



# Where Are They Now?

By Pat Barker

## Lillie Knauls

Though I left a quartet bus about three years ago, I still have the opportunity to travel throughout the year with solo dates, The Second Half Quartet, The Cathedrals Family Reunion, and some limited dates with my friends, The Guardians. I get to meet some wonderful people, and it is always a thrill to meet some of my heroes for the first time. Just a couple of months back while I was in California, I had the honor of working with the legendary Lillie Knauls—and she was a joy to talk to!

Lillie Knauls was born in Arkansas. She had five sisters and one brother. Lillie's father passed away when she was just 13, so Lillie's mom moved the family to Seattle, Washington, to live with her sister. This is where Lillie spent her formative years.

Lillie grew up in church—it was the first place her mom took her! She says she can't remember a time she didn't love The Lord, and she was saved at a very early age.

In 1956, Lillie took a job with the Bell Phone Company in San Jose, serving that company for 22 years. While in San Jose, she took a leave of absence to sing with The Edwin Hawkins Singers and during that time, they recorded "O Happy Day," which sold more than a million copies.

Shortly after "O Happy Day," Lillie felt God calling her into a full time ministry. She left the phone company, and claimed Matthew 6:26 as a life verse. God has certainly provided down through the years, and continues to provide.

Many of us became familiar with Lillie through her appearances on The Gaither Homecoming videos. What an incredible spirit she brought to those

videos. I always looked forward to her grabbing a microphone and making the song her own.

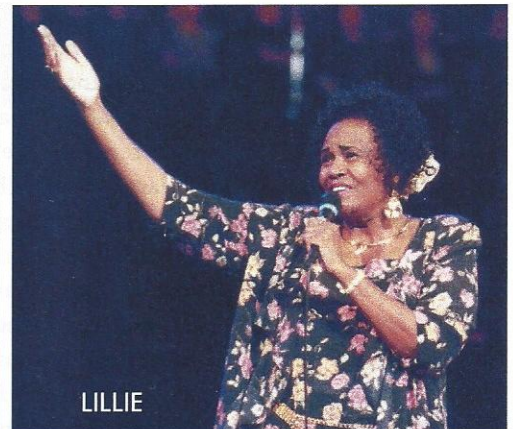
Her list of accomplishments are many, including Dove Awards, Grand Ole Opry appearances, singing to 250,000 people in Rio De Janeiro, and numerous other achievements. If you ask her what is most important, she will be quick to reply that ministering to the broken is where her heart is. As a single adult, she ministers to singles all over the country. She also speaks and sings at prisons, churches, revival meetings, and Assembly of God conventions.

I am so thankful for the time I got to spend with Lillie, and hope that you will take the time to get in touch with her, and let her know how much you love her. Even though she's about to celebrate her 80th birthday, she's traveling two or three weekends a



LILLIE KNAULS

month, plus other special occasions. Head over to [www.misslillie.com](http://www.misslillie.com) and check out her schedule and purchase some of her wonderful CDs. **SN**



LILLIE