

♪ Worship Notes ♪

THEME: Worldwide Worship

LESSONS FROM GLOBAL WORSHIP

(Part 1)

The Global Worship Phenomenon

A Work of God

In 1961, A. W. Tozer wrote a book in which he referred to worship as "the missing jewel of the evangelical church." He suggested that evangelicals were busy doing many good things, but neglecting the most important thing of all: the worship of Almighty God.

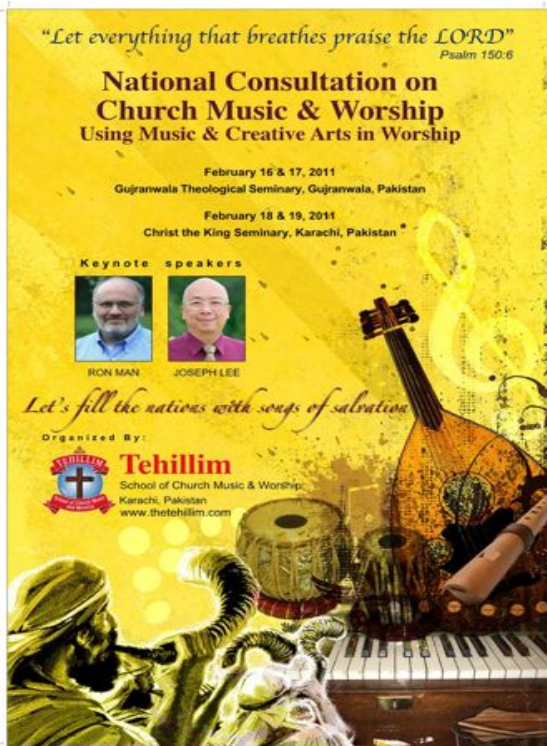
Tozer was a prophetic voice talking about worship when no one else was in the evangelical world. If he were alive today, he would certainly be amazed at how that situation has changed in the last 50 years. Today worship is a key matter of discussion in most churches. There are a plethora of books on worship, conferences and workshops on worship, worship songs and recordings, courses on worship and even worship degrees in our Bible schools and seminaries.

God appears to have been at work in our time to restore worship to its proper focus in the church of Jesus Christ. And not just in the U.S.: in the past 10 years, I have had the privilege of teaching courses and seminars on worship in 26 other countries. And of course many others are involved in such ventures as well. In just the past year alone, I have had the opportunity to take part in three events of historic scope in very different parts of the world; at each of these events some of the global breadth and depth of church music and worship have been examined, experienced, and celebrated.



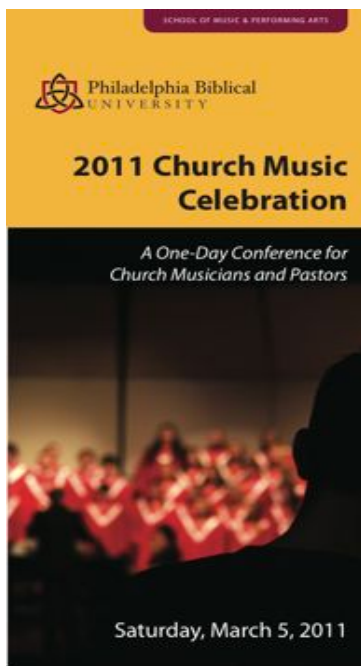
Last July, the *Global Consultation on Music in Missions* took place in Singapore. (Two similar events had been held in 2003 and 2006, but both in the U.S.). 42 countries were represented at this event, obviously with a large Asian contingent. Please see the August 2010 issue of *Worship Notes* for a report on the event; and on Youtube, you may enter the search terms "GCOMM Singapore" to find a video digest of the some of the various expressions of music and other arts experienced at this conference.

In January of this year, a similar event took place in Riga, Latvia in far northeastern Europe. This was the first event of this scope planned and carried out by Eastern Europeans themselves (though there were 5 of us from North America who came as resource speakers); and the event included church musicians and church workers from Baptist churches in six countries of the former Soviet bloc. (Baptists are the largest Protestant groups in these countries.). A report on this event may be found on my home page at www.worr.org; and on Youtube, a video digest may be found by searching for "Church Music Riga."



Then in mid-February, a "National Consultation on Church Music and Worship" was held in the nation of Pakistan. While the participants were all from Pakistan (except for myself and the other keynote speaker from Singapore), this event was notable for drawing from many Christian denominations in the country, and including church musicians, singers, songwriters, music producers, worship leaders, pastors, seminary students and faculty members. A remarkable gathering for a predominantly Muslim country! Two identical conferences in different parts of the country allowed for the participation of people from across the country. (A video compilation will be forthcoming.)

One of the most encouraging aspects common to all these events was the vision and commitment of the organizers to include a strong component of biblical teaching on worship, as foundational to the practice of worship in the varied contexts that the participants represented. (That's where I came in.)



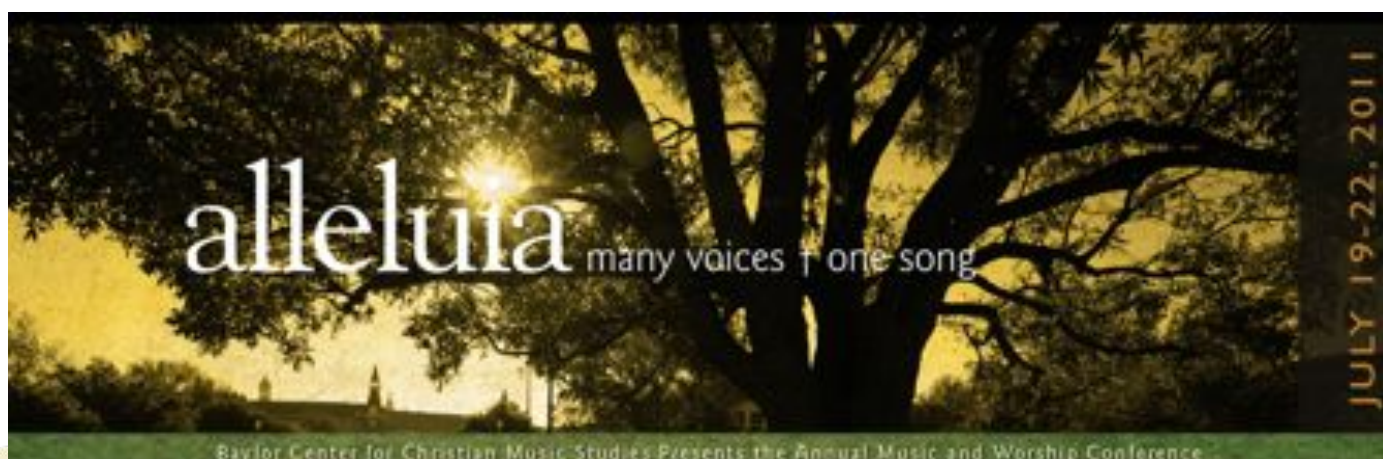
Then the first Saturday in March I completed the circle in some ways as I spoke at the *Church Music Celebration at Philadelphia Biblical University*. For my keynote address I was asked to bring some insights from my international travels and experience. So it was a joy to report in a small way about some things happening in the global church (such as described above) in the area of worship and church music, and to draw some applications to the American church. (This *Worship Notes* series is in large part a condensation of that plenary talk, entitled *Let the Peoples Praise You, O God: Lessons from Global Worship*.)

Of course, we can so easily and quickly corrupt God's good gifts, and this worship movement is no exception: worship is very much a matter of attention and discussion in today's churches—but too often a major source of disagreements, dissension, and even division. This is true in many places around the world, as well as in the U.S.; though it should be added that, where the church is undergoing severe privation or persecution, there is little attention given to the kinds of style and music debates that sap so much of our energy here—that is, sadly, largely a product of our spiritual and economic affluence.

All the more reason for teaching on the biblical foundations of worship: unchangeable and transcultural (precisely because they are biblical) principles that must undergird our worship practices, no matter what form or style those practices may take in our own local church environments. Worship must always be guided, informed and enriched by the Word of God. A work of God will always be in conformity with, and a channel for, the Word of God.

NEXT MONTH: *Lessons from Global Worship, Part 2*

UPCOMING WORSHIP EVENTS



INFO: www.baylor.edu/alleluia

UPCOMING WORSHIP EVENTS

Ethnodoxology in Christian Ministry

Ouachita Baptist University
May Term Course / Workshop
May 16-20, 2011; on campus

Undergraduate Credit through OBU
Ouachita students, or students from other colleges
for transfer credit (certain eligibility criteria apply)

Graduate Credit
through B.H. Carroll Theological Institute

Workshop Option available
Non-credit participation for conferees

[Registration information](#) regarding tuition, workshop
fees, undergrad eligibility criteria, and on-campus
housing/meal packages can be downloaded
<http://plaza.obu.edu/hewellr/EdoxRegister.pdf>



Biblical Worship

Global Mission

Kingdom Impact

EQUIPPING worship leaders,
church musicians, pastors,
church planters, missionaries, &
artists

[COURSE INFO](#)

Worship God 11 [The Gathering]

August 10-13, 2011
Covenant Life Church
Gaithersburg, Maryland

INFO: www.worshipgodconference.org

WORSHIP NOTES is a free monthly online digest of reflections, views, news and reviews concerning biblical worship. It is produced by Ron Man as a publication of **Worship Resources International**, a ministry devoted to “strengthening the body of Christ in the U.S. and around the world by promoting the priority, understanding and practice of God-centered, Christ-exalting, Biblically-based worship.” To subscribe, please go to www.worr.org and click on “Worship Notes” at the top; all back issues can be accessed there as well. There are many other free resources on the website also. You also might want to check out the worship quote blog, Quotables (worr.wordpress.com).