

## Ideas for bringing our Worship Experience up to scratch

The key is leadership. Each of the worship team leaders sets the standards of performance, discipline, organisation, and commitment.

### *Worship Teams*

- Five teams to be identified. Teams 1-4 for the 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Team 5 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (there are 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in February, May, August, and October in 2004).
  - Extend this idea to 8AM, Wednesday?
- Each team to comprise **permanent** members for
  - 3 musicians (at least keyboard, drums and organ (or guitar-1<sup>st</sup> Sunday));
  - 3 singers
  - Worship leader/singer
  - Presenter operator
  - Sound desk operator
- Team members make a commitment to the team for one year. Members may choose to be in more than one team, but we expect commitment.
- The Worship Leader's role is:
  - To lead the team;
    - This means many things:
      - Spiritual oversight: creating the spiritual framework and style that encourages team members to express and experience the love of God, the closeness of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit through their contribution to worship leadership;
      - Managing: defining each team member's role and contribution, communicating the standards and providing feedback on each member's performance so that standards are maintained.
      - Organising: negotiating with the team to find the best time to rehearse, preparing the resources (music etc), directing the rehearsal, critiquing performances, encouraging feedback and suggestions from the team, providing direction, resolving conflicts. Some of these activities may be delegated. For example, the leader may make the sound desk operator responsible for setting up the microphones before rehearsal.
  - To lead worship

### *Rehearsals*

- Need to be comprehensive. Everything is practised.

- Full sound system is set up and the sound is balanced during rehearsal so that minimal adjustments are required during the service.
- Songs are rehearsed with Presenter operator checking that words are correct, and that everyone agrees on the order of verses, choruses, repeats, etc.
- Worship leaders work out their introductions and practise them.
- Readers come and rehearse their reading. Intercessors likewise. Is this too much to ask?
- Rehearsals are done *in situ*. That is, stand where you are going to stand during the service. Move to where you are going to move to, etc.

## **Other Matters**

- What **standard** should we aim for?
  - Not Hollywood, nor even Hillsong. But an attempt to give our best, to avoid mistakes, to be prepared, to use all of our giftedness. We owe God and His people a duty of care.
  - People are different. Some people don't care if things are spelled wrongly. Or if grammar is poor. For others, failures in this area can be a real barrier to worship. So, there is no excuse for spelling errors. Use the spell check.
  - Don't ad lib unless necessary. If you can prepare, prepare. God will inspire you more often through good preparation than through any spur of the moment.
  - Check everything before you fly. Do you have all the music? Is it in the right order? Are the microphones all set up? Have you checked them all (pretend to be a roadie before every service)? Is Presenter working correctly? Ask your team members to prepare and use their own checklists, or work them out together as a team.
  - Concentrate on what is happening. Anticipate. The five steps towards a microphone are enough time for the sound desk operator to have it switched on. No-one should ever speak into a dead microphone. The preacher may feel moved to ask for music to be played at an unrehearsed moment. Think about this beforehand. What will we play if that happens?