

CHURCH NEWS



Street Songs

A Musical Review By Eva Dunn

Street Songs is a heart-felt, God-inspired collection of songs birthed from 26 years of Paul and Noreen Coca's street ministry in the cities of San Jose, Berkeley, and San Francisco. Although first singing publicly in 1978, the earliest song was written while Paul was on his honeymoon in 1982 at Yosemite National Park titled *The Spirit and The Bride*; the latest song is *I will Follow*, finished in 2006 (some lyrics written in 1997 by Noreen).

Most of the songs were written and sung by Paul Coca. Two of the most stirring songs in this set are the duets, simply beautiful songs where the anointing is most evident. Noreen's violin playing is lovely in *Rose of Sharon* and her song is sweet in *The Lord is Faithful*.

This CD is a blueprint of the passion and evangelistic hearts Paul and Noreen have for the lost, for those with broken hearts and broken lives and how this passion sustained their extensive ministry years.

Standing in the rain, jeered by onlooking crowds, spat upon and insulted, nothing would deter them from the passionate fire God had dropped into their hearts for those needing Christ. This fire fueled their desire to keep fighting the good fight, preaching salvation on the streets of the cities. Ministering through SOS Ministries in open

air outreaches held in San Francisco and Berkeley. Through the years, the Coca's would pray before concerts, and wait for a sign from the Lord, wait to see who He would bring, those whose opportunity had come to receive Him. God stands at the door knocking.

The Coca's are open vessels, filled with God's love, ready to pour into desperate hearts; He is the answer to the darkness in other's lives. My husband and I were blessed as we listened to this CD. We discussed it afterwards and found we were in agreement; we were humbled by the music, the lyrics, the pure sincerity of the message; our spirits were refreshed as the anointing brought peaceful joy and assurance of God's great love.

This is a remarkable musical experience. You will enjoy making it a part of your worship music library. Published by Chuck Girard, this CD was engineered and mixed by Mike Childers. This CD may be purchased at Firefall Jewelers or online at www.paulcoca.com where you can also listen to audio clips. Visit the Coca's at www.myspace.com/paulnorencooca for more info.

The Coca's own Firefall Jewelers on Main Street in Angels Camp, phone 209-736-1550. Also visit them online at www.firefallgold.com.

The Golden Compass Has no Moral Compass

By J. Matt Barber

With its fantasy world backdrop, sympathetic talking animals and extravagant battle scenes, the new movie, *The Golden Compass*, may resemble C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*. But parents be advised, this film — which is very intentionally being marketed toward children — is nothing of the sort.

The Golden Compass was created with the benefit of a multimillion dollar budget and big name actors such as Nicole Kidman, Kevin Bacon and Sam Elliot. It opens December 7, and promises to be action-packed and visually stunning in the epic tradition of *Narnia* or *The Lord of the Rings*.

But upon closer review, it becomes abundantly clear that both this movie and the man behind it have a very certain anti-Christian axe to grind. Based on the first of three secular humanist children's books by avowed atheist and British author Phillip Pullman, *The Golden Compass* provides the opening "down with God" salvo in the author's *His Dark Materials* trilogy. Pullman leaves little question as to his books' central theme. "I don't profess any religion," he is quoted as saying. "I don't think it's possible that there is a God; I have the greatest difficulty understanding what is meant by the words 'spiritual' or 'spirituality.'"

Ironically, Pullman's confident pronouncement that there is no God appears to take an exclusive backseat to his hatred for the very God he denies. "My books are about killing God," he told *The Sydney Morning Herald* in a 2003 interview. And in the trilogy's final offering, *The Amber Spyglass*, he does just that — he knocks off the Almighty in a delusional fit of grandeur. Pullman's books drip with moral relativism, that deceptively sweet, yet fruitless nectar of the secular humanist. His portrayal of God — which is clearly intended to personify the Christian church — is that of an evil authoritarian who spitefully stifles human creativity, arbitrarily punishing mankind for very naturally and properly entertaining base impulses with unfettered license.

In a telling and pivotal moment in the series, a former nun named "Mary Malone," who is a central character, poignantly reflects upon her realization that God does not exist: "There's no one to fret, no one to condemn, no one to bless me for being a good girl, no one to punish me for being wicked. Heaven was empty. I didn't

know whether God had died, or whether there never had been a God at all."

And isn't that what atheism is all about, really? Our fallen desire to have, "no one to punish [us] for being wicked." If we can convince ourselves that there is no God, then we escape accountability for what we do, or so we believe. It's not so much a-theism as it is anti-theism. In fact, atheism is every bit a religion as any other. But in the church of the non-believer, the high priest is cloaked beneath the vestment of pseudo-"science" and parishioners worship at the altar of moral anarchy.

Still, like so much else in our culture, Pullman's aversion to God would appear to boil down to sex. Mary Malone explains that her desire for sex was her primary purpose for abandoning the God in Whom she no longer believes. "And I thought: am I really going to spend the rest of my life without ever feeling that again? And I took the crucifix from around my neck and I threw it in the sea. That was it. All over. Gone. ... So, that was how I stopped being a nun," she recounts.

Author and attorney David Limbaugh sums up the anti-theist condition succinctly: "It seems the most militant 'anti-theist' these days are either arrogant scientists or unrestrained licentious types whose main obstacles to faith are not intellectual, but moral — and that moral obstacle seems

invariably to be sex ... sexual perversion, while perhaps not the worst sin, especially when compared to pride, for example, seems to be the one galvanizing the modern opponents of God."

Psalm 14:1 tells us, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good." With *The Golden Compass*, Phillip Pullman shares his heart with us — a heart that says, "There is no God." And he clearly wants to influence your child's heart as well. This movie's creation — or chance materialization, take your pick — has a specific agenda. It is clearly targeted toward unsuspecting children with the furtive goal of enlisting the next generation of "fools."

But do as he will, the loving God whom Pullman rejects is bigger than all that. He's so big, in fact, that He gave his only Son for you, me, and yes, Phillip Pullman. Just the same, I think I'll spend my eleven bucks somewhere else.

Matt Barber is one of the "like-minded men" with Concerned Women for America. He is an attorney concentrating in constitutional law and serves as CWA's policy director for cultural issues.

Kwanzaa Celebrations

Fri, Dec 29, 6 to 9 p.m., Oak Park Community Center, 3425 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Sacramento. (916) 383-5249.

Sat, Dec 30, Sam Pannell/Meadowview Comm Center, 2450 Meadowview Rd., Sac. Green: kgreen06@acninc.net.

DID YOU KNOW?

The publisher of the NIV Bible version is Zondervan. Zondervan is owned by Ruppert Murdoch, who also publishes pornography. 2 Cor. 6:15 "What harmony can there be between Christ and the Devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever?"

With this in mind, I wanted to know the background and ownership of Tyndale House, who publishes the NLT version that I love and use. I wrote to them and got this response -- "Tyndale House Foundation was established by Kenneth and Margaret Taylor in 1964—two years after the initial publication of *Living Letters*.

Though the Taylors had a large family (ten children) and lived on a modest income, Mr. Taylor had a strong conviction that the royalties from *Living Letters* should be given to God because it was His Word.

During the second year of its publication, the Billy Graham Association distributed 600,000 copies of *Living Letters* in response to those in his television audience who requested a copy. The royalties on those copies were the first funds paid into the Foundation.

For more than forty years the Foundation has received all royalties from the sales of *Living Letters*, *The Living Bible* (published in 1971) and the *New Living Translation* (published in 1996). The Foundation uses those funds to make grants for Christian ministry around the world.

Tyndale House Foundation grew out of an underlying conviction that every person should have the opportunity to be confronted by the reality of the love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. This conviction provides the impetus behind the Foundation's basic purpose: To minister to the spiritual needs of people, primarily through literature consistent with biblical principles.

Tyndale is solely a privately owned company. This reassures me that I made a good choice in switching from the NIV to NLT. 2 Tim. 3:16 reads, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right." That is from Tyndale's NLT (New Living Translation) and it is in YOUR language. Now you Know.



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