



The Lyrical Side of Dentistry

By Gayle Glenn, D.D.S., TDA Council on Membership



VERSE 1: T. Bob Davis, D.M.D.

Playing the piano is T. Bob Davis' passion. Those that have heard him perform know that he truly has a gift. He uses that gift to serve his family, his church, his community, and his profession.

Raised in South Alabama, T. Bob studied classical piano from the third grade through the twelfth grade. He graduated from Samford University, then went on to dental school. While attending the University of Alabama School of Dentistry, he signed up for the early commission program with the United States Air Force, so that he "could see the world."

To T. Bob's dismay, upon graduation in 1967, he was assigned to Perrin Air Force Base in Sherman, Texas. T. Bob had visited Texas the previous summer, and described it as too hot, too dry, too flat, and too dusty to suit his taste. But, according to T. Bob, "the Lord knows best." He spent his first 3 weeks in Texas in Wichita Falls for orientation. This is where our musical story really began.

T. Bob invited a couple of other dentists to drive to Dallas for the weekend to go to Six Flags Over Texas. T. Bob also wanted to go to church on Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Dallas. He had heard their youth choir perform outside of Denver in the Red Rocks Amphitheater approximately 6 years before. He remembered thinking that he would like to be a part of something like that someday.

He arrived at First Baptist Dallas a little early on that Sunday morning. He saw a sign for the Medical/Dental Sunday School Class, and decided that was where he would go. He went into the classroom, which was still empty, and started playing the piano. When the teacher of the class arrived, he asked T. Bob if he would play for the class that morning, as their regular pianist was out. This allowed T. Bob to meet

many of the Dallas area dentists, physicians, and seminary students.

Once in Sherman, T. Bob promised to come back to Dallas every month to visit the class. Within a couple of months, he was asked to play for the weekly services at the church. His talent and love for music led him to start working with the youth choir and to accompany the group of 200 teenagers to Europe on a 3-week tour the following summer. The next year, T. Bob and the youth choir went on a tour of Mexico.

As his Air Force commitment neared completion, T. Bob considered several cities for his practice location. After looking at Houston, Atlanta, and Birmingham, he decided that Dallas was the best place for him. When asked how he came to Texas, T. Bob says, "I didn't choose to; the Lord put me here. I would have never envisioned being in Texas or living in Dallas. The Lord had something for me to do here and has opened a lot of doors for me to do things with the church, my music, and my profession."

T. Bob became engaged to Janis Murphy, also from Alabama. They married 6 months later and started their life together in Dallas. They have 3 children: Shawn, Angie, and Creth. The Davis children have all been active in the church youth programs.

T. Bob was sponsor and pianist for the First Baptist Chapel Choir from 1968-1980, and accompanied that group on 10 international tours. He continued to play the piano for First Baptist Church in Dallas until



T. Bob (foreground) with the barbershop quartet he put together for the 1997 Lone Star Dental Conference, Austin.