

## Serve the Lord with Gladness

**Gary Cochran**



“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing” (Psalm 100:2).

What a joy it is to serve the Lord with gladness. My name is Gary Cochran and I’m currently Music and Worship leader at McCool Baptist Church in McCool, MS. I live in Kosciusko, MS and have been there almost 40 years. Having raised our family here, my wife Leigh and I call it home.

My story really begins two months before my 17th birthday when I realized the need and made the decision to trust Jesus Christ as my Savior. What a change occurred in my life and what a change of direction my life would take. Little did I know that two years later the Lord would call me into ministry to

serve Him.

At first I was unsure what path the Lord was leading but soon discovered it was to serve Him in Youth and Music Ministry. I purchased an old pawn shop guitar, learned to play it enough to accompany myself, and to sing the spiritual songs that were popular at that time. Up to this point in life, I had never been a singer or musician but looking back, the Lord had begun to prepare me as a child for His purpose at an early age.

Raised in the church singing, mostly listening to hymns and taking piano lessons, had laid the foundations for the path I was to follow. Soon the opportunity was presented to serve in a church as Youth and Music director while going back to college to study music and voice.

After serving churches in West Jackson, Iuka, Tupelo, Kosciusko and now in McCool, MS, 45 plus years later, I am more excited than ever to serve the Lord with gladness, singing the songs of Faith. I truly believe that music prepares the hearts of people to hear and receive the Word of God. It has become very clear, in today’s world, that people need the Lord; so many times, I have seen music prepare the way for the Word of God to work in people’s lives.

One of my favorite verses in scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will direct your paths."

I have no doubt God has led me down the path He has chosen for me and given me every talent and gift needed to serve Him with gladness.

*Gary Cochran is an optician, musician, and cyclist from Kosciusko, MS.*