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JUNE 24, 1971

**Baptist Church Youth Slated  
 To Replace Carol Burnett on TV**

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (BP)--When the "Carol Burnett Show" goes off the summer television schedule, a variety show featuring a musical group from the Lemon Grove Baptist Church near San Diego, Calif., will take over as the summer replacement.

"The Newcomers," a program hosted by TV personality Dave Garraway, will both open and close with music by 10 talented Baptist youth who call themselves "The Californians." The show is slated on CBS stations at 10:00 (9:00 central time) Monday nights.

The group was organized three years ago by Bill Hawes, minister of music and education for the Lemon Grove Baptist Church, by selecting some of the top singers from his 75-voice church youth choir.

Appearing on national television, before an estimated viewing audience of 40 million people, is something the group never dreamed of, Hawes said.

"The Newcomers" will include not only the singing group from the church, but two other dedicated Christian teenage soloists, Hawes said.

Another Baptist to appear regularly on the show is vocalist Cynthia Clawson, 22, of Dallas. An active church member, Cynthia is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Tex., a Baptist school, and has appeared as a soloist in evangelistic crusades sponsored by James Robison.

Another young Christian, Peggy Sears, the daughter of the head of the radiology department for Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, a Baptist hospital, is also a featured soloist on "The Newcomers." Miss Sears, a Presbyterian, was named Miss Teenage Dallas last November, and has sung in several Dallas Baptist churches.

The 10 members of The Californians troupe, Miss Sears, and Miss Clawson each feel that somehow God had a part in their being a part of the network television show.

"We were stunned when they asked us to be on the show," said Hawes, who is director and manager for The Californians. "We don't really understand why, but we appreciate the opportunity. Somehow God must have been in it," Hawes said.

He explained that the group had appeared on local television in San Diego quite a bit, and that the local CBS affiliate station manager had called and suggested they audition for the new program CBS was starting.

The CBS crew liked "The Californians" enough to invite them back the second time to appear before Garraway, Robert Tamplin, executive producer of variety programs at CBS, and Nelson Riddle, who is conducting the music for the show.

"It was the best performance they had ever done," Hawes said. "I could tell right then that they would get the job. Our kids are fantastic. They've got a lot of class, and they're excellent musicians. And they radiate their joy and life as Christians when they sing," he said with enthusiasm.

The 10 singers in "The Californians" include the son and daughter of the pastor, Robert E. Kleinschmidt of First Baptist, Lemon Grove; Hawes' son and daughter; the son of the former church organist, Betty Higgins; and the two daughters of the chairman of the church's deacons, Carl Taylor. Three of the young men are ministerial students. All are under 20.

Tamplin, executive producer for CBS variety shows, said that 2,000 performers were auditioned in developing for "The Newcomers" project, which is seeking to develop talent with potential in the field of television entertainment.

Tamplin explained that the show is of a variety nature, and will not be slanted toward any given persuasion or cause. But religious songs of a popular contemporary nature will be used from time to time, he said.

In the opening show slated July 12, for example, Miss Clawson will sing "Put Your Hand in the Hand of the Man from Galilee," backed up musically by The Californians. But The Californians also will do such pop-type music as "Blowin' Away" and "Uptight." Other numbers in The Californians' repertoire include such things as "Summer Me, Winter Me," "They Call the Wind Moriah," "Some Day," and "We Need More Love."

The variety show will also include a cast of regular soloists, comedians, and comedy dramatists, most of whom are not Christians, Hawes said.

The twelve young Christians on the show say they have gotten along well with the other cast members, and that they have tried to project a sound Christian witness to the others.

"People here have been very considerate and open concerning my Christian beliefs," said Peggy Sears, Miss Teenage Dallas.

Donald Kleinschmidt, 19, son of the Lemon Grove pastor, had a natural conversation opener on his brief case--a "Sign of the Fish" sticker. "People here at CBS usually ask, 'What does that mean?' So I tell them about Jesus Christ," he said.

Hawes added that the executive producer, Tamplin, is an active member of Hollywood Presbyterian Church, and that his secretary teaches a Bible class each Thursday afternoon for CBS employees. Tapings for "The Newcomers" show are scheduled each Thursday night.

"You wouldn't believe the atmosphere back stage during the show," Hawes said. "There is no vulgarity, no obscenity, and everyone here really respects the kids for their witness."

For many of the 12 young men and women, the show is an answer to prayer. Miss Clawson said that she had "prayed that God would lead me into show business as a witness for him."

"The Newcomers" is not her first television appearance, however. She has sung on the Lawrence Welk show, appeared with Arthur Godfrey, and sung on the All American College Show in Dallas. She said she was so excited when she got the news she had been selected for "The Newcomers" that red welts broke out on her neck.

Hawes said that the members of The Californians, as well as the two Dallas soloists, were giving God credit for what has happened to them.

"Praise the Lord," said John Hook, 19-year-old bass for The Californians. "Without Him we couldn't have done any of this."

What does the future hold for them? No one knows for sure what will happen after the summer season ends. "It all depends on how the show comes out this summer," Hook said. Most of the members of The Californians plan to return to school this fall. All are students at San Diego area high schools or colleges.

Hawes, in some respects, will be glad when summer is over. "I've been running ragged," he said in a telephone interview while his 75 voice youth choir from First Baptist Church Lemon Grove was on nation-wide tour, coast to coast.

The youth choir, less the 16 key voices who comprise The Californians, spent three weeks in June and July singing in New York City's underprivileged areas, and making concert stops along the way.

Meanwhile, The Californians were here taping segments for "The Newcomers." Hawes' 19-year-old son, Mike, who sings first tenor, plays guitar and does most of the arranging for the group, is taking over while his father is leading the youth choir tour.

A native of Texas, Hawes is a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi and former minister of music for North Oak Cliff Baptist Church, Dallas, and First Baptist Church, Bishop, Tex.

The 10 Californians include Mike and Debbie Hawes, Diane and Don Kleinschmidt, Leesa and Ree Taylor, Don Christensen, Bruce Norton, Charles Higgins and Don Hook. Hawes plays guitar; Higgins plays bass, Norton is the drummer, and Christensen is vocal soloist, saxophone or clarinet player.

Each of the 12 young Christians in "The Newcomers" is taking each event as it comes. Cynthia summed up the feeling for them all. If the show ends this summer and "that's all there is here, I know God has something else meant for me," she said confidently.

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What Will You Name Your Son?  
"TWA, Of Course," Wana Says

Baptist Press Features  
6/24/71

By Louis E. McCall

AGANA, Guam (BP)--I stood with Wana, a Thai-Chinese girl, in the VIP room of Guan's International Airport, translating her words to English while a United Press International reporter interviewed her.

"What are you going to name your baby, Wana?" asked the reporter.

"Why, TWA, of course," Wana replied.

A few days earlier Wana, then 8 1/2 months pregnant, gave birth to a son on a Trans World Airlines (TWA) plane in flight from San Francisco to Honolulu.

Wana, who had been employed as a housegirl by a family living near Washington, D. C., was being forced to go home to Thailand because of her pregnancy. Without money and friends, she was distraught.

When labor pains began aboard the TWA 707 two hours out of San Francisco, she went to the small restroom and gave birth, unassisted.

"He looked like a dirty, little dead pig," said Wana to the reporter. "I put him in the trash can and went back to my seat."

After the plane landed in Honolulu a maintenance man found the newborn infant alive in the wastebasket and rushed him to a hospital.

Enroute to Guam the pilot confronted Wana with the incident. She was taken off the plane in Guam and admitted to Guam Memorial Hospital.

It was at Guam Memorial that my wife and I were able to minister to Wana. She had been notified by immigration authorities to leave Guam, a U. S. territory.

How glad she was to see me, especially since I speak fluent Thai. Wana just did not understand all that was going on.

I got an extension of Wana's visa. Plans were made with the social service department of the hospital and TWA to have the infant flown from Hawaii to Guam. An off-duty TWA stewardess brought him.

When the baby arrived, Wana received him at the steps of the airliner with tears in her eyes. The UPI reporter said to Wana; "A Thai man of considerable wealth wants to adopt your baby. Will you give him up for adoption?"

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Wana replied, "I don't know whether I am a good mother or a bad mother, but I'm going to keep my baby."

It was then that the reporter asked what Wana would name her son. There was a broad smile on her face when she replied, "TWA, of course."

Since then I have received two letters from Wana wanting to come to Guam to live and work. Both letters expressed deep gratitude for the assistance rendered her by TWA, the government of Guam and myself.

-30-

EDITOR'S NOTE: Louis E. McCall is the Southern Baptist missionary pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Agana, Guam. Appointed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1955, he was formerly stationed in Thailand. McCall spent most of his boyhood in Inman, S. C.

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