



Dynamis World Ministries a.k.a. Christopher Alam Ministries Intl.

July 2012

What is Worship?

challenging my view on worship

As I continue with Dynamis for another crusade season, I'm realizing that while I came here to serve this ministry, I'm learning more than I ever expected. Let me take a few moments to share just one of the many experiences that are shaping my outlook while I'm serving with Dynamis World Ministries in Zimbabwe.

A few weeks ago, as my other two team members and I were driving to a youth meeting, we noticed there was no electricity in the neighborhood where we were ministering. We drove nearer the church and I sighed to myself as I observed we were approaching a dark building. I wondered if there would even be any students waiting for our arrival. I parked the car, stepped out, and there were a few young pastors and students waiting for us just outside the door. They said they were looking for a generator so we could have a light during the service. As we entered the church I was surprised to find around 70 students in the dark church, praying fervently, as only true Africans could. (I honestly never saw such praying in an American church) **I was truly surprised and touched by this scene; teenagers, young adults, and American missionaries, all gathered in a dark church praying.**

After some time, our presence was known and they began the service, yet there was still no light in the building except the glow of the full moon coming through the windows. The young pastor, leading the service, began by singing some of the traditional praise songs. Lots of dancing was accompanying the upbeat songs – I did my awkward white person sway as usual. After the upbeat songs came the slower worship songs. **As we were standing there worshipping God, I realized how different this was than what I've always known. No**

keyboard, no guitar, no amplifiers, no lights, just our voices, a hand drum, and the presence of God. I wish I could have bottled up that moment.

As the night went on and the service continued, we eventually had one small light bulb that only lit enough of the church to know that there were 100 or so youth in the room. **Even though there was barely enough light to see who was sitting next to you, the room didn't feel dark; the presence of God was there in a very unique way.** As the night concluded, the youth once again wanted to sing and dance before heading home. They began to sing a song accompanied by a drum, and then before you realized what was happening, almost every teenager in the place was dancing in a circle around the drum. **It was one of those moments that challenged my perspective on what's considered "proper" worship.**

When we think of worshiping God the first thing that usually comes to our minds are our favorite worship songs, a good worship band playing those songs, and even some cool lighting to compliment the mood of the song. Am I wrong about this? I'm not downplaying the importance of worshiping God with excellence and being culturally relevant, but is this all that God requires when we worship? Is God noting whether or not we have the best lighting or are singing the newest Hillsong United songs? Those things can be important in our culture to bring people to a place of worship, **but worship comes from a much deeper place than following along to a song on a projector screen.**

Worship is not all that we think it is. It's not having the perfect atmosphere with just the right amount of lighting – not too bright, not too dark. Worship definitely isn't playing two fast songs then two slow songs, and it isn't in the size of the band or the amount of singers. All those are extra things used as a means to express how we see God's greatness and goodness. **Worship is straight from the heart of the worshiper to the heart of God. This is the type of worship God honors.**

by Sarah Weaver

Africa Team Member, Pennsylvania, USA

An Orphans Answered Prayer

God is so wonderful and so great, and no prayer we bring before Him is too big or too small for Him. *Let me share a story with you about an answered prayer.*

On Sunday my team members and I had the great privilege of blessing orphans with new clothes. The orphanage we went to is located on a farm just outside of Kadoma, Zimbabwe. These orphans are under the care of by Awake Grace Ministries and Dynamis World Ministries. They are taken care of by two house mothers and are very much loved by them. While they are looked after and fed well, there is always great need.

These clothes were donated by a lady back home and had finally reached their destination months and months later. Before we took them to the orphanage we had to decide if all the clothes would fit the 12 orphans (8 boys and 4 girls). As we were separating the clothes by gender and size, we realized the sizes were almost exactly what they needed. We were so excited to see their faces!

As we handed out the clothes, first to the boys and then the girls, it was evident that they were shocked at how much they received. It truly touched their hearts, and even the two house mothers were constantly thanking us for blessing them.

We were there for about an hour and a half distributing clothes and visiting with them. When we were about to leave one of the house mothers asked us for a ride into town. As we were driving away from the orphanage we were asking whether or not the kids liked their new clothes (we were apparently thinking about American kids and their like or disdain for certain clothes). The mother responded that they were very happy and excited to receive new clothing. Then she said something that hit me so hard that I immediately started to tear up, "The girls told me that today God has answered their prayers."

continued on last page



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This made me think... What if the lady who arranged for these clothes to be sent would have forgone sending these clothes because it would have been too time consuming or costly? What if she would have thought, "How many children could I possibly help?" What if she put off what God had placed in her heart because of her busy schedule? She would have missed an opportunity to be used by God – to help be the answer to someone's prayer.

Sometimes the need can be so overwhelming that it stops us in our tracks. We think, "The little I can do is not enough to remedy these problems, so why do anything?" I've felt like this so many times as I've seen needs so great I couldn't fix on my own. But the thing is we are meant to be vessels through which the solution comes, not the solution itself. When we realize this, we are free to be used by God. We can actually be used by God to answer someone's prayer.

Remember we are the vessels through which God uses to bless others.

"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:16-18



Itinerary

July 29, 2012

Maranatha Ministries
Amsterdam, NETHERLANDS

August 5, 2012

Markham Woods Church
Longwood, FL, USA
Pastor Ron Johnson

August 11-12, 2012

Worship Center
Lancaster, PA, USA
Pastor Sam Smucker

August 14, 2012

RMAI Retreat
Lancaster, PA, USA

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