

# NORMAN HUTCHINS

(Continued from Page 19) minister to the whole man - not just the spiritual side."

Norman's desire to use music as a means of ministering to people's needs became apparent long before he ever entered a recording studio. A licensed minister at the age of 12, Norman's mother drove him to church gatherings up and down the Eastern seaboard where he would speak and sing to enthusiastic congregations. In between his travels, young Norman developed a love for the piano, organ, saxophone, lead guitar and drums. As he grew, so did his commitment to the Church, eventually leading him to full-time ministry in his home-state of Delaware.

In 1988, Norman, his wife, and their three small children packed up and headed for Los Angeles to begin a new chapter in their ministry. A series of less-than-ideal jobs, including a stint in a warehouse, combined with

difficulty finding a home church, brought the Hutchins family to the brink of moving back to Delaware - until their first visit to the West Angeles Church Of God In Christ.

"Bishop Blake preached a message that day to 'someone who has lost his focus,'" Norman remembers. "He said 'God will let you know His will for your life.' I went down to the altar and God really told me to stay in L.A. and not leave until He tells me to. He said, 'I have you where I want you.'"

Members of the West Angeles Church are not about to argue. Norman immediately became involved in the church's active music program, singing and eventually directing a number of the congregation's ensembles. Norman's featured songs on the Mass Choir and Congregation's "Saints In Praise, Volume 2" not only captured the attention of gospel music listeners nationwide, but led to a solo

recording contract with Sparrow Records as well.

The release of Norman's highly anticipated Sparrow debut in 1992 established him as one of the most promising new voices in gospel music. The project generated two Gospel Music Workshop of America Excellence Awards nominations: Male Vocalist of the Year, Contemporary, and Best New Artist of the Year, Contemporary.

And if that wasn't enough encouragement for Norman, the last several years have brought him invitations to guest conduct a 1000-voice choir for the U.S. Olympic Festival in Dodger Stadium, as well as opportunities to perform with Gladys Knight, The Winans, Daryl Coley, Commissioned, and The Richard Smallwood Singers, among many others. Also an accomplished songwriter, his "Golden Crown," recorded by Mom & Pop Winans,

was nominated for a Dove Award.

Norman's musical vision promises to find a home in the hearts of even more listeners with the release of "Don't Stop Praying," recorded at Hollywood's famed Capitol Studio. Described as a traditional gospel album for modern times, "Don't Stop Praying" features The L.A. Praise Ensemble, a group of 15 talented young musicians hand-picked by Norman. Norman co-produced the album, which features almost entirely his own compositions, with renowned producer Hal Sacks.

Lyricaly, Norman uses "Don't Stop Praying" to share songs of praise, worship and encouragement. "I think this will be a record that will minister to many people in different situations," Norman says. "People facing decisions, needing encouragement, going

through problems and dealing with frustration and worry."

The album is highlighted by the autobiographical "You Were There," Norman's moving recollection of his family's struggles during their early days in L.A. and God's sustaining presence throughout those challenges. "I didn't know God would birth a song through those hard times," Norman reflects. "But God was there beside me, drying my tears, promising me He'll never leave me nor forsake me."

The common thread throughout "Don't Stop Praying" is God's faithfulness, which Norman has experienced first-hand throughout his life. "Everything God has asked me to do, He will fulfill," Norman reflects. "He is faithful. If I hang in there, all of these things will materialize. And I'm seeing it happen."

In the midst of the exciting changes and developments

Norman is witnessing these days, his vision remains steadfast on using his God-given gifts to help those who come across his path. Continuing to head the social service outreach for the West Angeles Church, Norman counsels between 40 and 50 clients a week, assisting them in obtaining the physical resources they need to live. And as he looks down the road, this versatile musician/minister's dream is to someday construct a "New Hope City," where orphaned children and neglected senior citizens, along with others in need, can find a peaceful home.

"God has a plan and purpose for everyone," Norman concludes. "When you operate in that, it makes life worth living." Not only is Norman Hutchins living proof of this truth, he continues to make it a reality for those he reaches - through music and his life - every day.

## KNEE INJURIES

(Continued from Page 18) "Talk with a weight-training expert about the need for extensions and the proper way to do them."

Lintner says toe lifts can also be included in a strengthening routine.

Standing straight, raise up on the toes and go down again several times. Repeat this on the heels as well to increase strength in the calf muscles and

improve overall leg tone. "Stretching is a vital part of any exercise program," Lintner said. "Runners especially should always remember to take 10 to 15 minutes just stretching the hamstrings and quadriceps muscles to prevent injury."

A regular routine of these exercises several times a week, along with whatever activity a person enjoys, will decrease risk of a knee injury," Lintner said.

## 32nd Street Theater

(Continued from Page 16) childhood idols as John Travolta, Michael Jackson, Fonzie, and the Fat Albert characters.

After spending his first two years of high school, dancing and playing the piano in a local singing group, he decided to go back to acting. After strong performances in "Say no to Dope", and "Julius Caesar" he was offered a theatrical scholarship to Eastern Michigan. Unfortunately, he wanted to leave the state of Michigan and see the other side of the country.

After graduating from Pontiac Central High School in 1989, Kelcey moved to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend UNLV to pursue an engineering degree. After three years of switching majors like television channels, he decided to concentrate on his true dreams in life which is to one day direct plays, win a Tony, and accept an Oscar for acting and directing. While attending Clark County Community College to concentrate on finding an actual major, West began spending countless hours in the library reading and learning about how to professionally put his thoughts on paper. Two months later a two-act play entitled "Going On" was born, followed by a one-act play entitled "Two-Sided Coins". At the same time he began visualizing directing his own theater company where he could finally unleash his creative ideas on the entire stage, and not just through one particular character. That child (business) was given the title 32nd Street Theater Group, named after Earvin "Magic" Johnson who wore that number as a professional basketball player with the Los Angeles Lakers.

According to Kelcey West, the most important thing we as a country must begin to do is help one another, achieve our goals and dreams in life.

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