



"Helping ignite culturally relevant heart worship, especially in places where Christ-followers are restricted, persecuted or unknown."

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HSI Journeys to Myanmar and Tuva

Myanmar

In the midst of the recovery efforts from the recent cyclone that devastated Myanmar, a team of five led by HSI co-founder Frank Fortunato went to the capital city of Yangon. The team included music teachers and recording engineers. They were invited to teach music courses at the Grace Music Institute (GMI), set up a recording studio and prepare a recording of new songs composed by the faculty and students. GMI is the only evangelical music school preparing worship leaders for the churches of Myanmar. HSI donated a significant amount of electronic gear to the studio including a digital recorder, mics, cabling and many other accessories.



To prepare for the HSI visit, GMI renovated a flat into a four-room recording facility and purchased a state-of-the-art computer for the studio, loaded with the latest recording software. This helped facilitate the recording process as one of the recording engineers was a university student who used the same software programs.

Plans are in discussion for a return visit. Trans World Radio has contacted HSI to do a songwriting and recording trip with one of Myanmar's tribal groups, the Mon People.

Siberia

HSI's first trip to the Siberian republic of Tuva was an enormous success, sparking the creation of new songs and a new passion to use indigenous instruments in worship and witness in the churches there. Bill and Robin Harris, HSI team leaders, received invitations from several mission groups – InterAct Ministries, Pioneers, and Gospel Recordings Network – asking that HSI partner with them in outreach to the minority peoples of Southern Siberia.





This HSI team consisted of eight people, including musicians, ethnomusicologists, worship leaders, and video/audio specialists. The trip lasted for three weeks, giving the group time to encourage people from seven churches in Tuva and Khakassia.

The HSI team recorded 10 original Tuvan songs, including some of the first Tuvan Christian songs ever recorded in the national "throat singing style" for which Tuva is so famous. The director of the Tuvan

mission there is planning a follow-up event for August 2009 – a New Song Festival and Conference for churches in Southern Siberia. Bill and Robin were delighted to encourage this Christian leader and others in their vision for seeing culturally-appropriate, biblically faithful churches develop in Siberia.

Thank you for your prayers for God's work in Myanmar and Tuva!

Frank Fortunato
HSI Coordinator

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