and addition of a new molecular biology laboratory will highlight the project. The cost of this project is projected to be $500,000. Gifts designated to this project can be given towards the Quest 75 campaign.

In anticipation of explosive growth in Asia in the third Millennium, in January and February of 1999, Dr. Linn Carothers with the leadership from National Taiwan University and Young Nak Presbyterian of Los Angeles (the largest Korean church in LA) have paved the way for The Master's College and The Awana Clubs of Greater Los Angeles to go to Taipei, Taiwan and Seoul, Korea in July and August of 1999.

Congratulations!

On December 14, 1998, all of TMC's Accounting Fundamentals II students sat for the Accounting Program Admissions Test (APAT). This nationally recognized examination was designed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants specifically for students completing their first fall year of accounting education.

Of the eleven students who completed the Accounting Fundamentals II Course during the Fall 1998 semester at The Master's College, 73% scored among the top 25% in the nation, 55% scored in the top 10% nationally. In summary, TMC's first-year accounting students, as a group, earned a mean national ranking of 77 percentile on the APAT national accounting examination, scoring well above the national average of 50 percentile. Praise the Lord as He continues to give wisdom to TMC's business majors.

KCET, public television for Southern and Central California, selected Roberta Owen, wife of Professor Jim Owen, as one of six honorees in commemoration of Women's History Month. She was selected for her commitment to the community, her achievements in the advancement of her field, and her status as a role model to young women.

U.S. News & World Report cites The Master's College as one of the "Best Colleges" in the West.

& WORLD REPORT

U.S. News

& World Report

The "Best Colleges" guide of U.S. News & World Report has listed The Master's College in the first-tier for liberal arts colleges in the West. U.S. News & World Report rates colleges and universities in seven areas - academic, student retention, faculty resources, student selectivity, reputation, financial resources and alumni satisfaction.

TMC offers new program: Bachelor of Science in Computer & Information Sciences

The fields of Computer Science (CS) and Management Information Systems (MIS) have grown at exponential rates over the past decade. Of particular relevance is the rapidly increasing power of the personal computer, the development of the computer network and the advent of the World Wide Web. These technological advances have changed the face of business, education, entertainment and home life in America and worldwide. They have even significantly affected many aspects of church and missions ministry. At the same time, the cost of computer technology has decreased dramatically, making it available to virtually every business and a large percentage of households in America. This growth has created a massive demand for trained CS/MIS professionals which no date has far outstripped their availability.

The extremely favorable job market for individuals in any CS/MIS related field has been well documented in the popular media. The 1996-97 edition of the Occupational Outlook Handbook published by the U.S. Department of Labor indicates that, "Computer scientists and systems analysts will be among the fastest growing occupations over the years 2005."

At The Master's College, the Department of Computer & Information Sciences offers degrees in two differing emphases: Computer Science and Management Information Systems. The Computer Science major is designed to give the student a practical introduction to the world of computers. It focuses on the technical side of computers, presenting some basic theoretical material while maintaining a practical focus. Graduates may pursue graduate studies in Computer Science or seek work in a variety of technical positions.

The Management Information Systems major approaches computers from the standpoint of business applications. The major emphasizes the business processes and how computers may be used to improve them. Analysis and design are stressed, along with an appropriate knowledge of business principles. Graduates will be prepared to pursue careers in the field of business information systems, one of the largest and fastest growing specialties in the world.

Studies in one of these majors can help prepare students for a number of careers, including Computer Programming, Systems Analysis, Data Processing Management, or Teaching.

For additional information visit the CIS major at The Master's College Web site at www.master.edu/academic/departments/cs/main.html.

For application information contact the Office of Enrollment at (800)568-6248, extension 347.
May
3-7  Finals Week
7  Board of Directors Meeting
8  Graduation
10  First Post Session Begins

June
9  Second Post Session Begins
21-24  Men's Soccer Camp

28-July 1 Men's Basketball Camp
28-July 1 Baseball Camp

July
Summer Institute Program (SIP)
5-8  Men's Baseball Camp
12-15  Men's Basketball Camp
12-15  Men's Soccer Camp
12-15  Men's Baseball Camp
19-23  Women's Volleyball Camp
19-22  Women's Soccer Camp
19-22  Men's Soccer Camp
26-29  Men's Basketball Camp
26-29  Men's Soccer Camp
26-29  Women's Soccer Camp

August
2-5  Men's Baseball Camp
2-5  Men's Basketball Camp
9-12  Men's Soccer Camp
21  President's Reception – WOW
21-27  WOW (Week of Welcome)
30  Fall Classes Begin

For information on schedules call 661-259-3540.
Streaking Mustang Hoop Teams Surge To Nationals

As each year passes, a new graduating class emerges from TMC to enter a new phase of life. Each carries with them the tools necessary to advance their culture with their unique gifts and abilities. Some will move on to new careers, while others will continue education. Some will launch out into strategic areas of ministry all over the globe, and still others will land in their own homes, raising the next godly generation.

At the end of their time with us, we are forced to ask several probing questions. What have we taught them? What have they learned?

What does God have in store for each of these students? Where will they go? What will they do? What do they need? How can we help? As we ponder these questions, we are left with the most important. How can we most effectively make a difference for Christ, and can we make a greater difference together rather than apart?

In the last issue of the Current, we communicated our desire to see these questions addressed and answered through the development of TMC Alumni Association. The planning process led to the Alumni Task Force, which led to the development of the foundation and framework for the future of the Association. With a mission, a vision, and initiatives in view, the next step was to find the right individual who could lead our efforts and put our plans into action.

We wanted someone who could relate to the needs of the Alumni so he needed to be a graduate of The Master's College. We also wanted a strong, proven leader who could successfully represent and articulate the views of our graduates to the existing administration; yet could also successfully communicate the views of the administration back to the Association. The position required someone who had had business development experience but also a heart for ministry and service to the Lord. While we knew that God would provide for our needs, we did not anticipate that He would

provide to quickly. Soon after our search began, some members of the Task Force presented Doug Lovette as a candidate to be considered. After getting to know Doug, we are confident that he is the right choice to serve as our new Director of Alumni.

As the year-end events near, we hope you will consider giving to the Giver. Doug, and his wife Nancy, a music major at TMC, moved to North Carolina to build their own company and raise their family. God has since given them four children, Bryant (8), Lauren (7), Morgan (4), and Harrison (2). The Lord graciously blessed their efforts to develop the company and, although it was a success, Doug was compelled to, if given the opportunity, move back to California to pursue a M.Div. from TMS. Though unsure how God would use him, he sold his managing shares of the company and moved his family back to Thousand Oaks, CA.

Doug is currently a second-year student at TMS and teaches fundamentals of the faith at Grace Community Church. Nancy is busy training their children, and they both are in Joyful Sound, a mixed ensemble at Grace. We asked Doug to comment on his general impressions of the college since his return and he answered,

"I'm thrilled to see the tremendous growth in so many areas, especially academics, without the compromising of biblical fidelity and moral integrity. While almost every conservative evangelical institution of higher learning has left its moorings and sold out to liberalism, TMC remains committed as ever to train young men and women to the forefront, dedicated to live the biblical worldview."

Doug's desire is that God would use his business knowledge and experience, along with his biblical training, to minister to the ongoing needs of our alumni, and further advance the kingdom of Christ. We believe that God has prepared Doug for this position and look with great anticipation to see how the Lord might use him for His glory in the days ahead. When we asked Doug what his vision for the Alumni Association is and how it might shape the college in the future, he paused and then said,

"We, ourselves, have the unique opportunity to bring an added sense of vision and excitement to the campus because only the alumni can validate the efforts of the college as it relates to its mission. We are the 'legs' that will 'walk' that mission into our world, and actively put into action those things that we were trained to do, for the purpose of influencing others for Christ. It's not about being concerned with the biblical fidelity, moral integrity, and intellectual growth; it's about being committed to those things for life, and making a lasting contribution to the kingdom of God. Bottom line, my vision is... The Alumni Association... proclaiming, defending, living... the biblical worldview."

There is much to do as we finalize our goals and objectives, and lay the groundwork upon which to further build the association. We want to express our thanks to all of you that have responded and shared your insight and desires, and concerns with us. We face many challenges, many of our own making, but our desire is to honor Christ and serve Him with excellence and integrity in all areas. Please continue to pray for us, and for Doug, as we put our hand to the plow and begin to implement our new mission and vision for The Alumni Association.
Robert Hanson '68 attended Talbot Theological Seminary during the same
time as Dr. John MacArthur, and went on to teach at LABC. He currently lives in Plymouth, MA where he established Bible Baptist Church, serving as their pastor since 1971. He also has been the Chaplain of Plymouth County Correction Facility since 1980, and President of the Fundamental Baptist Mission to India since 1994. His granddaughter, Alicia Hanson, is in her second year at TMC. Interestingly enough, last summer she found a book in our library that had been checked out by her grandfather over 30 years ago.

Ron & Diane Leacho '72 are still in Santa Maria, CA. In November Ron completed 25 years as Minister of Music at Grace Baptist Church, Santa Maria. Ron and Diane also celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in October.

Dan '76 & Debbie '74 Setters are now located in Cameron Park, CA. Dan continues to provide counseling services through Family-Counsel, and serves as an elder at Oak Hills Church in Folsom. Debbie serves as an infectious disease clinical nurse specialist at U.C. Davis Medical Center.

Tim & Judy (Burnson) Sattler '77 and their two children, Megan (16) and Ashley (14), are planting a church in Batavia, IL. Their work began 2½ years ago when Tim serves as the pastor.

Tom & Naomi Armstrong '78 and their three children, David (16), Abby (11), and Rachel (9), are now located in Ontario, OR. Tom is Lead Correctional Chaplain of the Eastern Region of the state of Oregon. Naomi is a 5th & 6th grade teacher at Treasure Valley Christian School.

Doug & Robin Dearden '79 are living in beautiful Trout Lake, WA, and will be going to Bangkok, Thailand to serve as missionaries for NICS. Doug will be teaching history and Robin will serve in the library. "There kids, Matt, Tim, and Luke will also attend the school. They will use education as the vehicle to evangelize and disciple children of diplomats and other influential business leaders who will, Lord willing, return to their homeland and impact their culture for Christ.

Brian & Donna (Laubacher) Morley '66 are living in Pine Mountain, CA. Brian has been teaching at TMC since 1989. Donna just completed her book, Choices That Lead to Godliness, a book to help women be more discerning with daily choices that shape godly character.

Cheryl Markowitz '87 is now located in Newhall, CA. She has been involved in several short-term mission trips as well as spending a year and a half in Quebec, Canada. Now she is working at TMC in the office of Academic Affairs with Dr. John Hughes. She is still active in music at Family Bible Fellowship in Pine Mountain Club and hopes to become a "Musicianary," sharing the gospel through music all over the world!

Pete Wood '89 is now serving as Pastor-Teacher of Faith Baptist Church in Truckee, CA, where you will find "the best skiing & expository preaching in the Sierras!"

Aaron & Lori (Merrill) Boldman '86 just moved to Kirksville, MO. Aaron is a Principle/Head Teacher at Shelterwood, a Christian reform school for teens. Lori just had their fifth child: Silas (2 mos.), Aza (22 mos.), Merrill (3), Walker (4), and Colt (6).

Ian Carly '90 is teaching 2nd grade at Foursquare Christian School in Crescent City, CA and "loving every minute of it!"

Allan & Lisa (Dickson) Bowden '91 have moved to Birmingham, AL. They are both teaching at Briarwood Christian School and are expecting their first baby boy in May.

Chris & Brooke (Kuudsen) Quacken '94 are residing in Dana Point, CA. Chris is an Account Executive for a company based in Salinas, CA. Brooke is home schooling Kait (6) and also caring for Emily (5).

Walter & Sanja (Horvatek) Heaston '91 have gone to Cambodia to do the work of Christ overseas. Walter just graduated from TMS this past spring.

David & Shanita (Cripe) Heavener '91 just moved to Nashville, TN. David is recording the sound track to a new family film and is available to minister in music and worship.

John & Becky (Hines) Barnfather '93 are now living in Mission Hills, CA. John is the Assistant Vice President of Electronic Services at Cal Tech Employees Federal Credit Union in La Canada, CA. Becky is working at Luce Avenue Church in Pasadena as the Jr. High and Preteen Administrative Assistant, but will be leaving in May to give birth to their first baby boy who is due in June.

Brenn & Michelle (Miller) Eastman '93 reside in Irvine, CA, at Concordia University as Resident Counselors. Michelle also works in the Admissions Office at CU, and Dennis teaches AP Gov/Economics and coaches football at a private high school.

Brian & Rebekah (Staley) Bissell '95 were married April 18, 1998. Becky is a homemaker and Brian is the registrar of the graduate schools at Azusa Pacific University and is completing his MBA.

Mike & Cami Czech '95 are living in Chicago, IL where Mike is through his second year of Optometry school. God has richly blessed them with His grace, Azusa Grace Czech, that is, born in July!

Brad & Mandie Hayen '95 are now located in Portland, OR where Brad is currently in his third year a Western Seminary. He intends to earn his M.Div in December and then move in to the Th.M. program.

Matt & Almeen (Sherman) Sims '95 were married August 8, 1998 in Anchorage Alaska where they reside to date. Almeen teaches 2nd grade for the Anchorage School District. Matt is an Account Executive for Comtec Business Systems Inc., a telecommunications company.

Rick & Kendra (Smith) Golner '96 are now located in Santa Clarita, CA. Rick works in the computer industry, and Kendra, previously a preschool teacher, will soon be at home caring for their first child expected in October.

Erin Rico '96 is currently living in Las Vegas, NV. She has taken a position in marketing and community relations with the largest newspaper in the city. She is challenged each day to let her light shine in such a dark place.

David & Heather (Odegard) Martinson '97 have just moved to Bremerton, WA where David was called to be the Associate Pastor of Music and Worship at Silverdale Baptist Church. Heather will be teaching piano lessons and they both hope to continue graduate studies at University of Washington in the near future.

Ramsey Rubie '98 is now located in Houston, TX. He and his wife recently had a baby boy, Oliver Gabriel Rubie. Although Ramsey graduated with a Bible Exposition degree, he is currently doing marketing for a medical benefits company.