

FOREWORD

During the past sixty-five years, the Tabernacle Publishing Company has published seven major hymnals, each one larger than the last. Each contained the best current expressions of our faith as well as all the standard historic hymns which are essential in the services of evangelical churches.

Hymns of Faith is both the biggest and the best in this series. It has sixty-four more pages than its predecessor. Without losing any of the traditional hymns and gospel songs that are important to this heritage, it has added the largest possible number of the fresh, joyful songs of praise and witness that have graced our singing generation. It also offers a larger page, easy-to-read words and music, and carefully selected keys for exuberant congregational singing.

The Scripture Readings (pages 570-596) are thoughtfully compiled to cover every emphasis of the church year. The King James version of the Bible was chosen, since it is the stated preference of most of the churches which have used our hymnals. A brand new feature—the scripture words under each title—will help congregations identify the biblical inspiration for each selection. Used in conjunction with the exhaustive Topical Index (pages 609-615), they will also aid ministers and musicians in choosing hymns for each service occasion.

We acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable help of our associate editors and the numerous advisers who helped compile the list of hymns from which the final index was chosen. This group included three hundred different denominational and independent pastors and church leaders who completed questionnaires which identified the strongest possible selections. As a result of their recommendations, three additional indexes have also been included. The first is a complete list of Scriptural Allusions in Hymns (pages 602-606). An Index of Authors, Composers and Sources (pages 598-601) also includes both birth and death dates and the page numbers on which their contributions appear. Lastly, an index with the names and addresses of all copyright owners and proprietors is included (pages 607-608) for ease in contacting these sources. All churches should be aware that it is illegal to reproduce any of the copyrighted words or music contained in this book. By the same token, we cannot grant permission for the use of someone else's copyrighted property and thus this index will facilitate contact with the appropriate owner.

Finally, we must speak our gratitude for the large group of poetic and musical witnesses whose works are included between the covers of this hymnal. They have made it possible for us to present so many diverse expressions of faith. For them and for ourselves, we express the hope that each selection will be used to glorify our Lord who gives us reason to sing!

The Publishers