

Departure Announcement from Galen Reed

Sept. 1, 2020

Greetings! As life comes and goes, changes also come and go, and a major one has come to Lyrica Sacra at this point.

Many of you know my growing up years were in Somalia and Ethiopia (east Africa). Since returning to the US after high school graduation I've always felt that it would be overseas where my life would run its fullest course. After a 40 year absence, I've now returned to east Africa three times - the last to specifically search out future possibilities, which are now being pursued. To that end, the Lyrica Sacra board is working to transfer my responsibilities to others who can more fully attend to the day-to-day duties which need to be fulfilled. To those unaware of my background and for whom this may be a real surprise, I offer my most heartfelt apologies!

Though it is with joy and anticipation that I look to the future, it is with a certain and real sense of loss that I lessen my Lyrica Sacra involvements. It has been rich and rewarding, and it seems God has blessed Lyrica Sacra far beyond what any of us might have envisioned. I have invested heavily in Lyrica Sacra's success, in its mission, and in its identity, and it is difficult to pull away from that. Nonetheless, it seems God's prompting is to move on, and to let Lyrica Sacra's future with Him to work out as He sees fit.

My future? Though not all these options will be done, as much of a three-pronged approach as can be done is being pursued: 1) to return to east Africa (Ethiopia) for an extended exploratory visit, 2) the notion of higher theological education has repeatedly come up, and 3) I have been encouraged to apply to the Society of International Missionaries (SIM), a well-established mission board with a long presence in eastern Africa. The return to Ethiopia is currently a bit dubious due to Covid and civil/political unrest there. Higher education? I have been accepted at Veritas International University and Jerusalem (Israel) University College into Master's degree programs in Polemics & Apologetics to Islam, and Biblical Studies (respectively). I have also applied to SIM, but because of the long application process that likely won't materialize before mid/late 2021. At this point the situation is *highly* dynamic (i.e. changing), with major factors which are far out of my control (Covid travel restrictions, civil unrest), but the most recent developments point toward a late September departure for Ethiopia and online graduate school. There is no guarantee of success, but believing that God will show the way, I am now on the move to "Get thee out of thy country ... unto a land that I will shew thee" (Gen. 12:1). I plan to stay in touch, to possibly operate in the background for Lyrica Sacra as a consultant. I hope to hear from you and of the good things God is doing in your lives!

I can be reached via Facebook Messenger, via WhatsApp (no regular texting though - \$\$\$), or get my email address from a Lyrica Sacra board member. I expect to start a blog with at least monthly if not more frequent posts – if you wish to be a recipient, please let me know.

It is with gratefulness to God for the favor and grace I have found with Him, with you, and with others as we've walked the Lyrica Sacra path together. It is a favor I never anticipated, but He has chosen to bless "far beyond all that I could ask or think," and for that I am truly grateful! His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts than our thoughts! May we be fully in tune with all that He has for us, individually and collectively, and may each of our lives be witnesses to His goodness, His grace, and His glory! Amen.



Greetings to each of you in the Love of Jesus.

As the board of Lyrica Sacra, we wish to express that with a keen sense of loss we are supportive of Brother Galen Reed in his future plans, as he has shared with you.

Galen, a huge thank you for the countless hours you invested into Lyrica Sacra. Your influence in Lyrica Sacra will be felt for many years, and you will be greatly missed. We want to bless you as you continue your walk with the Lord as He leads, one step at a time.

With this change comes another adjustment. We are planning to expand the conductor team to carry on the practical leadership of Lyrica Sacra. Sergey Kravets has already committed to join Yuriy Kravets in sharing that responsibility. We are excited to welcome him, and are diligently searching for a 3rd conductor to add to the team. We are also excited to welcome Elesa Stoltzfus as the conductor of the Children's Choir for this coming season. She has been an avid supporter of Lyrica Sacra for a number of years as a soprano in the choir. We look forward to working together with all of them in accomplishing the work of Lyrica Sacra going forward.

To those of you as members of the choir or orchestra, we want to thank you for your interest in and burden for Lyrica Sacra. We ask for your prayers as a board for wisdom as we all press into the goal of honoring and glorifying God through this ministry. We desire that Jesus will be lifted up, for He is worthy of all our praise. Feel free to contact us; we value your input and would treasure your suggestions.

In Christian love,
the Lyrica Sacra Board

Earl Fox *Earl Fox*

Yuriy Kravets *Yuriy Kravets*

John Michael Nolt *John Michael Nolt*

Carl Swartzentruber *Carl Swartzentruber*