



Leading Strong Worship Teams

RETURN Conference, Breakout Session

Brenton and Cara Dowdy

Session 2: Prophetic Musicianship

I. Training and Growth

a. Encourage Lessons!

- i. Worship ministry has unfortunately been an easy place to stagnate musically.
 1. If you want a strong team encouraging your people to keep challenging themselves is vital.
 2. Be ready to communicate why it matters that they grow.
- ii. The internet has made lessons and personal training more accessible than it's ever been. Challenge the ones you lead to take action on improving themselves.
 1. Tone? Pitch? Creativity? Fundamentals? Scales?
 2. Ask them where they want to be better and become their cheerleader for pursuing it.

b. Some creative ways to grow:

i. Singers

1. Challenge your singers to hear and sing different parts. A singer who can pick out multiple parts is an incredible asset to a team.
2. Practice with recorded music to find parts they wouldn't normally gravitate to.



ii. Musicians

1. Challenge your musicians to pay attention to the parts they hear. If they hear something in a recording they enjoy, tell them to find out why! Listen critically to music you love and find ways to use the tools you enjoy.
2. Require them to actually learn the parts of the recordings of songs you do. It's great to be creative and unique, but always start with learning from the recording. It will make them better listeners and broaden their abilities.
3. These may seem obvious, but so many don't do these things.

c. Give timely and honest feedback.

- i. Feedback is extremely important and it really matters to people.
 1. When people never know what you think at all, it leaves room for the voice of the accuser to wreak havoc on people's minds.
 2. For that reason encouragement and confrontation go hand in hand and are vital to a healthy team.
- ii. Feedback works best if you have a history of positive relational equity stored up.
 1. It's not a formula of 3 positive comments to every 1 negative, but encouragement should always outweigh correction.
 2. Make it a habit to be building others up. Then when you have constructive feedback or that moment of conflict, you can safely bring it up and it will be received in a spirit of love and friendship.

II. Prophetic Reach

- a. What does it mean to be prophetic in worship?
 - i. Spontaneous ≠ Prophetic



1. The spontaneous and the prophetic both have a place in worship music, but they are not the same thing.
 2. They can (and often) happen at the same time, but they are two individual concepts.
- ii. Reaching in the in prophetic means listening to what God is saying and declaring or responding to what he says. This listening should be happening in the moment AND in advance.
- b. How do we reach for it?
- i. Singers and musicians should press in for prophetic revelation off the stage.
 1. They should be listening and asking the Lord what He might want them to share at a given service in the morning while they're getting ready or the week before while they're journaling.
 2. Listen for scriptures and write down what you hear.
 3. Then look for places to apply what they have received by revelation.
 - a. It could be something to share during soundcheck or pre-service prayer.
 - b. It could be something they should share with leadership.
 - c. Could be something they should share with someone in the room.
 - d. Some of it, of course, will be for the stage.
 - ii. On the stage singers and musicians alike need to pay attention for the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
 1. They should pay attention to words, emotions, pictures, and thoughts that the Lord might highlight in the moment.



2. They should keep anything God gave them in advance in front of them on stage and wait with a spirit of leaning for the Holy Spirit's nudge at an appropriate moment.
 3. They could sing those things, pray them, and PLAY them to change the atmosphere.
 - iii. Challenge your team to always connect their revelation back to scripture.
 1. This is a very important boundary they helps keep things in a healthy place.
 2. Teach them to start with scripture as often as they can.
 3. This will grow them in the word as well as give confidence that what they are contributing is from God.
 - c. How do we apply it to our worship service?
 - i. Each local expression is going to handle the spontaneous and the prophetic different ways.
 1. What if you can't be spontaneous in service?
 2. What if your community is uncomfortable with charismatic language?
 - ii. Keep track of questions like this so we can engage them in our discussions and future breakout sessions.
 - d. See you at the conference!