

# LILLIE KNAULS



Oh my, what a wonderful day that was—being there with my “sisters.” There were so many precious moments when the Holy Spirit hovered over us in that room, letting us know we were on holy ground.

I so missed having my dear friend Vestal Goodman there with us. I am certain there were many other ladies who felt about her as I did. I shall never

forget the day I met this grand lady of gospel music. It was the first time I came to a Gaither Homecoming taping, back in 1993. I was apprehensive, not knowing what to expect, wondering if my choice to wear a hat was a good one. I had simply asked myself what hairstyle would look weird in 20 to 30 years and decided I would just wear a hat! It turned out to be a good choice. Now wherever I go, I am referred to as the “hat lady!”

One day, I had the opportunity to meet Miss Vestal at her favorite restaurant for lunch. I was so delighted to have one-on-one time with this precious lady. She was so down to earth. We talked about God. And singing. And life. But for the next bit of advice she gave me, I will be forever grateful. She reached over across the table, put her hand on mine and said, “Listen Lillie, don’t ever quit singing no matter how old you live to be. If people still want you to come sing, you go girl! They are asking because they know you have an anointing. And even if you feel your voice is not what it once was—keep going! Look at me and promise me you will!” I was so moved—and with tears in my eyes I promised her. Now, at age 75, I am very busy, still traveling, still singing and speaking for Jesus. I plan to do as Miss Vestal advised—never retire! I’ll just move to my new home in Glory and remove my hat as I receive my crown!