

**KINGS BIBLE COLLEGE
& TRAINING CENTRE**

KBCTC study breaks for worshippers
Join with the students for discussion, interaction
and creative dialogue.

EXPERIENCING THE TRINITY
6-8 December 2004

Christian worship is not primarily about 'me' or
'us', it's about God and the true God is, as the
hymn puts it, 'blessed trinity' - Father, Son and
Holy Spirit. Robin Parry, (our main speaker at
DI-DAY 04), leads this inspirational course
where lectures are interspersed with worshipful
responses to God as together we explore
different and diverse creative ways of
worshipping our wonderful creator God.

THE PSALMS
7-9 March 2005

At the very heart of the Bible is a songbook!
The psalms contain songs which express every
possible human emotion, from passionate praise
to heartfelt lament and everything else in
between. Join Simon and Gaynor Shaw in
exploring this book which is the voice of
God's people singing, reminding us of the
central role of worship in the biblical story.

Visit www.kbctc.org for more details.

WORSHIP RESOURCES

FACE DOWN

by Matt Redman



The best worship CD in
the world (probably!).
Often 'live' albums sacri-
fice something of musical
quality, but here Matt has
surrounded himself with
musicians of the highest
standard. Recorded at a

gathering of songwriters and musicians earlier in the
year, this CD captures the heartfelt passion of
praise-filled worshippers. It is Matt's conviction that
worship starts with seeing God and this theme
recurs throughout. The CD has a strong prophetic
edge fusing prayer and song together and the band
are obviously seeing and expressing something bey-
ond the songs themselves.

Not every song is congregational but all are inspira-
tional: **Nothing But The Blood** with its anthemic
chorus is an obvious congregational song borrowing
from the well known Robert Lowry hymn. Else-
where an impressive breadth of themes is covered
by songs which blend to paint a big picture of an
awesome God: **Gifted Response** explores the
mystery of the trinity; **Dancing Generation** with its
irresistible bass line explodes into exuberant joy;
Pure light expresses the wonder of God's grace;
Mission's flame looks toward the day when every
tribe, tongue and nation will gather before God in
worship and reminds us of the part we have to play
in this. A DVD of the recording is also available.

Simon Shaw



WORLD SERVICE

**WORDS FROM ZAMBIA 2004:
BACK TO BASICS** by Pauline MacKinnon

During a summer trip with the King's School Witney, fifteen of us attended church in
a local village where only Bemba, the local language, is spoken. On a beautiful, sunny,
blue-skied Sunday morning, a group of musungus (foreigners!) were seen walking
into a little village carrying a couple of guitars-quite a sight I'm sure!

Upon our arrival we met Michael, the pastor, who ushered us into the building
which doubles as a school during the week. It was small and basic – brick built, ce-
ment floor, no plaster or beautifully decorated walls, no windows, only railings and
curtains. Rickety-looking wooden benches on either side, a pulpit with a small table
in front of it, was the only furniture. No PA system and no musicians practising or
tuning up.

People began to arrive; those in the 'choir' came and sat on the
left side, always managing to squeeze a few more onto their
benches. While waiting for others to arrive, someone would start
up a song and others would simply join in; then two drummers
arrived and sat amongst the choir.



Soon the building was crammed with around 60 people and the service began. We
were all welcomed by the pastor and after taking the offering, he asked two choir
ladies to lead us in worship. The sounds which followed still bring a smile to my face
as I remember them now. One lady sang out a line and then a congregational re-
sponse followed, with various harmonies filling the air; the drums then joined in. No
acetates, no PowerPoint slides, no written music – they simply sang the songs which
were on their hearts, taking it in turn to lead us.

I closed my eyes and sensed the presence of God filling the room. My spirit lifted
and everything in me couldn't stand still; I just had to join in, even though the songs
were in an unknown language; we simply sang in tongues instead! A couple of the
women would ululate (make a strange noise with the tongue) during the songs,
which was just fantastic to hear - completely spontaneous and a very 'African' ex-
pression of worship. The room was alive with people lifting their voices and wor-
shipping God.

This was the first time I had experienced what I would call real 'African worship' –
uncomplicated, rhythmical, purely vocal and led with drums. It reminded me that
the essence of worship is about having a *heart* of worship, not about how many mu-
sicians there are in the band or the quality of what they play. I was challenged by the
simplicity of their worship and saw the need to return to basics.

Each of us has been given a voice, which can lead out, whether in our own quiet
times, or in a housegroup or church setting, whether we are named as a worship
leader or not. Singing out pure worship from our hearts to God should be some-
thing uncluttered by our specific cultures and name-labelled ministries. Each of us
has something to bring and I know that our Father wants to hear it from us. I was
able to worship freely amongst the family of God in that small village church; I knew
no one, nor the words used, but I understood the language of their hearts and am
grateful to have had the opportunity of experiencing that for myself. Now the
challenge for me is to translate that into my own worship and have it spill over into
our corporate worship.

Pauline MacKinnon originally from Edinburgh, is now based in Oxford and part of
Oxford Community Church, where she is involved in the worship team.
She loves cooking, good strong coffee and men in kilts!



di is a magazine encouraging, challenging
and helping to equip the people across the
European Salt & Light family of churches in
the creative arts. It is a FREE publication aimed
primarily involved in what may be called
the 'worship ministry' in its various
disciplines: music, song, poetry, art, dance
etc. However as God's people, worship-
ping Him is a big part of our 'corporate'
life. So if you are a 'worshipper' of God
we hope **di** will encourage you!



DIRECT INPUT is produced by the WDT:

Gary Bastin Basingstoke
Simon & Gaynor Shaw Oxford
Bill Nisbet North Berwick

The Worship Development Team is part of Salt & Light Ministries (Europe)
Registered charity number: 1071600.
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, No. 3603373.
Registered Office, The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES.
Data Protection Act: Salt & Light Ministries do not pass on your details to anyone else.



AUTUMN 2004



**THOUGHTS
ON PARTICIPATION**

by Gaynor Shaw

The crowds roared, the athletes performed to the optimum of their ability, the win-
ning country sang their national anthem with pride. There cannot be anyone involved
in the 28th Olympic Games in Athens who did not enter in fully to the spirit of the
games. There was something for everyone to give (and receive) and I wonder
whether this is the spirit of Paul's encouragement in 1 Corinthians 14 - that as we
come together, *everyone* has something to bring. In my previous article I suggested
ways in which participation can be encouraged when we come together as church. In
this second instalment I am further on the 'quest for participation', exploring a bibli-
cal basis, identifying some of the barriers and suggesting further ways in which we
can see the full functioning of Christ's body for his glory.

DEFINITIONS OF WORSHIP

We are accustomed to using the word 'worship' to refer to the musical content of
the meeting. However, I'd like to use it to refer to the *whole meeting*, from start to
finish, incorporating the following familiar elements (although I'm sure I've missed
elements too).

- Welcome/ the way in which the meeting is led
- Songs/music
- Prayer
- Communion
- Notices
- Preaching of the Word
- Reading of the Word
- Response
- Spiritual gifts
- Fellowship (before, during and after the meeting)

(NB All of these expressed 'on' and 'off' the stage)

We have somewhat compartmentalized worship over the last 2000 years - it's either
'songs' or its 'lifestyle' and everything else in between gets missed out! The impor-
tance of our singing together cannot be denied given its scriptural emphasis, or in-
deed by the fact that it unites us. Singing together is something that the vast majority
of us are able to do and it is also pleasurable for many of us. However, seeing our
worship as expressed exclusively in four songs each Sunday can devalue the impor-
tance of singing

Whenever we come together and however we focus our attention on the Godhead,
we are *joining in with something that is already happening*. As we come to offer our-
selves to God, we should remember that there is only one sacrifice acceptable, that
of Jesus Christ himself (Heb 2:11, 10:10) and that he is the only One who can lead us
into the presence of the Father by the power of the Spirit. The book of Revelation
tells us that there is singing, praise and adoration already happening, Jesus is already
praying for his Father's people (Rom 8:34) and the fellowship and communion of the
Godhead has been in existence before time began. We never have been and never
will be the originating authors of worship - we are always participating with some-
thing else and Someone else. We are always co-participants of the Father, Son and
Spirit.

continued on page 2

Yes folks, di magazine is back!

After an enforced break in production which was
beyond our control, the wheels and cogs of crea-
tivity have continued to turn and you hold in your
hand (unless you are reading this on-screen!) a
new, more compact **di** magazine, but with the
same heart and purpose-to encourage, stimulate
and provoke in the arena of worship, which like
God himself, is both vast and free. All the old
favourites are back (see quick search) and we have
added a new 'world' section. Watch out for
Pauline MacKinnon's 'words from Zambia' – inter-
esting stuff!

Headlining this issue is an edited version of Gaynor
Shaw's paper on *participation* which appeared in
condensed form in the recent summer 04 update.
We happen to think it's worthy of our attention
and that Gaynor has struck a chord (major, not
minor or diminished!) which is near to the heart of
God, namely that he calls *each one* of his people to
participate in this highest of all possible callings-
worship. Corporate worship isn't about the few,
its about the many, it isn't about the platform
team, it's about the whole church and neither is it
about polarising the old and the new-it's about
drawing from both. Have a read and ask God to
highlight to you anything he wants to highlight.

Enjoy!



Bill Nisbet
EDITOR

QUICKSEARCH

- page01 Thoughts on participation
- page02 Top ten heart tips (part one)
- page03 Lessons from a broken string
- page04 KBCTC study breaks
- page04 FACE DOWN CD review
- page04 WORLD SERVICE: Zambia





TOP TEN HEART TIPS

from Jon Bowen - part 1

#01

Be vigilant and watch over your heart; that's where life starts"

Proverbs 4:23 The Message

The feelings of the heart can be the source of whatever affects life and character and should therefore be guarded.

#02

He was their shepherd according to the integrity of his heart and guided them by the skilfulness of his hands **Psalms 78:72 NASB**

We can only stand before people with integrity because of the grace of God and the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

#03

Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong **1 Kings 3:9 NIV**

Asking for God's guidance in matters of the heart is essential to keep our walk with him (and others) on a straight path.

#04

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves **Philippians 2:1 NIV**

Imitate the humility of Jesus.

#05

Grow a wise heart -you'll do yourself a favour; keep a clear head-you'll find a good life. **Proverbs 19:8 The Message**

Nurture a wise heart-what you read watch and listen to affects your walk with God and other aspects of your life.



Watch out for part 2 of Mr Bowen's 'top heart tips' in the next edition of **di** magazine

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Check out Sovereign Grace Ministries (www.sovereigngraceministries.org) they are a 'church planting ministry' led by C.J. Mahaney, with around 57 churches in the US, Mexico, Canada, Bolivia, Ethiopia and the UK.(Formerly known as PDI-People of Destiny International). Worship isn't all 'they do' but there are some good worship songs coming from this stable, notably from Mark Altrogge of 'You are beautiful beyond description' fame (for those who can remember!).
Check this one out!

In the Old Testament, the importance of festivals is profound. At the original and subsequent Festival of Passover, every household was involved in preparation as well as the actual event (Exodus 12). The crafting, assembling and transportation of the Ark of the Covenant included the skills, gifts and abilities of many people and the building and dedication of the temple involved thousands of people. (2 Chronicles).

Throughout the New Testament Paul often says that *everyone* has something to bring to the meeting. We need to be careful not just to pin this on those who have a word or an activity that means coming up to the front but to also encourage those who are bringing themselves for service (stewards/deacons etc.) and those who have come to give to God whatever they might have.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

No matter how much we are convinced of the importance of participation, there are barriers which we need to counteract. What follows are not 'bad' things in themselves, but they can be a barrier to our participation.

The Technological Revolution and in particular the role of television

We typically spend hours watching someone else doing something instead of doing it ourselves. The popularity of reality TV shows highlights that we would rather see someone else taking a risk than us. Or perhaps we are so used to watching someone else do it, the thought of us entering in is remote. Television can evoke emotions in us, but when television isn't there, are we able to get excited, jubilant, upset or angry?

Spectator syndrome

There dwells within us a 'default' switch that says, "I'll let someone else do it" or, "I'll let someone else go first". The latter is not that far away from the former really - it is an attitude of passivity, of assuming that there will always be someone else to do it. We are resigned to the fact that we may at some time be 'pushed' or 'deep-ended' by other people who disciple us without entertaining the thought that we are also able to 'deep-end' ourselves.

Fear of making mistakes

When the people of God come together, is there room for making mistakes? Whilst we don't want our meetings to just turn into a, 'have-a-go-circus', we *do want* to give opportunity for people to grow in gifting. These grace gifts are not only given with grace, but should be exercised with grace from others.

Individuality

We are constantly assaulted by a spirit of *individualism* around us - I have indeed met those who explain their faith as a 'personal thing'. Even calling Jesus our 'personal Saviour' can distance us from believing that Jesus is as personal to anyone else. We have been joined to Christ but also to each other.

PRACTICAL WAYS TO ENCOURAGE MORE PARTICIPATION

1 Environment

In terms of the seating arrangement, the best set up is the rounded one where the seating is laid out through 180 degrees around the stage. This helps to create a sense of participation and being involved rather than large blocks of chairs arranged in a pew-like fashion which suggests you are coming to watch a performance. It may even be worth stating a maximum number of seats in a row (i.e. 10-12) and marking the floor accordingly.

Think about your layout. Does equipment make a 'barrier'? If you use a stage, do you need it at all for some meetings?

2 Fostering an expectation to participate

Emphasising the importance of community when we meet will help to re-educate us against individualism. Worship is a lifestyle, but saying this all the time misses something of the importance of the people coming together. We cannot force people to 'get a revelation' of how important participation is when we meet together and there is a danger that we can sound like a cracked record each week if we always 'encourage' participation in the same way. Taking time at the start of the meeting to be still before God and focus our attention on him, rather than expecting the first two songs to do this for us, is just one way to encourage participation. Praying together in small groups/all praying the same prayer together can serve the same purpose.

Usually, the meeting leader or worship leader gives a call to worship - are we giving a call that reminds people that it is *everyone* making a decision of the will and in our spirits to worship God and a call that makes the possibility of participation a reality for *all* the people?

3 Encouraging planned as well as spontaneous participation

It is important to see preparation and realisation as being equally important - we would not expect the preacher to get up and begin speaking without previously putting some thought into what he or she will say.

Marva Dawn, author of *Reaching out Without Dumbing Down* argues that the infrequency of testimony from among believers in a meeting actually deprives the body - the Psalmist encourages us to proclaim God's love and truth in the great assembly (Psalms 22/26/35/40 etc). Testimony not only glorifies God, and makes faith rise in believers, but it equips believers to be able to testify *outside* church meetings.

Communion is one of the most participative elements of our meetings. On a recent visit to a church in Southern France, different people in the congregation were asked to lead the time of communion and give reflections or a testimony.

We are often posed with the question, "how do we encourage our young people to participate more?" Our believing children are Spirit-filled and are able to exercise spiritual gifts (often with less complications and 'flesh' than adults!). Asking young people to read is something that they are used to in school and with a little preparation they can be drawn in to read scripture, poetry, prose and story in our meetings.

4 Singing songs focused on Jesus

It's the person of Christ who brings us together in the gathering to begin with - as Paul says, without Christ's death and resurrection everything is meaningless (1 Cor 15:12-14). We are not drawn together because we all have a common belief in a lifestyle but through relationship with a person and because we are brought into relationship again with the Father through Him, we don't want to sing "I'm gonna worship you", (future aspiration), rather we sing "I *am* worshipping you". (present reality). This is why songs such as Light of the World, ("Here I am to worship...") enable a sense of full participation. "No one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3:11).

5 Building in 'active' acts of worship

A useful question to ask is, "Is this element of the meeting 'active' or 'passive'?" In other words, does this involve people doing something (speaking, creating, tasting) or is it something that they are receiving (looking, listening, smelling)? A meeting that encourages participation will have elements of both, strategically placed at certain times. Here are some of the elements of active worship that we have used at King's Bible College and at Guest Services at OCC:

- Celebrating communion regularly
- Encouraging use of our senses in worship (food, smells, etc)
- Quizzes, games, group discussions
- Praying/ministering to each other
- Going to a nearby park to appreciate God's creation
- Car wash/BBQ in the car park
- Consistently inviting people (using different methods) to use the gifts of the Spirit
- Reading scriptures together
- Intercession - for situations outside of ourselves (1 Tim 2:1-2)
- Providing opportunities for repentance and getting right with God and others
- Creating posters advertising our cities for people to use for prayer
- Readings and response

CONCLUSION

Participation in the *ekklesia* is of vital importance because the objective of our coming together is to meet with the living God and to be transformed into the likeness of his Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. In order for this to happen, people need to engage in various forms. Above all, let's remember that we are joining in with something that is already in existence - we are always participating with the community of the Godhead.

Participation looks different in practice every time we meet and can be encouraged in a number of ways. Take time to evaluate how participation looks or where it is missing in your gatherings of God's community. Experiment, do things differently, be prepared for some things to work and for a few flops too! Foster an expectation of participation, not just in celebration meetings but in small groups too. Encourage planned as well as spontaneous elements in our meetings and include, 'active acts of worship'.

Above all, the paths of our creativity must always land at the door of giving glory and leading people towards the glory of the Father, Son and Spirit. The Olympics may be over for another four years, but the people of God are gathering in a place much nearer to you than Greece!

LESSONS FROM



A BROKEN STRING

At this year's Euronet '04 event in North Wales, I was leading worship during one of the sessions when one of my guitar strings broke. My immediate thought was *not*, 'Hallelujah, praise God for this wonderful opportunity to learn more about His providence and grace!', rather it was, 'blow, I didn't need this'.

Having quickly contemplated my options (carry on with 5 strings, carry on leading without a guitar, pray for the string to be healed.....), I decided to put the guitar down and carry on leading worship with voice and body only. In what seemed like a nano-second, a lovely Fender Telecaster appeared at my feet for my immediate use, courtesy of the sound man (Ian Chilton) who had obviously noticed my predicament.

Simultaneously, Phil Hillsdon who was alongside me on the platform, offered me his guitar (a beautiful hand made Lowden F25C that can almost play itself). I quickly took Phil up on his kind offer and we continued as was, with Phil adjusting the guitar strap as we sang. At the end of the worship time I went to my seat and enjoyed the talk. Afterwards the band were called back for a final song and lo and behold there was my guitar on its stand - complete with new string and perfectly in tune. One of the band members (Euan) had re-strung and re-tuned the instrument during the talk.

Now the above might not seem remarkable, but for me it underlines several things;

There's nothing quite like *team*.

It's great when the guy on the sound desk keeps his eyes as well as his ears open.

Serving each other is a great thing, especially in time of need.

When something breaks it's an opportunity for *kindness*.

A broken guitar string doesn't affect the presence of God - *He stays!*

Guitar strings sometimes break and it's important to have *spares* in your case or gig bag.

Bill Nisbet

WORSHIP RESOURCES

THE PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM INSTANT TUNE UP

by Doug and Tami Flather

This 143 page fully-illustrated book is an excellent resource for anyone involved in the arena of worship. Published by Zondervan (ISBN 0-310-24232-0) it is set out in a friendly conversational style with helpful diagrams and charts; it contains 5 information-packed chapters covering everything from song arrangements, chord substitutions and use of the capo through to sound checks and 'getting the best out of rehearsals'.

This book is a gem and at only \$12.99 (or sterling equivalent) is a real bargain.