



# Kronicle

spiritual renewal & resources for children's ministers & kid's choir directors - [www.kidsworxmusic.com](http://www.kidsworxmusic.com)

## THE ACCIDENTAL PSALMIST

*"You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy!" Psalm 30:11*

As a child, I had some distant relatives who didn't know me very well. So, for each Christmas and birthday, I would receive at least one package containing . . . (drum roll) . . . **a diary**. I had no interest in keeping a diary! Before long, I had a good-sized stack of them, and in an effort to honor the giver, I would try to write something. . . anything! I would find these poor neglected books years later, each one containing about two pages of nonsensical scribbles and about a hundred blank pages.



Fast forward about 30 years (Ooo, head rush!). These days, my journal has become one of my most prized possessions. Not that I'm religious about writing in it... unlike my daily need for chocolate. But I pick it up occasionally, head to my local Starbucks (I can see three from here), grab a mocha and a cozy perch and read back over previous entries. As I read, I see the roller coaster of my life go by: answered prayers, recurring hopes, and personal struggles whiz past in a dizzying up and down motion. Reminds me of the stock market.

Then I take my pen in hand and start writing. Sometimes just jotting down ideas for lyrics, scripts or musicals, but mostly pouring out my troubles into words. I usually start with my current laments and prayer requests, laced with a little whining. By the end of the entry, however, something miraculous happens: it turns into praise and thanksgiving. This is one of the zillion things I love about God! As we bare our souls to our Heavenly Daddy, somehow He lifts us up and reminds us that He is in control, and as He has helped countless times in the past, He will remain faithful to do so again.

David's journal is on display for all to see in Psalms, where many a song begins with his lamentation over enemies and perils around him, then eventually he remembers God's unchanging power and protection. This inevitably results in praise and worship. Some of our most beloved hymns and worship songs were drawn from the pages of David's journal.

I highly recommend keeping a journal, especially for those of us in ministry. It gives us a place to write out our prayer requests, vent our frustrations, and see God work! When you see the prayers and answers, pain and praises, you can't help but be encouraged to press on and trust God's faithfulness. Like the Israelites wandering through the desert, we can often forget God's goodness and provision in the past unless we can look back and see it written down.

Here's one of my personal "Psalms" from my journal, written in June 2008, not edited... just poured out. I encourage you to write one of your own!

*"Lord, You have given so lavishly and freely Your blessings upon me. You have not withheld any good thing. When I cry out to You, You answer with love and understanding like a mother with adoration for her little ones. I look up to You my Abba, my Daddy. You have never forsaken me. You have kept every promise, and allowed me to see Your hand in every tragedy. When I grieve, I feel your tender arms about me and Your words of encouragement that this is not the end - this is not all there is! You understand me completely. The depth of Your understanding is so amazing to me. You have surrounded me with Your precious people who help uphold me and affirm me. We all give You the glory, awesome Lord - Creator of all that is, You formed the endless expanse of the sky, beyond the farthest star, and yet took the time to form the tiniest, most insignificant flower in my backyard garden. You are the perfect balance of infinite power and intimate care. Who could ever be like You, my Lord and my God!"*

**Sharon K. Turney**

KidsWorks co-founder and

Children's Ministry Music Director, [Neighborhood Church of Castro Valley](#)

Contact KidsWorks for more information: California Office - 510-727-0932  
[info@kidsworxmusic.com](mailto:info@kidsworxmusic.com) • [www.kidsworxmusic.com](http://www.kidsworxmusic.com)