

I'm Not Tired Yet!

'Musicianary' Lillie Knauls Still Going Strong at 75

Fresh — and refreshed — from her 75th birthday cruise to the Bahamas, septuagenarian singing sensation Lillie Knauls is eager to get on with her life, ministering to those in need through the Christ-centered message of her music.

"Folks ask me often when I will retire," comments the 2007 Dove Award winner affectionately known as Miss Lillie. "Well, I have no desire to, because I don't believe that God wants us to retire and coast on to heaven. I want to travel and sing until I can no longer. Then I will have no regrets."

Knauls, famous for her alabaster smile and penchant for hats, has performed with the Edwin Hawkins Singers ("O Happy Day" which celebrates its 45th anniversary in August) and the Gaither Homecoming Friends. A self-described "musicianary," Knauls is also a member of the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

To hear Ms. Lillie sing and/or order her CDs, visit her website at www.misslillie.com or phone her at 909-948-2448.

Ms. Lillie Albums you'll want to own:

"Lillie Knauls: Past and Present," which includes the snappy "I'm Not Tired Yet," and "O Happy Day" (the first gospel song to cross over to secular Billboard charts), won the 2007 Dove award for "Traditional Gospel Album of the Year"

"Lillie Knauls Sings Some of her Favorites" brings you 21 great gospel songs including: "Amen," "His Eye is on the Sparrow," "Great is Thy Faithfulness," "God on the Mountain," "When the Saints Go Marching Home," and "I'll Fly Away."

"Lillie Knauls: Hymns and Spiritual Songs" is one of her newest releases and features a number of medleys, plus songs like "Rock of Ages," "Old Rugged Cross," "Amazing Grace," and "Wonderful Peace."



When asked about the influences in her life, Knauls replies: "I would say the biggest influence was my dear Mother. She taught us about Jesus and was always there for us — six girls and one boy. Musically, I guess it was Mahalia Jackson. I loved listening to her. Was able to meet her once — that was before the cell-phone days, so I have no photos to prove it," she says with her little girl giggle.

Around the World for Christ

Lillie has covered the globe ministering and singing about God's love in all nations — except those under Communist rule. Once in Rio de Janeiro, she sang to 200,000 people and 500,000 in Ghana.

In addition to her music ministry, God gave Ms. Lillie the gift of being single (1 Corinthians 7:32). Knauls is a frequent speaker at Single's Rallies where she shares on the subject, "Single and Satisfied." She stresses the importance of singles being involved with families, especially ones with children. She says, "I love being called Auntie Lillie."

One of the other ministries dear to her heart is singing for prison inmates. Knauls explains how she got started:

"There was a prison chaplain in my church who asked me if I would please come sing. When I went, I was sooo moved, I knew I wanted to continue to go — and have for all these years.

“Just recently at a prison for women, the first three rows were reserved for the ‘bad women’ who live in a totally different area,” adds Knauls. “When they came in they were very disruptive. In fact, so much so, that the chaplain told them they had to leave — right then and there. I knew God wanted them to be there, so I went over to them and began to cry and asked them, ‘Please don’t leave. I came here for you!’ ... Well, each and every one of them stayed through the entire service. And they were quiet and orderly. I would walk over to them as I sang and touch them on a shoulder... God was there in a very special way.”

As a newly ordained minister, this musicianary plans to continue going wherever doors are opened.

“I felt that with all that is asked of me — praying for folks, visiting many hospitals and convalescent homes, traveling the world — that often there is a need for a minister,” explains Knauls. “So I went through the process of ordination; and it is wonderful because I am now permitted to go to places where I otherwise would not be permitted or welcomed.

“I am thankful that God gives me the strength to travel fulltime at age 75 — all over, alone — and still have the voice,” she adds. And those who have heard her music are likely to agree. *CAJ*

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Lillie Knauls

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