

PRESS RELEASE

September 21, 2009 – St. George, UT. A brand new, two-act musical will be produced this October at the Green Valley Spa in St. George. With the help of generous donations from local businesses, friends, and family, Michael Wiest and his cast of local actors will be offering 10 performances free to the public. “The reason for wanting to do a free production is simple”, says Wiest. “Mainly, it’s because of the current economical situation of our Nation, as well as our small town. I want to bring people to see the show who may not otherwise be able to pay for a \$15 ticket. I believe the story to be uplifting, faith-provoking, and may give an audience member a little glimpse of hope about their own future. Also, you don’t have to pay royalties for a play you wrote, and we’re renting the space for dirt cheap”. The cast and crew, including Juli Wiest and Sara Childs as Mary Devine, Mike Wiest, Tammy Houchen, Lee Boerckel, Jenny Losee, Matt Wiest, Megan Wiest, Amie Purles, Dan Spear, Tyson Walter, Kari Atkin, Kieran Atkin, Jared, Atkin, and Phil Sargent are all offering their time and talents for free.

The idea for the story initially came to Wiest in 1999 while he was sitting at his desk in the Missionary Training Center (MTC) in Provo, UT. That idea eventually grew into music, and more music and eventually a script. A good part of the book has come from experiences Wiest received as a missionary in the Philippines, but the bulk of the story has come straight out of his own life experiences living in southern Utah. Also, the main character, Mary, is based on Wiest’s mother, Juli.

The story is about love and destiny. It starts with a woman named Mary who marries a man named John Devine, a poor, easy going, do-good-er who believes in a greater cause. Mary tells her story from present day in a rest home, where she has just checked herself in. She begins in 1945 with her frequent, unlikely runnings-into with John and their courtship, marriage, and him leaving for the Korean War. It goes through the hardships of children dying, poverty and loneliness. The play, however, stays up beat with the light-heartedness of the rest home residents whom Mary is telling the story to. Also, the twist plot and happy ending reunion make for an emotional roller-coaster of highs and lows throughout the show and ending on a high. It’s full of dancing, drama, comedy, and above all, a message of hope in a life-here-after, reunited with our loved ones, as portrayed in the opening and closing ensemble number “Believe”. The show performs 7:30pm to 10:00pm, October 5th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 23rd, 24th and 26th at the Green Valley Spa Theater located at 1871 West Canyon View Dr. in St. George. Admission is free, but online reservations are strongly recommended. Go to www.lifedevinemusical.com to reserve your seat and experience the musical debut of “Life Devine”.