

# New Generation Singers



2018 Tour - "...and then they found it."



## Introduction

What is faith? What is a Christian? Am I really a part of God's plan? If you're like me, you ask a lot of questions and maybe have a lot of doubt. I don't consider myself a bad person. In fact, I'd like to think I'm a pretty decent guy. But at the same time, I often have doubts as to my role in God's plan. I'm not sure I'm worthy. I doubt. I question.

While preparing for this sermon we ran across a story about archeologist stumbling onto an ancient city. A city mentioned in the Bible but never found. Some doubted its existence. But then they found it. I can't imagine the joy, the excitement those people felt when such a significant piece of history was found and again provided tangible proof that the Bible is real.

But what did they really find? It was more than a city and it's something important for all of us. That story inspired this year's sermon. A sermon of discovery. A sermon helping us to understand our place. A sermon that may answer some of your questions. "And Then they found it."

- Bemo Myers, Musical Director

2018 Summer Program

## Informal Program

I Just Came to Praise the Lord  
Sing!  
Hosanna  
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel  
The Awakening

## Sermon in Song

Brighter Day  
Great Awakening  
You Will Be Found  
Here Am I Lord  
Amazing Grace

## Benediction

The Lord Whom We Love



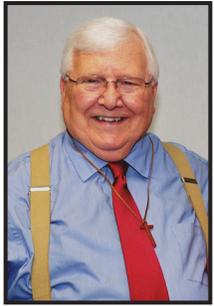
# Adult Leaders

Musical Director  
Bemo Myers



Byron "Bemo" Myers II has been directing the New Generation Singers since 1998. He sang with the group for 12 years and served three terms as president. Bemo is a graduate of Missouri Western State University with a B.A. in Psychology and a minor in Music. In addition, he earned a masters degree in social work from the University of Missouri. Bemo also directed the award winning men's *a cappella* chorus — the Voices of America — and sings in a champion barbershop quartet, the Noise Boys. He and his wife Carol sang with New G through their high school years and enjoy the opportunity to be sponsors. Bemo says "Music can touch you...it gives kids an opportunity to say and do things they might not otherwise do." Bemo, Carol (a second grade teacher) and their two sons B.J. and Joe live in St. Joseph. Bemo is a a specialized probation officer for the State of Nebraska.

Executive Director  
Byron Myers



Byron Myers Sr., with his wife Phyllis, started the New Generation Singers in 1970 and was musical director for 28 years. In 1998 he turned the reins over to his son, Bemo, and moved to the role of executive director. Byron is recognized nationally in various vocal music arenas. He is perhaps best known for his success in barbershop music with quartets, including as the Mid-Continental, the Kippers and the Saint City Singers as well as with choruses such as the Pony Expressmen, the St. Joseph Sweet Adelines Show Chorus and the American Barber-Boys. He is past president of the Central States District of the Barbershop Harmony Society and conducts director workshops all over the nation and is active on a national level with the Barbershop Harmony Society. In April of 2010, he was elected to an at-large position on the St. Joseph City Council and also became the Deputy Mayor for the city. Byron believes that "New G gives young people an opportunity to develop churchmanship and gives them the chance to share faith and fellowship."

Sponsors

The New Generation Singers have been a family from the beginning and continue to maintain that atmosphere and philosophy. The Sponsors are...

- Group of adults who supervise the group
- Diverse backgrounds — teachers, chemist, realtor, and stay at home mothers
- Most are alumni of New G and know the impact it had on their own or their spouse's life.
- Maintain the family atmosphere of New G
- Allow and encourage the members to grow their skills in singing and leadership
- Guide the youth leaders in running their committees/crews
- Involved in every aspect of New G
- Volunteer basis, not financial sponsorship
- Time given includes Sunday rehearsals, socials, committee meetings, performances, and the two-week summer tour
- Each sponsor has a committee and work crew, just like the Singers.
- In the last 48 years, New G has had a total of 60+ sponsors with anywhere from four to twelve serving at any one time.

Byron & Phyllis Myers  
48 yrs

Bemo & Carol Myers  
26 yrs

Matt & Renee Paden  
Kendra, Madison & Christian  
10 yrs

Joseph & Emily Howell  
8 yrs

Sam & Ashley  
Porter—5 yrs

Cailey & Chad  
Carolson w/Mac  
2 yrs





# Youth Leaders

While the sponsors oversee New G, an elected group of New G members is in charge of running the week-to-week activities.

### Executive Committee Members

- Elected by the members of New G
- Consists of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer,
- Nine At-Large Representatives, and four sponsors.
- Valuable leadership experience for our members

### Executive Committee's Main Duties

- Long Range goal setting and follow through
- Oversee committees and report to the exec committee
- Week to week activities
- Communication link between the members and the sponsors

### New G Member Roles and Responsibilities

- Every member chooses which committee and which work crew to join.
- This is really where the rubber meets the road!
- Work Crews: Risers, lights, sound, taping, programs, truck, piano, and the ever-popular bus-clean up!
- Committees: Apparel, Choreography Music/Dialogue, Social, Ways and Means, Programs, History, Publicity, Communications



The officer team (l-r): Joey Myers, vice president; Allyson Bryson, president; Katrin Hunter, secretary & Zach Scamurra, treasurer

Exec: Matthan Mrkvicka, Colton Connors, Allisen Hunter, Jackson Connors, Andy Peterson, William Gentry, Olivia Sweiger, Emma Donaldson, Malissa Hafley.



### Traditional New G Benediction

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and adore, we will serve throughout this coming week. He, it is, who binds us together and He, it is, who sends us apart, to be God's people be God's people. Amen.

## The New G Cross

Since 1972, a small leather cross has been a symbol of membership in New G. It is crude and simple, like the cross Christ died on. While on tour in California years ago, a man named Henry Butcher gave every Singer a cross. He had carved each one by hand. He realized this was a ministry he could perform, and ended up distributing these crosses all over the world...even behind the Iron Curtain. No count was ever taken as to how many crosses Henry distributed, but a good guess is well into the thousands.

Henry passed away in 2003 at the age of 91. The Christian Men's Fellowship at his church has continued making and distributing the crosses so that his ministry can continue. Mr. Butcher would always wear one of the crosses and if anyone asked about it, he would give a testimony of his faith. In the same fashion, our crosses are testimony to what New G represents.



## Ashland United Methodist Church

Ashland United Methodist Church is New G's "home church", mostly because we rehearse in their fellowship hall. Ashland also provides storage space for our equipment, but more importantly, Ashland provides a spiritual home for the group.

Ashland is known for outstanding musical and worship arts opportunities, hosting between 400 and 500 people at weekly worship services. Ashland is located at 2711 Ashland Ave (Ashland Ave & Gene Field Rd).

We want to thank senior pastor Doug Walter, the congregation and church staff for their tremendous support of New G. Also special thanks to former New G member, Shaun Agnew, who is Ashland's director of music and worship arts. Visit Ashland's website at [www.aumcfamily.org](http://www.aumcfamily.org) for more information.



*Celebrating Life Together*

# Summe





# Frequently Asked Questions?

Here is perhaps our most-asked question... **what faiths are represented in New G?** New G doesn't promote a specific faith or denomination. Instead the group concentrates its efforts on spreading the idea of Christianity and the love of Christ. There are always many denominations represented including Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Baptist, Disciples of Christ and several others.

## Why do you enjoy New G and how has it affected your life?



I enjoy hanging out with friends and I love all the songs we sing. This has affected my life because I've met new people and now I have something to look forward to on Sundays.

Anna Bracciano, 15, 1<sup>st</sup> year.



It lets me be free and just sing with my friends. It helped make me into a better person and start to understand more.

Zya Hamilton, 13, 1<sup>st</sup> year

## How often does New G rehearse and what are rehearsals like?



We rehearse every Sunday from September to May with little breaks. Rehearsals are great! While we learn the music, there's a lot of laughter and fun. In general rehearsals are work but they are fun work.

Emma Donaldson, 17, 4<sup>th</sup> year



New G rehearses every Sunday. Rehearsals are usually fun, hard-working and mixed with some humor. It's a fun time.

Joey Myers, 18, 8<sup>th</sup> year

## What other activities does the New G group do during the year?



Throughout the year, we have "socials" which are fun activities that are not during rehearsals. My favorite is the Valentine's Day social where we eat a delicious meal and dance with our friends! We also have a Christmas performance and Sing-Outs throughout the summer.

Lauren Adams, 18, 5<sup>th</sup> year

## Why should other young people join New G?



To put it simply, it's fun! It gives young people an opportunity to travel and sing for the love of Christ. This is why I believe that other young people should join New G.

Jackson Connors, 19, 6<sup>th</sup> year



Because you get to meet all kinds of people who share your beliefs and interests.

Kinsey Keller, 17, 3<sup>rd</sup> year

## What does New G mean to you?



New G is a family. When I first started, I needed a place to be myself and find who I am. Now through the group, I have been able to grow in my faith and relationships. I don't know who I would be without the love and support of this group, but I can say that this family has made me who I am today.

Olivia Sweiger, 20, 7<sup>th</sup> year

## What was a highlight of last year's tour? (Or any event this year.)



The highlight to me this past year would have to be the Fall Social where we dressed up in costumes, ate food and played fun games! It was a great bonding experience.

Maddie Dryer, 17, 2<sup>nd</sup> year



The surprise visit to the cave was the highlight of my tour. The cave was beautiful as well as visiting caves is one of my favorite things. Singing in the cave was really cool.

Sierra Brewka, 17, 3<sup>rd</sup> year

## What is your favorite song this year? Why?



"You Will Be Found" is my favorite song. The reason for this is that for a couple years, I was extremely depressed and lonely. Although I have gotten used to it and things have gotten better, I just wish my younger self would have heard this song sooner.

Caleb Poage, 14, 1<sup>st</sup> year



"The Great Awakening" is my favorite song this year. I really like the message well as the shifts in dynamics.

Carson Gaddie, 16, 1<sup>st</sup> year

## Why did you join New G?



My mother took me to see many New G performances when I was younger. Then I was finally old enough and did join and take part in the group I had watched for years.

Matthan Mrkvicka, 23, 10<sup>th</sup> year



I joined because my cousin and friend invited me!

Carlos Gomez, 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

## What does it mean to you that New G is in its 48<sup>th</sup> year?



That I'm a part of something that's been around for over twice as long as I have been alive. It seems that I am a part of something way bigger than myself. I am proud to have had this opportunity to be in such an amazing group.

Andy Peterson, 20, 5<sup>th</sup> year



To me, the fact that New G is in its 48<sup>th</sup> year is an amazing thing. It means that this beautiful group that works so hard every year to spread the word of God all over the country is still going strong. I think that truly means that God has our back because He's let us get this far, and hopefully will help us get even further.

Alanna Bryson, 15, 2<sup>nd</sup> year

- 1970 – ***It's the Lord's Thing*** – First ever sermon-in-song presented on December 13, 1970, at Wyatt Park Christian Church in St. Joseph, Mo.
- 1971 – ***I Looked for Love*** – First tour lasting one week to Texas; first Homecoming performance.
- 1972 – ***God is Real*** – First two-week tour, presented with leather crosses, the symbol of membership.
- 1973 – ***It's Getting Late*** – 56 performances of the sermon-in-song.
- 1974 – ***Come Together in Jesus' Name*** – First year for the traditional Benediction.
- 1975 – ***It Begins Now*** – 120 member group travels to California.
- 1976 – ***In God We Trust*** – Group goes northwest, visiting Idaho, Washington, Utah and Montana.
- 1977 – ***No Deposit, No Return*** – Performance on Capitol steps in Washington, D.C., which gets New G entered in Congressional Record.
- 1978 – ***Good News*** – Recording made and sold to audience members.
- 1979 – ***Let's Get Together*** – Back to California, first year for the now-annual Christmas concerts in St. Joe.
- 1980 – ***Let's Go Tell the World*** – New host church at Ashland United Methodist Church.
- 1981 – ***Starting Here, Starting Now*** – Performance at Guide Post in New York attended by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale.
- 1982 – ***Building Bridges*** – Tour heads to Florida while membership grows to 200.
- 1983 – ***Crossroads*** – Back to California!
- 1984 – ***Victory Through Faith*** – Performance at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.
- 1985 – ***What Difference Does it Make*** – 15 year reunion event reunites past members.
- 1986 – ***Discipleship—Now What?*** – Back to Florida with 168 members on four buses.
- 1987 – ***V.I.P.—You Do Make a Difference*** – Travel to northeast states as well as Canada
- 1988 – ***These Three Words*** – Back to California...again!
- 1989 – ***Praise the Name of Jesus*** – Group travels east to Washington D.C. and New York.
- 1990 – ***Family of Friends*** – New G celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> year and tours Rocky Mountain area.
- 1991 – ***A Life Worth Living is a Life Worth Giving*** – Back to Texas and the southwest U.S.
- 1992 – ***Walls Come Down*** – Tour reaches Washington, Oregon and the great Redwoods.
- 1993 – ***A Solitary Christian is Like a Fish Out of Water*** – Our emcee introducing us in French in Canada!
- 1994 – ***In His Image*** – Group visits Quinter, Kansas, Disneyland and Yosemite National Park.
- 1995 – ***Growing in His Son*** – A "monster trip" to the Edmonton Mall, the largest mall in the world.
- 1996 – ***Come Together*** – Trip to the Mid-Atlantic states and yes, a trip to the beach.
- 1997 – ***For This One Reason*** – A tour to supersede all tours...a cruise to the Bahamas.
- 1998 – ***Attitude is Everything*** – Trip to Disneyland and a performance at a retirement community.
- 1999 – ***We Can Make a Difference*** – Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone and walking on a glacier.
- 2000 – ***The Journey*** – Our evening at a Broadway play, stay in Brooklyn and sing for John Cathcart.
- 2001 – ***The Song is Alive*** – Trips to Disney World, Cocoa Beach and Cape Canaveral.
- 2002 – ***We Will Stand*** – Touring San Francisco, the Jelly Belly factory and visit friends in Sandy, Utah.
- 2003 – ***For His Glory*** – Singing in Abraham Lincoln's church and Cedar Point amusement park.
- 2004 – ***The Power of One*** – Lake Louise, BANFF, Mt. Rushmore and a special tour worship to remember
- 2005 – ***The Lord Whom We Love*** – Disneyland's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Universal Studios and the Grand Canyon! Program included highlights from the past 35 years.
- 2006 – ***Until the End of Time...*** – A trip to New York City including seeing a Broadway performance of "Wicked", an emotional concert at Beulah Church in Brooklyn and stops at Ground Zero and Shanksville, Pa.
- 2007 – ***The Word*** – If it's Florida, it must be trips to Disney World *and* Sea World. Of course there were many memorable performances throughout the southeast with a close-knit group of singers and sponsors.
- 2008 – ***More Than Words*** – Always proclaimed the most scenic tour direction - the Canadian Rockies and BAMF plus a performance at the foot of Mount Rushmore made this a memorable tour.
- 2009 – ***Ready, Set, GOd*** – Back to Washington D.C. and memorable stops at Shanksville, Pa. and Arlington National Cemetery as well as an emotional performance at the New York Presbyterian Church.
- 2010 – ***He's Alive, Forever, Amen!*** – Roughly re-tracing the first trip out west in 1975, New G returned to California as a part of their 40th year anniversary celebrations.
- 2011 – ***God Is...*** – Three buses to carried an enthusiastic group to New York City and back. Seeing Daniel Radcliffe perform in "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" — on his birthday no less — was one of many highlights. There were also many emotional performances including one where there wasn't time to change into costume — street clothes worked just fine!
- 2012 – ***Definitions*** – Tour is always fun when it includes Disney World. The "Sermon In Song" theme led to many "best ever" dialogues and "Down to the River to Pray" provided many emotional moments.
- 2013 – ***Brighter than the Sun*** – Often considered the most scenic tour—through the northwest into the Canadian Rockies, with stops at Old Faithful and rafting in Yellowstone.
- 2014 – ***Who Am I?*** – Back to the nation's capital and many other sites around Washington, D.C. and Philadelphia. Tour also included stays in cabins, Abraham Lincoln's church bench and all the rides at Cedar Point.
- 2015 – ***Out of the Blue*** – Out west to California for our 45th anniversary and lots of very moving performances along the way. We got our kicks while singing on Route 66, outdoors, in Williams, AZ.
- 2016 – ***In the Works*** – Toured New York City, went to a Broadway musical and visited Cedar Point. Also, had an emotional tour worship at the Oasis of Love Church in Huntingdon, PA. where we honored Byron and Phyllis for starting New G.
- 2017 – ***Soul Aflame*** – Off to Florida and a chance to see Mickey - a fun impromptu performance in a hotel lobby (Be Our Guest) - a moving performance at the Civil Rights Museum and 16th Street Baptist Church in



# 48 years and counting

The New Generation Singers began in 1970 in St. Joseph, Missouri, under the direction of Byron Myers, Sr. Rehearsals were held at Wyatt Park Christian Church (WPCC). In 1980 the group moved to Ashland United Methodist Church, where it continues to be hosted. The group is composed of approximately 100 area high school and college-age youth.

Connie Miller Heard was a member in the beginning. "It was Christmas 1969, I was a sophomore at Central High School. At WPCC we had a good youth group choir. Byron was the church choir director. About 12 of us met at church one day and decided we wanted to create a Christmas program. We had no costumes, but we had great songs; we made up dialog and added choreography. It was a simple program by today's standards, but it lit a fire that hasn't stopped burning," said Connie.

"The New Generation Singers" was formed shortly after that first Christmas program. They invited friends outside of WPCC first, then friends of friends with a conscious decision to open it to youth from all different backgrounds and churches. The heart of New G is a mutual love for music, family, friendship and worship.

New G meets most Sunday evenings all year. In the fall, they work on Christmas music which they present as a free concert. In January, they start working on their summer program which is presented at local churches each Sunday during June and July.

Each year the singers pick a theme for the summer season.

A committee meets to work on the dialogs that will help to tie the songs together to create a "sermon in song". The individuals write and present their own dialog during the performances. This makes the message heartfelt and meaningful to the singers and creates ownership of their own performance.

A summer tour is a highlight of the year. In July, New G takes a 15-day tour to different parts of the United States. For many members, this is the only vacation of the year. Traveling by bus 4-7 hours a day, the group moves to a different city each day and sings nearly every night at a new location. Around the middle of the tour, the group takes a day or two to be tourists, perhaps at Disney World, Washington D.C., Mount Rushmore, the Canadian Rockies or dozens of other places.

Byron's wife and co-founder Phyllis Myers believes New G is where young people can be introduced to and grow in their Christian faith. "Life-long friendships have been formed. More than 40 couples who met in New G have married into lasting marriages, including my son Bemo. Many children of former members are coming through the group now. Over the years, many singers have gone on to become ministers, church youth and music leaders, doctors, lawyers, teachers, social workers, nurses and followed many other avenues of life."

Thanks to the dedication of sponsors and singers for the last 48 years, New G is stronger than ever and looking forward to many more milestones.

Besides this program, there is lots of information and many more pictures on our website at [www.ngsingers.com](http://www.ngsingers.com). You can also follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NGSingers](http://www.facebook.com/NGSingers). Many of our summer Sing-Out and Tour stops will be broadcast live on Facebook.



## More FAQs

### Financial Support

Each member pays tour expenses out of their own pocket (or perhaps their parents' pockets!) or by raising money through group activities. New G holds fundraising events including Hy-Vee food sales, trash bag sales and special projects. Watch for information on our website — [www.ngsingers.com](http://www.ngsingers.com). Of course we also graciously accept financial support from audience members throughout our summer sing-outs and two-week tour.

Besides tour expenses (mainly buses, group sight-seeing and some hotel stays), year-round expenses include equipment and truck maintenance, music and insurance. If you would like to support the group beyond what you may have done today, please contact Byron & Phyllis Myers, 3002 Miller Rd, St. Joseph, MO 64506.

### Membership Info

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in joining the New Generation Singers, please contact us. We are always looking for new members. Requirements are simple: you must be a second semester eighth grader up to a college-aged, single young adult who is interested in singing (no audition!), socializing and traveling...all in a safe Christian atmosphere.

For more information email Emily Howell at [emily.ngsingers@gmail.com](mailto:emily.ngsingers@gmail.com) or call 816-262-8257 for information. Be sure to visit us online at [www.ngsingers.com](http://www.ngsingers.com) or on Facebook to learn more about the fun times you can have in New G.



Last spring, Jeff Kready (front row, 5th from right) put on a master class for New G. Jeff is a Kansas native who is now making a name for himself on Broadway.



We're always looking for a few good men—and women—to join New G.