

PREFACE

Psalm 33:1 exhorts, “*Sing Joyfully* to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.” Since scripture encourages believers thus, a hymnal becomes an important tool for corporate and individual worship.

SING JOYFULLY is the eighth major hymnal to be published by Tabernacle Publishing Company in the past 74 years. It also represents a large step forward in introducing new gospel songs, hymns, and praise choruses. While maintaining the core-list of best-loved hymns, well over 200 new songs have been included in *Sing Joyfully*, when compared with its predecessor, *Hymns of Faith*.

Certain features have been added that hopefully will stimulate creativity in corporate worship. One of these is the distribution of appropriate readings throughout the book in order to complement and amplify the themes of the hymns. We gratefully acknowledge the help of noted Christian author, Karen Burton Mains, for her work in gathering, adapting, and writing most of this material. These readings, liturgies, and prayers are thoroughly indexed for easy accessibility. Often, a reading can be used not only for personal meditation, but as a spoken introduction to a hymn that follows, thereby making it an effective worship resource. Other helpful indexes include an exhaustive Topical Index, an index of Authors and Composers, and of Copyright Owners and Sources. The latter should be utilized for all permissions to reproduce any copyrighted material.

SING JOYFULLY has been organized in a traditional manner, grouping hymns in general categories, such as Worship, Testimony, Guidance, and so forth. Each section is introduced with its own subject-title page.

The body of Christ is characterized by magnificent diversity, its goal also being to demonstrate compelling love and unity. In this same way, the creative work of all the authors and composers found in this hymnbook, testifies to the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, enabling humans to praise and worship the Godhead through word and music. Christian believers have the best reason to sing . . . and to *SING JOYFULLY!*

The Publishers