



# A Talk With Steve Green



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Cestnic

*Steve plays his best for God at the MBC 80 Years Celebration.*

*Singer Steve Green packed MBC's chapel for a knockout concert Friday, August 6, celebrating the 80 years of life God has given to the camp. Prior to the concert, Steve graciously allowed the God@Work Newsletter to ask him a few questions.*

**MBC:** *You established Steve Green Ministries in 1984, twenty-six years ago. Since then you've been honoured with four Grammy nominations, thirteen No. 1 songs, and seven Dove Awards. How do you account for the longevity of your music and the success you've found in the field?*

**Steve:** Well I really don't have any human account for it, I'd say it certainly has to be what God has determined to do for His own glory. I didn't necessarily plan for this. It was just something that kind of happened. I think that the Lord has helped me pick songs that have lasted. I'd say it has to be completely the Lord's doing, that he's kept us and he's given us strength to do what he's called us to do.

**MBC:** *So how did you get started in this whole thing?*

**Steve:** I started singing in college and from there was invited to be part of a group called Truth, after that was invited to be part of the Gaithers, after that was offered a recording contract. So every step of the way has been a call and an opportunity and all I had to do was to keep walking.

**MBC:** *So you definitely felt called to this?*

**Steve:** Yes, and not just called, but pushed!

**MBC:** *Pushed? How?*

**Steve:** Well, because I believe God extrudes us in the places of service. I never jumped up and down saying "pick me!" It was God kind of kicking me through doors. So more than a calling, sometimes a calling is "Ok I want to do this" and "I hear God calling me here" or whatever. None of this was even in my thinking; I had no plans of being a singer. So what I am today is simply because I was pushed into it.

**MBC:** *You've described what you do as a ministry. What is the goal of your ministry? What are you hoping to achieve?*

**Steve:** Well as anyone's ministry, my goal is to serve the church. And the best way I can do that through music is helping to enable worship. That is, help to turn people's attention and affection to the Lord by encouraging people—that is reminding of what is true; giving a perspective to life, coming alongside. Songs can also be a

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means of hope. So you know, its helping to build up the body with the gifts that God has given me.

**MBC:** *Do you ever see a place for Lament as well?*

**Steve:** Absolutely, I have a whole album of them because that's part of life. Part of life is suffering and difficulty, and hardship. So I have an album that deals with all of that but also ends with hope.

**MBC:** *So while you go through tough stuff, it's always about the re-direction to God at the end?*

**Steve:** Yes. Always.

**MBC:** *Has it been hard to find support for your work? More specifically, what role do you think the church should play in supporting artists such as yourself?*

**Steve:** Well I don't think that the church has to support us, I think that if I was on staff at a particular church, serving a local church, well then that's different, than there's responsibilities. But I am really an itinerate minister to the body at large around the world. And so I can never demand that the church support me. Because what I do obviously has expenses, when people invite me we have to talk about what those expenses are in our budgetary meetings. If that's something they want to do then fine, if they don't then we take it as a closed door. So we operate completely by faith, we never know from year to year what's going to happen. So, no, I operate completely out of gratitude. I'm grateful that I have something to do and if people want to support us great, and if they don't then the Lord will have some other way of doing it.

**MBC:** *You put together the Hide 'em In Your Heart and Prayer Bear movies, which teach children important truths from the Bible. What do you think about the place of Christ-centred retreat and conference centres in also ministering to children?*

**Steve:** Kids have great memories of their camp experiences. So Bible-centered camps are a great assistance to the church. Families want something to do around the summertime, kids need a safe place to be encouraged and to grow and to learn. So I'm all for it.

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**MBC:** *Would you say that your role is similar to a place like this in which they need encouraging and growing?*

**Steve:** Yeah, and maybe that's why I'm here, because what I do can fit into the mission of a camp. I do several camps during the summer: family camps. But these have a great value, camps do, because people can come and stay for a whole week and kids can come year after year and so this becomes part of their heritage.

**MBC:** *How do you feel about the whole Hide 'em In Your Heart*



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Cestnic

*Steve has a passion for ministering to children, as is evidenced by the children's songs he sang with a group of kids attending the concert.*

*and Prayer Bear movies in general?*

**Steve:** I like ‘em. They’re good! They’re still doing their thing and now another generation’s starting to listen to them. I should probably do some more of them, but I haven’t gotten that far.

**MBC:** *You have a full travelling and singing schedule. How do you rest and stay connected to God amidst all the busyness?*

**Steve:** Well I don’t do too many interviews, especially the day of a concert. (Laughs) Well, I have to have a pretty regular life, so I try to get a good amount of rest. I’m home with my wife or she’s usually travelling with me. We hang out with real people, real friends. We do real work; I mow my yard; I take the trash to the dump.

**MBC:** *No maids? No servants?*

**Steve:** No servants: I’m it.

So yeah I think that you know it’s not up to me to do all of this. God has determined that he’s going to keep folding me and shaping me into [the image of] Christ. So I live and the Lord has his ways, if I start thinking too highly of myself he has ways of witting you down to size. If I need encouragement he knows just how to bring the right encouragement to lift me back up. If I lose my place or forget my priorities he has ways of doing all that. The Lord is the one who keeps us, it isn’t a list of things that I do so I can’t take credit for it. Now granted that there are disciplines involved in all of life and we do that, but we still acknowledge that all of those are really just a means by which God actually does the work.

**MBC:** *If you had to sum up your career so far in a single statement, what would it be?*

**Steve:** “For from him and through him and to him are all things, to him be the glory.”

*For more information on what Steve is up to, check out <http://www.stevegreenministries.org/>. Read his journal, look at his photos, and browse through his tour dates.*

Interviewed by Peter Frieswick

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