

## **A New Music Ministry**

### **By Alexa Cottingham**

Would you believe this began with one faithful couple in Country Estates Baptist Church? In the summer of 2005, my husband and I became members. Almost immediately I was drawn to the testimony of Rex and Maggie Phillips. Rex is a paraplegic and they shared how a surgeon's failure had taken away all feeling from the waist down. There was no resentment in their testimony and they assured me that the Lord was in this situation. Of course this life story, with all that led up to this accident and what followed, was part of their learning to walk in the Lord.

The next Sunday, Rex and Maggie were missing. They were now in residence at the Life Care Center. After this I spent opportunities to visit and absorbed all the activity that surrounded this couple. I was very pleased with all the care that Rex was receiving and the whole atmosphere. Maggie's wifely care she added was obvious, but I also saw how she interacted with the nurses and other patients. She used many opportunities to share our Lord and even encouraged one patient to commit his life to the Lord; she has the evangelist gift. I played my classic guitar in their room and wondered to myself if I could have some musical ministry in this place? Maggie introduced me to the Activities Director, and she told me of a great need at the Center. "The bedridden patients have no one to see them, entertain them, and share with them; would you like to do this?" The Lord gave me the assurance and within a few weeks, I began this, for me, unusual ministry.

It was 58 years ago that my father gave me a graduation gift when I was attending my freshman year at Tufts University, a small Martin classical guitar, and I immediately joined a folksong group in a dorm room. During all these following years, music has been an important part of my life, including two years as a music major. It has always been included in all my teaching avenues along with added different stringed instruments from my many travels.

What a privilege it is to be a part of these older peoples' lives, to see them find the Savior, to grow in Him, and to experience their entrance into Heaven. Each day has its victories along with those who would thwart the Spirit's work. Jesus is Lord!