



mhca's e-Newsletter

Published May 2023

## To Whom it May or May Not Concern

*An open letter from Larry Gatlin*

I love books. In fact, I am a bit of a book “snob”. I admit it. I have had a real and lifelong romance with words and ideas. I've read many of the classics in The Western Canon. Books, plays, and poetry by Shakespeare, Milton, Chaucer, Dickens, Faulkner, and Hemingway, eight of the ten volumes of Will and Ariel Durant's *“History of Civilization”* et al. I would almost rather regale you with the titles of the books I've read, and the ideas contained therein than with the titles of the number one songs I've written and the names of the legendary performers who have recorded those songs. I repeat ALMOST, however for my purposes here, I would like to acknowledge a more modern classic that I literally devoured years ago because the book gave me the OK, the imprimatur, to be a little bit crazy and at the same time keep from going TOTALLY INSANE.

“Life is difficult” wrote my old friend, the late great M. Scott Peck in his classic *“The Road Less Traveled”*. Scott Peck was right, life is difficult for every human being on planet earth, so it follows that my life has been very difficult at times. The toughest times were back in the 70's and 80's, when I jokingly tried to laugh off my growing problem with cocaine. I used to say, “Even Colombian Drug Lord's children have to eat”. How clever!! How stupid!! How almost deadly!! How that line and that life didn't kill me is a miracle of God and I'm grateful beyond any words. I can say that I'm alive and well. I was insane, not just a little bit crazy, but the prayers of family and friends and their support and the grace of a higher power, I choose to call God, restored my sanity. I offer suggestions anytime anyone asks me about that period of insanity. The real unvarnished truth without preaching.

To the outside world, it looks like mine has been a “charmed life”. As Macbeth expounded on his “charmed life”, his friend McDuff chopped his head off, didn't work out so well for him. Well, the truth is, that I really have lived a “charmed life”, a greatly blessed life, with no McDuff's besides myself.

An example, if I may, a few years ago a friend of mine told me that I was the happiest son of a gun he'd ever seen. He then added, "You don't believe in God, do you?" To which I answered, "Yes I do." He then said "I don't think I do." In a split second I told him "Well that's OK, God believes in you!" He stopped talking, while his mouth remained open. I looked at him and said, "You are miserable, aren't you?" To which he sadly looked me in the eye and said "Yes, I am." I offered the observation, "Well, your way doesn't seem to be working, so why don't you come try it our way. If you don't like it, I'll gladly refund your misery." He had no response. It's really nobody's business what happened next in my friend's life, but if you could see my face right now, you would see a big smile.

In closing, you thought it would never come, William Wordsworth wrote,  
*The world is too much with us,  
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers,  
We have given our hearts away,  
The wind is howling at all hours,  
We are out of tune.*

Mr. Wordsworth could have been talking about 2022. The world seems to be out of tune, upside down, on fire, no longer kinda confusing or sorta crazy, but a lotta bit off. A cup and saucer short of a full place setting, one enchilada short of the deluxe Mexican Super Special Plate. We seem to have put crazy on the front porch in a rocking chair for all to see, with no shame. Any one of several well-worn inanities that are used to gloss over the truth that the world is upside down and certifiably insane.

Yes, I believe the world is too much with us, but I know the truth will set us free. To that end I will gladly tell the truth about my life, about my journey from a little bit crazy to certifiably insane and back to a little bit crazy. Which in my case most of the time, that's just Larry being Larry. Always harmless, rarely sad, most of the time happy, sometimes a little bit crazy and on occasion really funny. My humor has always carried me through life's tough times, and I like to share it. For years people have told me, we knew you could sing, and we love your songs, but we didn't know you were funny. After 50 years of hearing that, I have come to know that funny wins every time. People need funny! In my favorite book, it is written "The merry heart doeth good like a medicine." There are a lot of people out in the world who need a medicine, which I will offer with a merry heart. Also knowing that folks need the services your organizations offer, with benefit of your leadership.

My grateful contribution will always be a "spoonful of sugar to make the medicine go down" and I'll throw in a few pretty dad-burn good songs and singing for free. Well at the very least very reasonably priced.

KEEP THE FAITH, even you folks who were in the "may not be concerned" category.

-Larry G

---

Larry Gatlin played for us during our Spring Conference in Nashville earlier this month. Several members had the opportunity to meet him and have their picture taken after receiving a personalized autographed CD from Larry. If you were one of these members, **[your photos are available here:](#)**

<https://mhca.com/conferences/2023-nashville/2023-nashville-gatlin-photos>

Unsubscribe from Monthly Minute Newsletter

1876 Eider Court, Suite A

Tallahassee, FL 32308

mhca  
1876 Eider Court, Suite A  
Tallahassee, FL 32308

TEL: (850) 942-4900

*If you don't want to get similar messages from us in the future, you can Unsubscribe or Opt-Out by clicking the following link:*

<https://mhca.com/index.php?>

[option=com\\_civicrm&task=civicrm/mailing/unsubscribe&reset=1&jid=&qid=&h=fakehash](https://mhca.com/index.php?option=com_civicrm&task=civicrm/mailing/unsubscribe&reset=1&jid=&qid=&h=fakehash)