

ISSUE 9

MAY 2008

VICTORY WORSHIP ARTS NEWSLETTER

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Unite, Equip, and Expand

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” John 4:23

consciousness and become God conscious. The heavens can open and that is when the spiritual gifts are released.

Pastor Paul reminds us that God has no favorites, just intimates. Worship teams are precious and powerful as they lead their congregations toward a place where each individual can meet with God. Worship inspires the people to draw near to a God that wants to draw near to them.

Never forget that we were made to worship.

In addition to Pastor Paul Juss, we are proud to present 16 additional Workshop Presenters offering 19 workshops in all. They are all leaders from our Victory Churches and are very experienced in the specialties they will be teaching on. This year we will also be offering a lottery for a Songwriter's Showcase as well as auditions for D2W, our worship band. For details about the various workshops, Songwriters Showcase, auditions, and registration, please visit our website at victorycd.com. It's going to be a great conference! See you there!

Kim Wilkinson

Made to Worship

d2w8 Keynote Speaker - Pastor Paul Juss

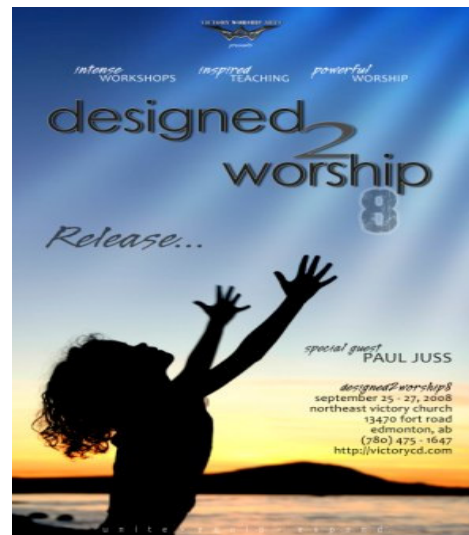


We are excited to have Pastor Paul Juss from Victory Church on the Rock, Grande Prairie, AB as our key note speaker this year at d2w8. He brings a wealth of experience and passion for worship. He has been involved in leading worship since 1982 both in International Outreach ministry and in the local church. Over the last 13 years, he has been busy growing Victory Church in Grande Prairie. As Senior Pastor, he works closely with the worship leader to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit in the service's praise and worship.

Pastor Paul believes that worship is one of the key ways people build relationships with God - a God that is seeking a relationship with them. Worship creates an atmosphere that God can dwell in as expressed in Psalm 22: 3 “But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel”. The worship leader and worship team build this opportunity every time they come together with a heart of praise.

He also believes that it is vital for the Senior Pastor and worship leader to understand how to work with the flow of the Holy Spirit. In a song, when one note is off key, it draws the attention of the listener away from God as the focus. In the same way, a Senior Pastor or worship leader that is not sensitive to the Holy Spirit can miss what He is doing in the service. This can diminish the opportunity for people to experience an intimate time with God.

When the Senior Pastor and worship team are flowing together under the unction of the Holy Spirit, it creates a “high spot” or place of high expectations. When this place of “high praise” is found then people release their self



Worshippers Take Your Place

Release! This year our d2w8 conference theme is **release**. This one word speaks of movement and momentum, learning and launching. As part of an apostolic ministry, we are always listening to the marching orders of our God. We want to say what He says, go where He sends and do what He asks. Prophetically, we know that 2008 is the year of new beginnings. We are seeing new ministries being birthed and dreams ignited. God is on the move and His church is mobilizing like never before. Vision and destiny are being given the “go” command. The question on the lips of many of our worship teams is “what about us?” What does a season of release and new beginnings look like to a worship leader, a guitar player, a dancer or a painter?

As artists and Spirit-led people, we are sensitive to spiritual movement and often feel the results of it in our ministry. We feel the fight against release. It is imperative in seasons like this that we keep our eyes fixed on our God, focused on coming before Him with our whole hearts. Not for the purpose of results or impact but simply because He deserves our praise. We lavish our adoration on the One who first loved us. We praise Him for who He is and what He has done. We worship and adore Him out of the overflow of passionate hearts.

One of the amazing truths of the Kingdom is found in the gift of praise. Though we focus on glorifying our King, He chooses to use it as a place of impact in our lives. Our praise becomes a point of release. It creates a buffer or boundary in the spirit (Is 60:18), it breaks chains and releases freedom (remember Paul and Silas?) and it brings us into God’s manifest presence where we are transformed (2 Cor 3:18). Basically, praise and worship are a lifeline to our Source. We are filled by Him, inspired by Him, and mobilized by Him.

When praise connects us with such power, it is easy to see why we come against such opposition. Amazingly, in a season when so many new things are happening, we are finding worship teams faced with one of the oldest and most intense conflicts of all time. It is the fight for our worship - the fight for our praise. Worship teams are on the front line and the battle is on. Have you noticed the increased pressure you feel when it is your week to lead worship? Have you noticed how easy it is to be offended on a Sunday morning? Have you heard the voice of the accuser enticing you to quit? To just give up?

God’s word to us is “**release**”. Satan’s word is “**quit**”. Even King David, the ultimate “super-worship-leader”, faced the voice of despair and the temptation to lie down and quit in the face of attack. In Psalm 108, the prophetic psalm for this year, we hear his voice ring out over the centuries:

My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O Lord among the nations; I will sing of You among the peoples. For great is Your love, higher than the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let Your glory be over all the earth. Ps 108: 1-5



Notice how many times “I will” is used in this passage. This is a psalm of choice. It is a comment on the decision to praise. We may not “feel” like singing or playing or dancing but those are the very times we need to make the choice

to do so. The way we feel should never hold more value than God’s right to be praised. We need to “release” our praise. We need to be obedient and choose to “enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise” Ps 100:4.

As we read further in Psalm 108 we come to the final verse which reads “*Through our God we shall do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies*”. The victory is **in** our God, **through** our God and **for** our God. Our role is to release what we have to Him so He can release what He has to and through us. In that release are new lyrics, new melodies, new movements and new expressions of worship. In that release is freedom, victory, and destiny.

Worshippers, this is no time to quit! Stand firm. Raise a shout of praise. Choose to awaken the dawn with His worth on your lips. This is a season to praise in faith! This is a season of release! Worshippers, take your place!

Pastor Charlotte Quist

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ON THE WEB

WWW.VICTORYCD.COM

THE TECH CORNER

Servants in Sound

Welcome again to the tech corner. Over the next few issues we will focus our attention around (lets see, God is first, wife is second, kids, friends and family, guitar...) I guess my fourth or fifth greatest love: live sound. Before we get into talking about gear or mix strategies, I wanted to touch on the biggest asset to any sound system anywhere. The “asset” I am referring to is, of course, the person behind the mixer.

There is nothing greater than those services where the worship has been incredible, the Word has been delivered powerfully and the manifest presence of God has come into the room. In this atmosphere it is easy for people to be saved, healed and set free. One of the people who have the ability to totally train wreck our moving into His presence, is the sound engineer. The sound engineer has done his job well when no one notices him (or her) at all.

Jesus said that if you want to be great in God’s kingdom, you have to be the servant of all. That leaves sound people in a pretty great place since a servant heart is the core of a great sound tech. You get to serve the worship team by trying your best to give them the monitor mix they need. You get to serve the congregation by providing a front of house mix that is not too loud and obnoxious; yet not so quiet that people are self-aware and will not enter into worship; not so shrill that it hurts hearing and yet clean enough for everyone to be able to hear the words and worship along with the leader. The mix should be done well enough that it is clear to the congregation who is the worship leader.

Sound techs are often in serving mode far longer than anyone else in the band. They are usually the first ones to the church and the last ones to leave. Also being a good sound engineer requires constant attention to the service. It can be far too easy to run through sound check on a Sunday morning and then sit back and think your job for the morning is over. The only thing left to do is shut it off when the service is over, right? How very wrong that train of thought is. The piano player has to play just the piano and the guitar player just the guitar, but the sound engineer has to “play” the whole band.

I was recently doing sound at an interchurch event where a worship team from another church was leading worship. Afterwards I overheard their pastor saying to someone that “they don’t sound this good at home”. Why? Because, as a good sound engineer we must “play the band”. We need to make a separation of the instruments and vocals in the mix through EQ-ing, effects and making volume adjustments

throughout the service. We need to be listening and watching for the moment when an instrument or a vocal may lead out and bring it up in the mix. God uses the musicians to play prophetically as David did. If they can’t be heard during this time, as sound techs have we been successful?

A good sound tech is always watching for changes in the service. Nothing gets people’s eyes off God and onto the soundman faster than when the pastor gets up to say something and his mic is muted. Everyone can see he is trying to say something and they often end up turning around to see what the problem is. Ooops! As sound people we need to know that we can either really be a blessing to the free flow of God or we can be a huge hindrance. I don’t mean for this to come across as condemning or judgmental in any way. It is just important that as sound engineers, we examine our hearts as often as if we were on the stage. Everything we do should be done from the position of humility and servant hood that brings honor to the Father as we serve Jesus’ bride.

So remember... play the band and serve the body. Until next time.

Wayne Quist



CREATIVE ARTS CORNER

Dance Worship

Dance is an instrument of worship. It's a powerful language of expression. I spent my childhood dancing in the secular world, not fully understanding why God had given me the desire to dance. One of my dreams was to be a dance instructor, but as an impressionable youth I let people discourage me. When the Lord redeemed me from my teen years of destruction, He awakened the desire to dance for Him and brought a new desire to minister through dance to others. From there He began to show me what a life of worship means. He gave me a greater measure of faith, deliverance and restoration of my value. He supernaturally healed me of some old dance injuries.



God started to open doors. I was invited to teach some dance classes in a secular studio. The Lord enabled me to minister to the girls in an environment where Jesus is rarely mentioned. He stretched me and showed me how much I needed to surrender myself completely. My life possibly could be the only Jesus those children get to meet. I've also seen that the world has taken much that is good and created by God and has perverted it. Dance is one of those things. It's time for the church to take it back and use it as a powerful weapon of warfare and praise. Ps 149:3 "Let them praise His name with the dance ..."

In my personal life God took me to new places in worship. He was also doing it in our church body. In the Lord's timing and with the blessing of my leaders I started a dance ministry team. Since then, there have been so many wonderful testimonies! People have been set free from the spirit of fear, delivered from shame, found confidence in Christ, been healed, had new visions, unity strengthened, accountability raised, and hearts lit on fire for Christ!

There are endless uses for dance. It can be used to express a message to someone or it may be intimate between you and Jesus. It can push through barriers in the spirit and it can take people to a place of abandonment in Christ ("And David danced before the LORD with all his might" 2 Sam 6:14). Dance can be a symbolic representation of the scripture or a prophetic word mimed out. Given

the right heart, motivation, and purity, God has taken me to places in dance I could not have imagined.

Everyone has a unique body language. This means that we can't get hung-up by the style of dance. I'm trained in different forms of dance. However, God has shown me moves and given dances to offer the Lord that no one but the Holy Spirit could have shown. The phrase "I can't" should mean nothing to you when you can feel or hear the Holy Spirit calling you out of your comfort zone. Just say yes and surrender to him.

Praise Him with the dance.

Tamsyn Fuller



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Make sure to register for d2w8!!