

While I have had many opportunities to minister, some being events while others were of a more personal nature, I wanted to give you an overview of two events that were of particular interest during the month of July.

**The Unveiled Worship Institute** at North Church in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, was conducted under the direction of Pastor Lawrence Kennedy and Worship Pastor Brian Ming. This regional institute was related to, and in connection with the International Worship Institute Board. The members of this board were all present and brought significant insight into the future of the International Worship institute. This "church-hosted" model was apparently well received by the numerous participants. While there were many powerful words delivered during the ensuing four days, I only have space and time to consider a couple.

**Glen Roachelle** (GATE Ministries) brought a challenge to worship leaders to develop a catalogue of songs that would move beyond performance or even devotional content to songs that speak of the transcendent nature of God. *When the body of Christ comes together to declare the supreme wonder, the superior nature and the incomparable attributes of God through music, this kind of song often catches the "lift" of the Spirit.*

*"Songs of corporate worship, on the other hand, will turn the attention away **from the earth toward heaven; away from humanity toward God; away from me to majesty.** Now in the beginning of this type of singing, there is a similar sound to individual worship. However, it is the praise and thanksgiving that precedes entrance to the throne room of the Ancient of Days."* Glen Roachelle

**Howard Rachinsky** (CCLI) spoke concerning what I consider to be the "theme of eternity":

"But, there is a "sound" of worship which surpasses songs... an expression from Heaven that echoes throughout all creation. Isaiah described it this way when he saw the Lord high and lifted up (Isaiah 6) – "The angels cried, '*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.*'" The created beings are able to proclaim the awesomeness of His Character – He is Holy.

However, another expression uttered on earth echoes throughout His Kingdom. John described it this way when he was "in the spirit" (Revelation 5) – "Ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands cried, '*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.*'" The redeemed ones are able to proclaim the awesomeness of His Work – He is Worthy." Howard Rachinsky (President of CCLI)

As you may know I've served as part of the faculty of the International Worship Institute for about two decades. I taught on the things closest to my own heart: The Father's Heart, Closet Worship and Corporate Worship. The classes were packed, the atmosphere was celebratory and yet deeply contemplative.

It is fascinating to observe our Lord ways of "reorienting" the mission and expression of this time-honored event.

### ***Fairview First Baptist***

After The Unveiled Conference, I traveled up to a small town in Fairview, Oklahoma and spent the next four days with my friend Pastor David Mendenhall at First Baptist Fairview. Pastor David invited me to teach for two services on Sunday and nightly, Monday thru Wednesday. He had also scheduled a local "Pastor/Worship Luncheon" on Monday and a Prayer Meeting early Wednesday morning. As well, I was afforded the opportunity to do a little Q&A with the First Baptist Worship Team. I have known these precious people for three years or more and am deeply impressed by their love, humility, growth, talent and hospitality.

Through our Lord's great kindness and the generosity of His people we continue to move forward to increase the worship of "the One who is Worthy!"

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