

FUTURE STRATEGY – a possible way ahead



Dear Friends

I'm 70 in May next year! I'm not yet planning on retirement, but attempting to do fewer things, and to establish a way forward for the ministry of CMM. I certainly don't think the Lord is telling us to close down, but adjustments are necessary, and I'm very excited about future possibilities.

I really feel I should be concentrating upon encouraging the use of musicals, especially with the music weeks, and teaching and preaching about worship and the power of the Spirit. The "bottom-line" of CMM activities has always been the encouragement of Holy Spirit renewal and growth within individuals and churches, with music and musicals being one of our major tools of communication and expression that the Lord has "put in our hand".

Our diary <http://www.cmm.org.uk/downloads/events/cmmdiary.pdf> shows a very full itinerary for 2018 and beyond, but does not exclusively involve me. Annie, and my other CMM colleagues and associates, will have a full part to play.

MUSICALS

Musicals still have a vital and relevant role within the life of the church, providing biblical material and teaching for schools, community choirs and the like, at a time when Christian teaching is being marginalised and in some cases deserted. There are 22 musicals of my own, as well as other musicals, vocal arrangements, backing tracks, psalms, hymns and songs in the CMM catalogue, all still in print and available, and with today's technology enabling the resources to have an international market.

We have opened a Schools "Tab" on our website, and are looking for opportunities to promote our works wherever they are needed and welcomed. Our friends and supporters are our best adverts, and we do encourage you to help us in this way.

For future growth in the ministry of the musicals we are seeking to develop further aspects:

- **ASSOCIATE CONDUCTORS** - willing to train choirs over a day, weekends, weeks, etc, and we look to establish a list of those skilled in and supportive of our aims and approach.
- **AFFILIATED CHOIRS** – many already exist, using and familiar with CMM works. We wish to encourage more whom we can work alongside and support.
- **ASSOCIATE SOLOISTS & INSTRUMENTALISTS** - flexible with styles, modulations, improvisations, CMM material, etc, but mainly worshipping musicians who function well in a team. Age is not an issue, although we are especially seeking ways to encourage and develop younger folk in the music and worship ministry. If you know of any who might be suitable please put them in touch with me at CMM.

I'm not stopping doing musicals entirely, but restricting the number of engagements. I like a choir to be already prepared before my visit, so I can "shape" and envision, leading to a final performance that impacts the church and individuals.

Annie Routley and others will continue to do musicals in a day, and this remains a vital aspect of CMM's work. Do get in touch with us if you think this may be a possibility for your area.

This month (Sep 2017) we welcome **Rachel Haddon** as an **intern** for her year in industry as part of her university course. Maybe the intern concept is something we can develop for the future?

WORSHIP WORKS & SPIRIT WORKS

These are our most recent major works, aimed at use by individuals, leaders and groups. We are passionately convinced about the need for teaching, demonstration and training on these subjects. I've always been a teacher at heart, and these books and associated days, weekends and evenings, are for teaching congregations as well as leaders, musicians, preachers, etc.

- **Saturdays** – often 1000-1630, with possibility of workshops as well as plenary sessions
- **Weekends** – as above but including Sunday service(s).
- **Evenings** – midweek possibilities, sometimes two adjacent evenings, etc

These days include teaching and practical activities, where CMM brings a small team of musicians and other helpers. We can provide typical layouts of these days to show content, and for use as a template for your own event.

MUSICAL MAN

- Evenings (or daytime) – normally with local choir, but could be just with soloists, etc.
- Based upon stories from my biography **MUSICAL MAN** (by Graham Allan), I share stories from my life interspersed with “songs from the shows” and other CMM items.
- I'm amazed by all this, but people do share afterwards that they were blessed by hearing a story of God's amazing grace!

PREACHING

- Usually linked to an adjacent event, eg. Musical, Worship Works, Spirit Works, Musical Man, etc.
- Although very keen on preaching and leading worship, I'm not generally available for one-off “pulpit fills”, due to the pressure on the diary and the need to be in my own church on at least two Sundays per month.

How you can support:

- **PROVIDE** – financially, regular, one-off payments, gift aid, legacies, etc. CMM has always relied financially upon folk supporting us in this way. Our treasurer Jonathan always tells us how the money is shortly to run out, but somehow, like Elijah's jug of oil (1 Kings 17:16), the money has been renewed so that we can continue.
- **PRAY** – absolutely the prime support of all, with some called to be intercessors, and others with the specific role of prayer warriors, doing battle in the heavenlies for us. If you think you may be called to support us in prayer, please do get in touch with the CMM office.
- **PARTICIPATE** – those who come to our events, and encourage others to do so, play a vital role in the ministry. We also welcome publicity for our “gigs”, personal invites, church notices, personal recommendations, social media, etc.

We will also be encouraging **Christian Dance Ministries**, led by our daughter Sally Taylor.

An important date for your diaries:

SAT 19 May 2018 - ROCK (the story of Simon Peter) with an orchestra
Coton Centre, Tamworth, near Birmingham. Further details to follow!

Every blessing in Jesus

Roger

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