



Bill Harris (US)

Subject: HeartBeats July 2009



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

**HeartBeats**

July 2009

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## HSI Leads Music Workshop in India

Hyderabad, India



One of the important aspects of Heart Sounds International is teaching on the transcultural biblical aspects of worship. Last month, HSI coordinator Frank Fortunato, along with worship teacher Ron Man flew to Hyderabad, India for a week of intensive worship teaching at the OM India headquarters. Ron covered biblical worship as well as the role of the Trinity in worship. Frank added historical and practical aspects of worship and led sessions of worship, demonstrating various aspects of the teaching.

Attending the course were hand-chosen delegates from the Good Shepherd Community Churches, a movement that now has 2,500 churches spread across nine regions of India. The GSCCs were started by OM and the movement comprises many thousands of Dalits who are not often welcome in higher caste churches. Most of these pastors and musicians are first-generation believers and have had little opportunity to study biblical worship.



Also on the teaching team was Amy Rasmussen, an ethnomusicology grad student from Liberty University. Amy taught a music rudiments course as well as a mini-songwriting workshop. Amy is working in India doing thesis research on the worship needs of the GSCC churches.

One immediate result of the course was the decision to add a worship curriculum to the ongoing seminary training for the GSCC movement; all pastors are required to have two study leaves annually over three years that lead to the seminary degree.





This teaching component in HSI has gained momentum over the last couple of years. We are finding opportunities to inspire seminaries and churches in the USA to engage in multi-ethnic expressions of worship that will be a means of building bridges to the various ethnicities in communities of urban America. Results have already been far reaching, with a weeklong course taught at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and weekend courses taught at large churches in Dallas, Washington DC and Minneapolis.



We are delighted to see worship being raised up to God that is both biblical and grounded in the local culture. May God be more fully praised by such worshipers!

Warmly yours,

Frank Fortunato

Heart Sounds International Coordinator

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