



## Across the Miles with Canada's Double Portion

September 2007

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**Dear Duncan,**

So many pictures, so much video, so many stories and so much to tell in this newsletter about our September U.S. tour.

We started off with Debbie and I pulling an all-nighter. We had to replace the grey tank in our bus, put in a repaired bus toilet, change oil, screen Tshirts and finish the video intro. for our concerts plus load everything for the tour. By 6:00am we were exhausted and we hadn't left on tour yet!!

We had an awesome tour though and here is the short version of events. You should have seen the long version!!

Duncan Hemmerling

*Many miles and concerts....*



We started our tour on Sunday morning, September 2nd in Steinbach, **Manitoba** and then ministered at Silver Streams Festival just outside of town. They always have a big crowd at this event.

After crossing the border on the 3rd we travelled through 19 States with concert stops in **Wisconsin, Indiana, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Missouri**. We spent 5 days at the National Quartet Convention in **Louisville, KY** where we were privileged to sing once again at the **Artist Spotlight Showcase**. *(photo)* Of the 15 concerts we did in the United States, 11 were new opportunities to minister. Praise the Lord for His goodness!!!

**Facts:** 7000 miles travelled, \$4192.75 diesel fuel consumed, \$1776.12 bus repairs, \$1136.24 groceries.....you get the picture

**Ministry Feedback:** *"You guys sing from your heart"* W.G.

*"I was very moved"* D.B.

*"Wonderful Spirit-filled ministry. Wish we could go with you"* J.L.

*"What a 'divine' treat"* H.S.

*"Best gospel I've heard in a long time!"* M.N.

*"Press on, you are a great encouragement"* M.V.

*"Great Worship"* D.P.

*Many challenges....*



**New bus needed:** It is even more apparent after this tour that our current bus is getting tired and finding it more difficult to handle the many miles we travel. God was faithful to work out every situation though!!

**Note!!** We've raised about \$28,000 toward a new Coach.

**Sept. 1-** we blew a **power steering line** while arriving at Steinbach, Manitoba. We pulled into the church and after the morning service a man fixed the line for free. Praise God!

**Sept. 5-** about 5 miles down the road after our concert in Middlebury, Indiana (R.V. manufacturing capital of the U.S.) our **headlights** went out. We were going to drive all

night but instead parked in the Caravan factories parking lot till morning and then hit the road. Kyle Wimmer in Poquosan ran me around and after three trips to an Auto Part Store we got the right \$9.88 dimmer switch at Napa.

**Sept. 15-** our **back bay door hinge** broke off in Cabot, AR and we had to carry it inside the bus until we had time to fix it on Sept. 17, in Fort Smith, AR. I had new heavier hinge along and we hope that takes care of that problem.

**Sept. 19-**we woke up in a truckstop outside Oklahoma City, OK and our front air conditioner was barely working and our back one wouldn't turn on. When we arrived in Amarillo, TX, I took the bus to Thermo King and they cleaned the front A/C and determined that our back A/C **fan motor** was gone. Thank the Lord they found a motor in Amarillo and the next morning we had it installed. The R.V. dealer gave us 10 % off the motor (the owner is a Christian and worship leader). For most of the tour the weather was in the mid-high 80's and low 90's so the air conditioners were essential.

**Sept. 23-**while on route from Owasso, OK to Stockton, Mo our **bus alternator** quit on the side of Interstate 44 (*photo*). I noticed our voltage meter dropped to 24 volts and then to 20 volts. I stopped to switch our A/Cs over to our generator and engine oil was pouring out of the top of our alternator. Praise God we stopped before we'd run out of engine oil!!

**Sept. 25-**once the alternator was repaired, we discovered all **four headlights** were blown by the alternator problem. Praise God I was carrying 4 headlights with me. They are 24 volt headlights and very hard to find.

*Many stories....*



**Yorktown Beach, VA:Sept. 8-**We wanted to go to the Pacific Ocean while in Virginia and it was suggested Yorktown Beach was the closest. It has a narrow road that runs along the beach with shops on both sides. The street turns into a one way street and we had to do a U turn through a parking lot. When I got to the end of the parking lot I discovered I couldn't make the turn and I would have to back up. Andrew and Jardeth got out to direct traffic. I got too close to a wooden saw horse "keep out" sign and my front wheel hit the bottom 2X6 board. The sign fell over and Andrew picked it up and put it in place again. It so happened a Federal Security guard had just come out of his house and saw this occur. He waved me over. He insisted we file a full report and called the Park Ranger. The sign stood up fine and had previously been cracked in several other

with all my vital statistics. I'm not sure what will happen. Hopefully my next newsletter won't be from a U.S. jail!! *All I wanted to do was take the kids to the Beach!!!*

**Geary, OK:** Sept. 20-we have sang in many different locations but this is one of the most unusual. We sang right in the livestock arena (*photo*) at Geary Livestock Exchange. Thank goodness the livestock scale was shut off. We thought we might try to convince people that our fans are getting so fanatical we needed a security fence to keep them off the stage! (haha) We sang one other time in the Medicine Hat Auction Mart arena with Harry & Joanne Yates. I think that was in 1990.

**2nd Assembly of God to the Rescue:** Sept. 23-when our bus broke down at Joplin, MO at 3:30pm, we were pushing to get to Stockton, MO (1 1/2 hrs away) in time to be set up and ready for the 6:30 concert. We prayed immediately asking the Lord to help us. I called Stockton and they called 2nd Assembly of God church in Joplin (who they didn't know) and located a van we could use. In the meantime I'd called CAA for a tow truck and started to figure out those details. About 4:30 the van arrived and Pastor Rick said "here's two sets of keys, use it as long as you need it" and left. We were just about loaded with our guitars and some CDs etc when the tow truck arrived. We'd called ahead to Stockton and asked them if we could use their sound system and their drums and piano. We determined where to tow the bus for repair and immediately left with everyone loaded in the 15 passenger van. We walked into Stockton Assembly of God church at 6:30pm with 149 people sitting in the pews. The pastor told them "you get to see a group's set up" and just after 7:00 we were ready to sing. The church was very gracious to us and their "love offering" covered the rebuilding of the alternator. God is Good!! We had to wait an extra day and a half for the repair to be done and we were able to keep the van until then.

**More News: \*\*25th Anniversary Celebration Concert\*\*** September 30th- North Battleford, SK

There was a full auditorium at Territorial Drive Alliance Church and we had an awesome night celebrating God's goodness and faithfulness. The Daae Family opened the concert with 20 minutes of anointed singing. Our old drummer, Don Toovey (the crazy drummer with pink slippers) was in fine form and sang 2 songs and convinced former kids of Double Portion on stage to sing "He Will Listen to You". Debbie's sister Glory, writer of songs like You Forgave Me, Faithful to You, The Lord Has Come, House of Love, flew in from Seattle, WA and blessed us with 2 songs. Duncan's three sisters (original members) sang five songs to a standing ovation and the current groups sang five songs. There were also some video surprises including "Lone Ranger & Tonto" video from the first concert on video 17 years ago to the day. There was also video showing some of "The Unexpected" moments throughout the years. Prior to the concert there was a 15 minute video with pictures and highlights from the last 25 years.

We plan on posting pictures on our "photo album" link at the website. They should be up by early next week.

### **Song Nomination**

<BR"**God Knows**" from our 25yrs Volume 1 CD is nominated for 'Country Gospel Song of the Year' in the Covenant Awards, GMA Canada slated for October 27 in Calgary, AB.

**National Distribution Deal:**We signed an agreement with CMC Distribution for National

distribution of our music to all the Christian Bookstores in Canada. This includes the opportunity for digital downloads from their [www.cmcdistribution.com](http://www.cmcdistribution.com) site as well.

**Have a blessed Canadian Thanksgiving to all our Canadian friends!!**

Thankfully next month's newsletter won't be this long.

### *Quick Links...*

- [Upcoming Concerts](#)
- [Last Month's Newsletter](#)
- [More About Us](#)
- [Photo Album](#)

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