Mentoring A Worship Leader

BY DAN WILT

Raising up worship leaders is both a relational and functional task. The following are a few tips on how to facilitate the growth of a new worship leader:

Co-Lead With Them. This gives them credibility before the congregation and enables you to prepare, lead and de-brief together. Give them familiar songs to lead for six months to a year, so the congregation learns to trust them.

Spend Time With Them. If the leader is of the same sex, spend time with them doing spiritually important activities like watching a movie, eating food, laughing hard and listening well. If they are of the opposite sex, involve others.

Take Your Time With Them. There is no rush. Give them a little bit of leading room over a long period of time. The issues of pride and identity are dealt with as you take the slow and steady route with a new worship leader.

Share Input With Them. When you lead together, help them choose songs and show them how you organize the set. Assume that you actually know something about worship leading and give confident guidance to their unique style.

Share Friends With Them. Expose them to your mentors via seminars, CDs or other media. Set up times for others, like the pastor, to comment on their heart, style and skill growth.

Give Gifts to Them. Take a year, and put generosity into your budget. When you have it in your power, buy them gear or music items that remind them of their personal importance to you and the investment you're willing to make.

Give Hope to Them. Celebrate the hard process of growth and maturation with the new worship leader. Honestly, but lovingly, point them toward faithfulness above "success."

DAN WILT
is the worship development team leader for the Association of Vineyard Churches Canada. He lives in Ontario, Canada with his wife Anita and their three children Anna, Abigail and Benjamin.

Songwriting: From The For

BY MARC PUSCH

We recently recorded an album at Vineyard Music Canada titled *All I Need*. One song has had an immediate and lasting impact on me from the first time I heard it. It is titled "Into Your Presence," and was written by Kim McMechan. Here is how Kim describes the history of this song:

Our church was in a very dry time spiritually. There seemed to be a united cry going up in our intercession meetings that corporately said, "We cannot be satisfied saying the same prayers, and singing the same songs, without touching something deeper of God." We felt united in a frustrated, desperate way, and yet there seemed to be a lack of words to express our hearts. I began to write a new song for our church in an attempt to give this aching a melody that we could all sing together, lifting it up to Heaven.

While this song was very much the cry of Kim's own heart, it came out of a shared experience with others in her local church. Local church communities need worship songs that release their corporate cry to God. Here are three thoughts to consider as you write worship songs from the Church, for the Church:



Church, The Church

Know Your Church Through Your Participation

For songwriters to write out of community, they will have to be in community. In the story above, Kim knew what was going on in her church because she was in the intercession meetings. Because she was connected to the life of her community, she was able to find a worship expression and vocabulary that benefited everyone.

Build Your Church With Your Pastor

It is vital that worship songwriters be in good communication with their pastor. Writers should ask questions such as "What are the upcoming teaching themes?" or "What do you sense God is doing in the life of our church?" Most importantly, spend time in prayer, searching out God's heart for the life of your church.

Serve Your Church With Your Creativity

I am all for songwriters and musicians exploring their creativity and self-expression; it is essential to the Church. However, this must not be done at the expense of serving your local church worship experience. As a worshiper, I rely on the songwriting gifts of others to unlock what is in my heart so that I can express it back to God.

The next time you are looking for worship songwriting inspiration, try looking around your church on a Sunday morning. You may be surprised by the inspiration you find.



MARC PUSCH

is the production manager for Vineyard Music Canada. He also sits on a number of committees implementing global initiatives for Vineyard Music International. Marc lives near Vancouver, on Canada's beautiful west coast, and attends the North Langley Vineyard.

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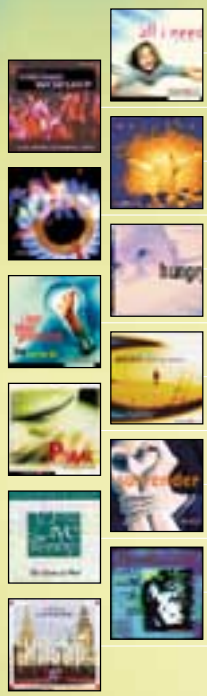


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