INTO ALL THE WORLD

PROGRAM NOTES

This journey began over dinner with a minister of music friend down in Ft. Worth, Texas. He asked if I had ever considered creating a musical focused on the theme of missions. He’d been contemplating the Great Commission and the church’s world-wide outreach. A phrase persisted: “The sun never sets on the praises of the Lord.” I do not remember much else about that evening because my mind was already in high gear. I thought about this a great deal and came to the conclusion that a full length musical from Jay Rouse and me, with DVD multimedia accompaniment is something we needed to do. And what a journey it has been. After so many years and so many musicals, this one is very special. We believe this work is both historic and prescient. The history of the Church is a matter of two thousand years of public record and now there seems to be a new awakening in the call to missions. We are honored and thankful to be a part of that. It is our prayer that everything that appears on the pages of this work – every word, every note will bear the blessing of loaves and fishes. May it be multiplied as we take the message of the Gospel INTO ALL THE WORLD.

INTO ALL THE WORLD OVERTURE

It was our desire to capture the attention of the congregation from the first downbeat. The overture is built around the melody of I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS. Through this musical montage, we travel from Africa, to the British Isles, to the Caribbean, and on to Asia. The DVD enhancement of this dynamic opening is stunning. Prepare yourself for the excitement of the first three minutes of the musical.

HE REIGNS

The direct segue into HE REIGNS is a choral answer to the instrumental overture. This was the perfect song to place between the overture and the title song of the musical. Again, we take a world tour while acknowledging that God reigns supreme over all the earth. He has authority over all things because He is the Author of all things. It is fitting and proper to begin with a time of praise and adoration.

INTO ALL THE WORLD

We wrote this song a few years ago and it has remained one of our favorites. When we were considering a mission’s musical, we never considered another title song. I believe this is the statement of purpose for the entire work - a statement of faith - a statement of commitment. The importance of obeying the call and being confident of His care and protection is the message.
USE ME

It remains one of the great mysteries of my life that God, would entrust the perfection of His story to the imperfection of His storytellers – yet He does. He makes the ordinary, extraordinary - the mundane, miraculous - the defeated, conquerors. I have loved this song since I first heard it years ago at the Brooklyn Tabernacle. When you partner with God, He brings everything and He can and does use whomever He chooses. The message speaks to me with an even greater strength now, because more than ever, I understand its truth. If You can use anything Lord, You can use me!

WE DON’T FEAR THE DARKNESS

This song is meant to be a creed – an acknowledgment that we recognize there is darkness, but we do not face it alone. Jesus promised that He would be with us every step of the journey. When you are facing the unknown, the untested, the uncertain things in your calling, Jesus is pretty good company to keep! So, we don’t fear the darkness, we carry the light.

THE CROSS BEFORE ME

We draw our strength and encouragement from where we place our trust; the surer our foundation – the greater our security. It is not the temporal things that will ultimately sustain us – it will be those things that are eternal. Our journey is the way of the cross. It is seeking the mystery and majesty of Calvary and leaving the things of this world in their proper place. We are grateful to our friend and colleague, Mike Harland, for the moving lyric to this song. Mike captured the heart of this musical with this song and his contribution is significant and greatly appreciated.

TO HOLD A HAND

We Don’t Fear the Darkness was meant to be a creed – To Hold a Hand is a statement of my personal code. This is a statement of belief and action that I try to bring to my life at every opportunity. I have elected not to get caught up in the endless secular discussion of what caring for the sick and hungry and poor and homeless may or may not lead to – or where the church should weigh in on the subject. I think the scripture from Matthew quoted in the narration before this song puts any question of where Jesus is on this subject to rest.

JESUS SAVES

Jesus Saves - two words that have changed the course of human history.
Jesus Saves - the greatest proclamation of Hope ever uttered.
Jesus Saves – freedom’s call.
Jesus Saves – the enemy’s fall.
Jesus Saves - says it all.
Jesus Saves is the heart of the matter – not an “O, by the way”. The responsibility of the Church in the world is to proclaim redemption while doing redeeming work through the power of the Holy Spirit. This song says it loud and clear...**JESUS SAVES!!**

**SONG FOR THE NATIONS**

Jesus has a global mentality, in large part due to the fact that this is His Father’s world. There are no borders, no political or cultural barriers for Christ. There is neither provinciality nor favoritism. God so loved the whole world that He gave His Son. Therefore, the Song of Salvation and Eternal Life through the atoning work of the cross and the reality of the Resurrection is truly a Song for the Nations. This is a fitting exclamation point.

**COUNTING ON GOD**

We wanted to have a celebration song to get everyone on their feet and singing together. This easy-to-learn song certainly accomplishes that. The message is powerful and true. We are counting on God – in all aspects of our life and ministry – wherever He leads – into our neighborhoods or INTO ALL THE WORLD!