

## **Lillenas Kids Provides Sound Spiritual Content without Being 'Cheesy'**

Lisa Taylor of Rosewood Church of the Nazarene

When Lisa Taylor was first asked to conduct the children's choir at Rosewood Church of the Nazarene in Scarborough, Ontario Canada, she was a little nervous. Lisa loves to sing, but didn't have much experience teaching young children and didn't know where to look for great children's music.

"I'm a singer myself, but I've never taught a group of children to sing before so the process of finding the right music was pretty foreign to me," Lisa said. Jumping in with both feet, Lisa immersed herself in finding the right musical for her first children's production. She listened to a variety of publishers' music selections before finding Lillenas.

"I had already listened to about seven different musicals so I knew exactly what I was looking for when I heard a sample of Lillenas' musical offerings." Lisa reflected, "The moment I heard the music from Lillenas, I was hooked. My first performance with the children's choir was *I Witness News: Live from Bethlehem*. The spiritual content was beautiful and Biblically based – it was perfect."

Lillenas, one of the world's largest church music publishing company, provides thousands of children's choir directors and children's pastors with the latest in kids music and drama resources. The products are offered through the company's Lillenas Kids product line. In addition to musicals, Lillenas Kids offers a wide range of items from songbooks and keyboard music to dramas and teacher training DVDs.

"In addition to the sound spiritual content of the songs, the fact that the songs weren't 'cheesy' was another attraction," Lisa explained. "The main complaint of every young person asked to sing in a choir is that the music isn't modern. After introducing the new Lillenas music to the children, they sang the songs with excitement and passion."

Lisa continued, "The children in our choir range from first to eighth grade, which makes it a challenge to find music with the right level of complexity for the older children, but not too tough for the younger kids to sing. I found the Lillenas Kids' resources to be a good mix. The music challenged the older members of the choir and kept them engaged, but was easy enough for the little ones to follow along. Some of our eighth graders did not want to participate in the Christmas performance, but after seeing the production they eagerly agreed to join us in the Easter presentation of *The Easter Tree*."

Lisa concluded by saying, "I received an overwhelming response from the members of the church. Many even stated it was the best musical they had seen in several years." Lisa's advice to Lillenas writers and producers is to just continue to make interesting and modern music that reflects and incorporates the Word of God.