

## ***Europe in the Spring 2009***

I have been witness to some extraordinary sights and events as I have traveled in Europe for the past eleven days. Of course, one cannot help being reminded that these times are “economically challenging” for almost everyone, regardless of country or ethnicity. The news media fills you in on the latest, from dire to drivel, from heart-rending to the inane: earthquakes in the Pacific, the “dollar” continues to struggle, the greedy continue to be greedy, the self-absorbed continue their flagrant narcissism, the rich are less rich and the poor are, well, still poor. Enough of that...Here, my friends, is some “good news” to contemplate!

### ***Brussels Belgium***

Jeff Slaughter, director and founder of Belgium European Worship Institute, invited me to speak for this annual event. During this conference I witnessed a powerful purifying of the “Arts”, a redemptive and empowering time of extending the kingdom of God through gifts and talents. There were choreographed dance routines that seem to release joyous interaction between the Creator and his created, I heard a father and son playing “soul-stirring” music together, was taken in by the exquisite beauty of stained-glass pieces constructed by a Belgian artist and simply enjoyed the heart-warming fellowship of old and new friends as we sampled chocolates and drank excellent coffee.

The Lord challenged us to pursue excellence in our giftings simply because He is excellent and His DNA courses through our veins.

### ***Delft Holland***

Herman and Betsy Bouwhuizen have been working consistently and productively over the past ten years to extend God’s kingdom in the lives of many young people in the Netherlands, and throughout Europe.

I had the unique privilege to work with the excellent members and leadership of their local church worship team. As we taught and worshiped together, I saw young people passionately embracing what it means to be “servants” to others. They eagerly embraced the concept of relating to others in a way that produces an atmosphere where others can “Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## ***Riga, Latvia***

Viktor Isajev has produced a worship conference in Latvia, annually, for ten years. God has given him remarkable influence and favor with church leaders and worship teams across the Baltic States, Ukraine, the former Soviet Union, etc. This year's conference theme was "A Season of Changes". How appropriate! As I taught on Recognizing Seasons, Leading Worship In Small Groups and Leading Worship with Guitar, young people were energetically absorbing practical and spiritual understandings of their call to facilitate corporate gatherings where those under their care are released to carry our Lord's life-changing presence into the earth.

There were times of joy and dancing-down political, social and ethnic barriers to the expansion of God's kingdom in this part of the world.

There were potent moments of musical improvisation which gave way to the "sound of heaven invading the earth" as young musicians began to connect with the mystery and power of the "music of heaven".

## ***Good News Church***

This past Sunday I was privileged to speak at Good News Church in the Capital city of Riga. The presence of God was there in generosity and power to challenge his people to believe that he can be trusted. His theme seemed to be that "trust of the Father opens the door to aggressive faith and hope."

A charged atmosphere moved many hearts to step out and declare new found confidence that the Father can be trusted. Emotional and spiritual healing seemed to emanate throughout the congregation as they, with tear filled eyes and joy, laid hands on each other and sang spontaneous songs of encouragement. An inspiring wave of help and hope for these difficult days washed over us as we chose to believe Jesus' words: "It is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom".

Thank you for the part you have played in helping to make possible these "divine encounters". Though times are "tight" for everyone, your sacrifice and prayers have allowed us to invest in these fertile fields.

Worshiping Him,

Karry Godwin