

## *Elvis Gospel Fan Club Quarterly Newsletter 2019-4*

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Picture taken in the spring of 1959 at the back of Elvis' rented home at 14 Goethestrasse, Bad Nauheim, Germany.

### *Editorial*

Dear Gospel Fan,

I am so grateful for the internet, where I can find some unusual and rare photos of Elvis. I certainly have not seen this one in Germany before. Elvis still with his natural brown hair, looking so natural!

As Christmas approaches, I am reminded that this was Elvis' favourite time of the year. For him, it was a time of both quiet and child-like excitement, a time for family and a time to be home. Every year he would transform Graceland, into a wonderland of lights and decorations. Although Elvis loved to receive gifts, his favourite Christmas activity was giving, not only to his family and friends, but also financial gifts to local charities. For example, On Dec. 12, 1966, he donated cheques totalling \$105,000 to various Memphis charities.

Of course, we know that the best Christmas gift is Jesus. I hope and pray that whatever traumas or trials you have had this year, that this Christmas will be an extra special celebration of knowing how much you are loved and the wonderful plans the Lord has for your life.

God bless you, *Madeleine*

This year The Imperials were not able to attend the Elvis Festival in Great Yarmouth (which, by the way, always has an Elvis Gospel Service on the Sunday). However former member of The Imperials, Royce Taylor (pictured right) did a great solo Gospel show "Gospel Music and Elvis Presley", which by all accounts, was very much appreciated



## The James Burton Charity Concert - Report from Terry Blackwood



THIS SHOW WAS SO GOOD!

The James Burton and Friends concert was held November 12 at the Schermerhorn in Nashville, TN. There were legendary performers from around the world, all invited to share their talents with that audience. There was Jason Scheff, son of Jerry Scheff, Elvis' bassist, and long-time lead vocalist of Chicago, rock and roll royalty, Brian May, of "Queen", Larry Stewart, lead vocalist of Restless Heart, Joe Walsh, guitar legend of the Eagles, Albert Lee, Marty Haggard, son of the great Merle Haggard, John Carter Cash, son of Johnny Cash, Tanya Tucker, Paul Schaffer of the CBS Late Show, and the Imperials.

This was a concert that exceeded my wildest imaginations! From the first rehearsal to the show, I knew it was going to be a night to remember. Jason Scheff had heard of us from his father, Jerry, so when he heard us sing, he came up to me and we had a nice chat. He asked me if we would back him on some of his songs. I went to that hall expecting to rehearse our songs, and Jason asked us to back him. Of course, we said yes.

Brian May of "Queen" heard us in rehearsal and enquired of the man sitting in front of him, "Who are those guys"? He knew us so he told him. Later, I had a photo taken with him backstage. (James Burton also had a photo taken with him (see above) Brian hopes to take this show to London next year.

There were so many great moments that occurred with the guitar jam sessions. The Elvis segment was last. We came out with Jason and did his song. I introduced "The Wonder of You" and the Imperials sang it, with James Burton playing the lead guitar and Ronnie Tutt playing drums. Jason Scheff came on stage to play bass for us just like his father would have done.

It ended with several Elvis tunes and a stage full of all the performers singing songs by the king of rock and roll. I guess the only three people on that stage that actually worked on stage with Elvis were James, Ronnie, and me. God placed me in the Imperials for a reason. He had a plan from the foundation of the world. I'm part of that plan. I don't know what the future holds, but He does. I will go wherever He leads and sing to anyone who will listen. (*Amen to that Terry! MW*)



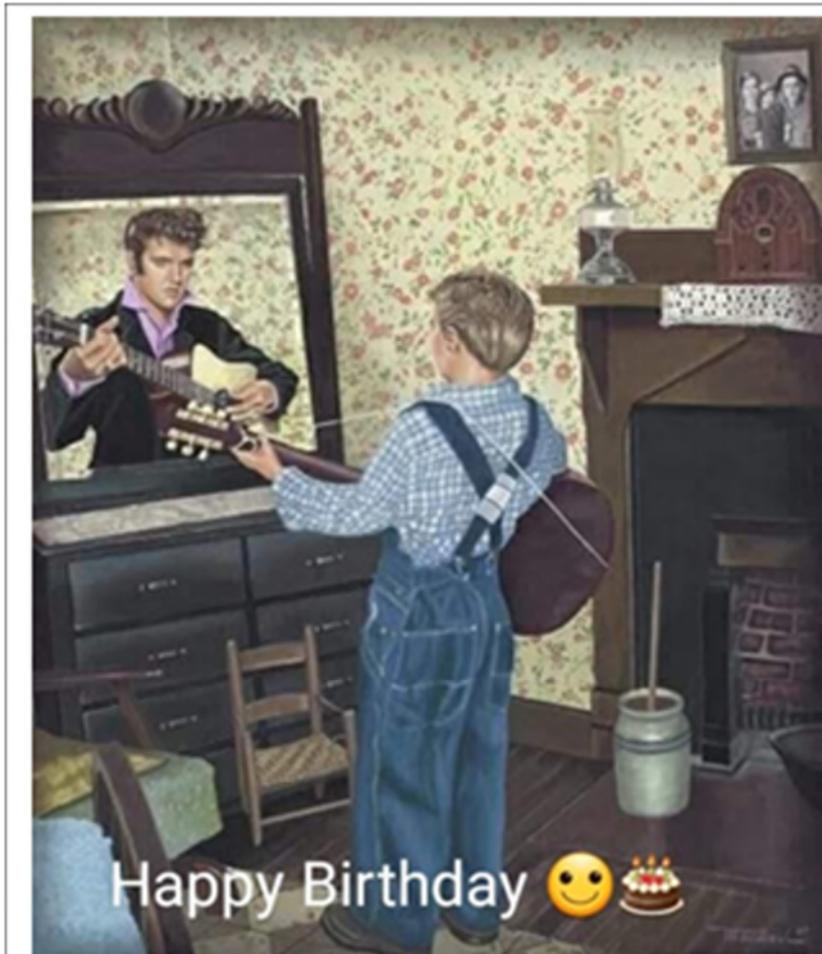
## Rev. Elvis Retires

Rev Andy Kelso (pictured left) has retired from being “Elvis” at fetes, pubs weddings and festivals. As “Elvis” he has travelled abroad and all over the UK including five times to Belfast bringing Protestants and Catholics together because of their love of Elvis. He has walked the Peace Line there between the two communities, with a police escort! He hopes that he has fulfilled his calling to take Elvis to churches and link with churches who wanted to reach out to their communities. He says “thank you” to all who have welcomed him and helped him in this adventure.

*Well done Andy! Have a great “retirement”*

## Claire House Hospice for Dying Children

The granddaughter, Katy, of one of our members, Jean Hutson, died age 5. She was cared for at Claire House in the Wirral. We do send donations to this wonderful place which does so much not only to alleviate the suffering of the dying children, but also are a great support to the families. However, there is now so much demand for their services, that they need to open another hospice in Liverpool. Jean and her family are involved in fund raising, including Katy’s sister who raised £400 by asking for charity donations rather than gifts for herself on her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please consider donating or raising funds for this amazing charity. Their address is: Claire House, Clatterbridge Road, Bebington Wirral, Cheshire, CH63 4DJ, UK. Web site: [clairehouse.org.uk](http://clairehouse.org.uk)



## Happy Birthday Elvis!

As Elvis and his family celebrated Christmas, they would soon be thinking of celebrating Elvis’ birthday on January 8<sup>th</sup>. That is why they kept the Christmas decorations up through his birthday, and this tradition is carried on by Graceland.

I love this picture as we know that the young Elvis would never have imagined the fame and fortune that was awaiting him.

It brings to mind part of Paul’s prayer for the Ephesians in Ephesians:3: 20-21 “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

# Elvis in Germany 2019

*the original*  
BAND OF  
**ELVIS** & *Dennis Jale*

D.J. Productions, Vienna

Music by:  
Dennis Jale & Members  
of the TCB Band  
and  
Terry Blackwood  
& the Imperials

04.-06.  
**Oktober 2019**  
Showstart: 19:30 Uhr

ELVIS CORNER  
elviscorner.com

GEPE

Info unter Email: TCB-Weekend@gmx.de und TCB-Weekend@web.de

**STEIGENBERGER Hotel Bad Homburg**  
Kaiser-Friedrich-Promenade 69-75  
61348 Bad Homburg

Eine Veranstaltung  
von: DJ Productions

**Freie Platzwahl**



Elvis and fans outside the Ritter's Park Hotel (now part of the Steigenberger Hotel) in Bad Homburg where Elvis and we stayed (not at the same time!)



Donna Presley, Elvis 'cousin', with Elvis' original Isana Black Pearl guitar in the "Elvis Presley Suite," Room 206

Well, what a wonderful weekend! Hallelujah! That Lord was certainly very present at this event, especially at the Gospel Show. Most of the people present at the weekend were German or Belgian and others were from Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Slovakia, Spain and UK. We had some wonderful conversations with people. Of course, starting with Elvis and then leading on to discussion of Gospel music, faith and Jesus. The Holy Spirit was certainly present. Especially at the Gospel concert, presented by The Imperials: Terry Blackwood, Darrell Toney and Will Smith, who interspersed their singing with testimonies and exhortations to seek the Lord before it is too late. Grown men were weeping and one asked us "What is salvation?" Hallelujah! A lady was asking the title of the song about meeting God in the morning, which had clearly moved her.



Peter and Madeleine Wilson with Terry Blackwood in the Ritter's Park/Steigenberger Hotel



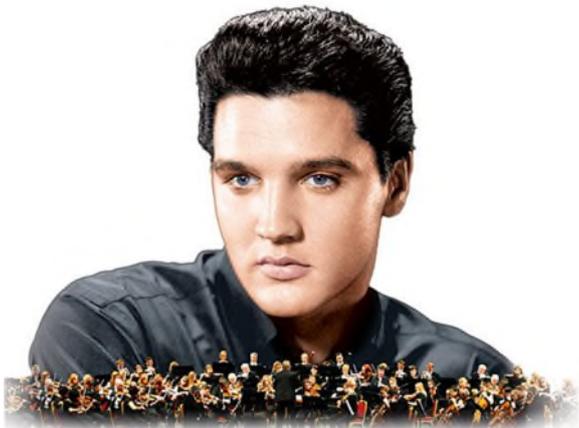
This lovely lady, whom we met at the weekend, knows James Burton and family, and on seeing her wearing the Elvis brooch, James Burton's wife gave her the Jesus badge to wear on the other lapel.



Montgomery, March 6th '74. Elvis greeting a young fan - the look on her face says it all!



Signing Autographs in Las Vegas  
August 29th, 1969



## Elvis in Concert at the Sheffield Arena

We went to this event on 28<sup>th</sup> November. And as ever it was a wonderful event (though for me the orchestra was a little too loud, but Elvis voice could be heard so clearly.) The full Royal Philharmonic Orchestra showcased some of Elvis' greatest hits. The show featured vintage footage of Elvis in concert, projected on a state of the art HD screen, backed by the full 40-piece symphony orchestra as well as personal appearances from Priscilla Presley and long term Elvis associate Jerry Schilling, who shared intimate stories, personal photos and rare home movies.

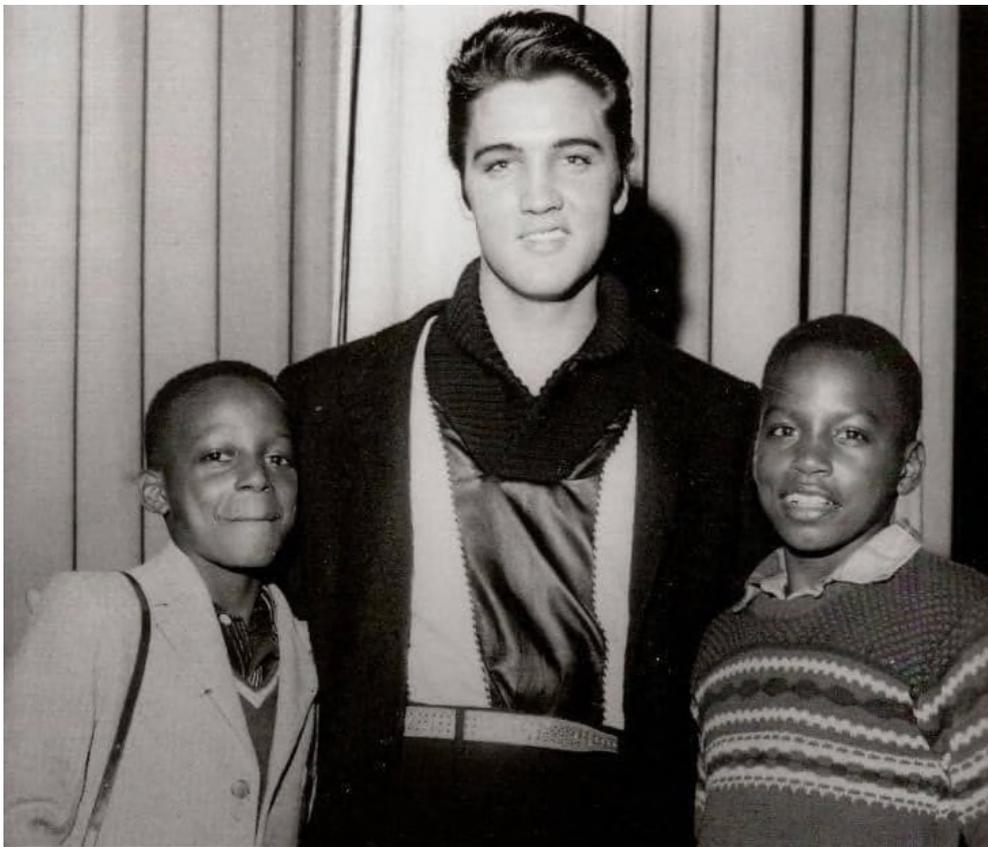
Priscilla Presley said of the new show, 'We're BACK and better than ever! I am thrilled and honoured to be returning to the UK.

It was great to see and hear James Burton, Ronnie Tutt and Glen Hardin who performed with Elvis. Though I would have liked to have heard them play "on their own", rather than along with the orchestra as they were a little "drowned out" by the full sound of the orchestra.

We were pleased to hear Priscilla say that Elvis' favourite music was gospel music and some gospel songs were played, including *How Great Though Art* and *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, these as always getting the most appreciative applause.

Picture, left, shows Jerry Schilling and Priscilla interviewing Ronnie Tutt on stage, as they did with James and Glen.





Elvis at the WDIA, the radio station in Memphis which was aimed at a black audience and which Elvis loved to listen to, at their Good Will Revue on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1957, with Ernest C Withers' two sons, Clarence Earl and Perry. After the photo had been taken. Withers asked the boys what Elvis had said to them. They replied "Nothing much. He just asked us to come and visit him at his house".

Civil Rights photographer, Ernest Withers said, "Elvis had this thing for music, you see, especially gospel and R&B. He began to show up at musical events where I happened to be." In 1950's Memphis, there were very few white people who would ever have considered going to these places. But Elvis loved to pay a visit East Trigg Avenue Baptist Church where Rev. W. Herbert Brewster, who was a renowned gospel composer, produced a show which was broadcast by WHBQ on Sunday nights. "I could relate and talk to Elvis easier than even the Civil Rights activists because I was his age and he was more even tempered. Elvis would come to the black events and the Goodwill Review, but officially, he was not able to actually be part of it because of the segregation laws and things at the time. He would still come though."



## Elvis in the Gardens

I have just discovered this one day annual event in New Zealand. The promotion for the event says, "Bring your family, friends and picnic and relax in the beautiful Auckland Botanic Gardens."

There are events for children, Elvis Tribute Artist performances and lots of dancing. This couple, pictured left enjoying barefoot jiving!