

**Music and Technical Production  
Breakout Session  
UNLEASH 2008  
Lee McDerment – Worship Leader  
Joel Yates – Technical Director**

*\*Lee gave a few key points of information he feels has been vital to himself as a worship leader and can be a huge help to you as well.*

**What do I need to do to have the Right kind of Heart?**

- 1) It is extremely important to be biblically knowledgeable and to know the bible IN and OUT. People, whether you know it or not, receive the words from a worship leader even more than a pastor sometimes because during worship, their hearts are open more and are very susceptible to not only truth, but lies.
- 2) It is our responsibility to know the bible so that the Holy Word is coming out of our mouths instead of just the words from our own minds.
- 3) Mentorship. We all need to be mentored, no matter what age we are! We need to have someone we look up to, to pour into our lives so we can not only gain wisdom from them, but even have a source of accountability through our time with them. Someone we can be an “open book” to.
  - The influence we hold is bigger than we can imagine. There is so much that can be lost; therefore, we need accountability.

**What do I need to do to Improve my Craft?**

- 1) Go to Rock concerts! Concerts are an amazing way to see exactly the level WE need to strive for in production, creativity and music. We have so much in the world ahead of us and getting people’s attention. We have something MORE to celebrate and the church is way too behind. Go to concerts you wouldn’t even like. That is where you will find things you wouldn’t have, had you not gotten outside your box.
- 2) Honing your craft! Our skills never need to come to a stand-still. We should always be growing on a continual basis. This includes practicing your instrument as much as possible (not just on practice nights and Sundays) and may even include vocal training, guitar lessons, etc. We must take money, even if it is out of our OWN budgets to set aside for this. It is so vital and the money spent, will show to be more than worth it.

**What do I need to know about Working Under Authority?**

- 1) Dealing with your pastor or leadership we all know, isn’t always easy and can often even be a challenge. First and foremost, it’s about not holding pride within ourselves, our set lists, or our ideas. Every time Perry has made a song suggestion and it was a song I hated and did NOT want to do, our

people have always responded to it well-proving that the person God has placed in leadership hears from the Lord and can be trusted. When we look at Perry and know the strength in his heart, the biblical knowledge he holds, and his relationship with the Lord we KNOW that we can trust him. If you disagree, which will happen at times, you still need to stand behind him 100%. The Devil is our enemy; you and your pastor are on the same time.

- 2) Remember, that songs are just TOOLS. God has given us the anointing in Worship and through that, God's work WILL be done whether your song or someone else's song got sang. People in your congregation will remember the connection that was made in worship more than they will the song.

### **What do I need to know about Managing a Band?**

- 1) First and foremost=DO WHAT YOU CAN DO WELL, WHEN YOU CAN DO IT and STICK TO THAT. You don't always have to have a full band! Excellence is without a doubt, what we strive for here and if you can't reach that because you are lacking a bass player and a drummer or whatever your situation may be, then do an acoustic set or work with making what you have to be at it's maximum. From time to time, we do this, and the people love it. You have no idea how great it can be when you make things simple and change things up a bit.
- 2) We pay our players. Why? Because every musician needs constant up-keep on gear AND it is biblical to pay them! They are providing a service that sometimes demands lots of time each week and it is the right thing to do to bless them for that. Even if you can only afford to pay them a small amount, do it. They will certainly appreciate even just gas money!
- 3) We have a rotation set for the band. This helps in keeping members refreshed and to keep change in the course of things.
- 4) We use [theplanningcenteronline.com](http://theplanningcenteronline.com) for our resource to keep the band up on all set lists and line ups and try to keep things planned out about 6 weeks in advance-this does change and when really busy times come, it can be as small of notice as one week. On top of that, we keep a constant connection with everyone through weekly emails whether about music, schedules, etc. or even just for keeping in touch with them to offer encouragement in their spiritual lives.
- 5) We are, thankfully, so blessed with our musicians and rarely, by God's grace, have a lot of problems, but if you are dealing with a musician with a bad attitude and it is causing stress on you or anyone else, it is better to not use them. It doesn't matter how good you think they are - it's better to go without them, even it means doing an acoustic week or having to change everything, than to keep them on and affect the heart of worship.
- 6) Every band member must be at the Monday Night rehearsals in order to play on Sunday. We have this in place because we strive for excellence, and also, for Joel who records our rehearsals, so he can later mix.

Everything has to be the same from rehearsal to make this as accurate as possible.

- 7) Relaying that preparation BEFORE rehearsal is key. We do not get Together to learn the material at practice. We expect it to be ready beforehand. Most of our guys learn it probably the night before, and as long as they know it when they come in, I don't care!
- 8) In working with your sound guy, who is certainly important in the Sunday Planning, we make sure that by noon on Monday, Joel has all the information for the line list, given to him so he can have everything prepared and set up correctly for rehearsal.

*\*Joel spoke on some information he wanted to share for technical staff and offered some advice.*

- 1) Technical Staff play a HUGE part in the church! Something goes wrong with a mic or stage prop, etc, who gets blamed? The techies! They work really hard-more than you probably realize. The sound guy, the stage designers, the media team, the lighting guy-they all control everything and aren't seen. They hold more weight than you realize too. "It's the technical staff's responsibility to hold up the pastor and worship leaders arms through keeping everything together and handling the details from beginning to end so that they don't have to even think about them."
- 2) Put people around you that know what you don't. We obviously don't all know everything, so surrounding yourselves with people who know what you don't will only benefit you and cause you to expand and learn more.
- 3) Set design/ Running sound- Most churches do not have the technical strengths that you might be wanting for building sets. You can start out small and build a set on a good price by thinking through it well and using your creativity. Going to concerts and rock shows will benefit you because the ideas you will leave with for a set after that will be killer! Going to meet sound guys and the techies working big shows like that, will be huge for your gain in knowledge. Most of those guys are great about letting you hang by their side to learn from them. That is exactly what I have done and where most of my knowledge and ability for running sound has come from.
- 4) Everything you hear and see is your area! Everyone needs to have this attitude and be sure to stand behind the vision of your church at 110%.
- 5) INVEST IN TECHNICAL STAFF! The money you spend will be more than worth it and not only come back to you, but help in the next steps of growth.

\*QandA:

- 1) How far in advance do you know sets?

- Right now we have sermon topics planned through June. Music sets flex to sometimes a month in advance with the goal of 6 weeks. When things get busy, as they have been the past few weeks here, it can get down to a week in advance. There may be changes to a set even after it has been set in stone, however, once the Monday rehearsal, we make NO changes.
- 2) What is your rehearsal schedule?
- Monday nights @ 6:30. We start out with prayer, then we do a line check for Joel. Then, we sing halfway through a song to get our ears checked and set to what we need. Once that's in place, we then go through the set, starting with the most familiar song to get warmed up on and then after each song has been rehearsed, Joel records each through the board for mixing purposes. He will then mix sometime throughout the week.
- 4) What is the mix on the internet?
- Live. It's a board mix straight to a DVD burner. However, this can't be done if the PA does not sound right OR if your sound guy isn't savvy enough to do this.
- 5) Is there a major advantage to going digital with sound board?
- ABSOLUTELY. Especially the bigger your band/group gets.
  - I would suggest the NC7- these range in price from 14,000 to 18,000 to 23,000.
- 6) How do you plan 3 separate guitar parts?
- Usually, we would let them know ahead of time what parts we want Each player to do, according to their strengths and abilities. Before the planning center, we may have asked them to be familiar with any part, but with that, now, we actually schedule out lead and rhythm.
- 7) Do you plan music to reach the younger/older generation and racially cultural? If so, how?
- Honestly, again, we do what we are strong at. We don't hit songs that are out of our style or reach. However, we do mix a lot of Hymns with newer songs to create a balance and bring in different crowds/ages in different tunes.
- 8) Do you change songs that are done more repetitiously?
- Yes. We definitely add and subtract things to songs to make them sound different/better once they've been done many times before. We even sometimes do that with newer songs. (Instrumentation for older music may be changed to make them more current.)

- 9) How do you feel about dead space?
- We feel that every moment should be planned and have a purpose. Unless it is announced as a moment to be “quiet before the Lord” and is done on purpose, it doesn’t need to happen. Dead space can be way to distracting (however, it can happen unexpectedly, from time to time).
- 10) Who leads music rehearsals? Do you have a musical director?
- Both Lee and Justin have the capability to lead rehearsals and Do. There are times when Lee is playing guitar and Justin is leading, or Lee is leading and Justin is singing. That is split up depending on the plans and the week.
- 11) Do you have Sunday Morning run throughs?
- Yes! We actually show up around 6:30/6:45 to eat breakfast (that is provided by this really wonderful lady who cooks for us) and then we do a practice at 7am. Following that, we have a devotion lead by whoever is leading that day and then do a full run-through of the service at 8am. We also do a run-through at 4pm before the afternoon services due to having new media people running things.
- 12) Do you hold auditions?
- Yes. Last year, they were held in October and probably will again, this year. We also accept demos on a regular basis.
- 13) Do you use back-up vocalists?
- Yes. We have a list of people we use for back-up. We try to stick with the basics of what is needed because sometimes, less is really more. Right now, if you turn your radio on, the 8 member praise team isn’t what is really in right now and we try to stick with what is most recent in music.
- 14) Are the lighting guys, media team, etc. a part of the rehearsals?
- NO. A full production with cameras and the whole 9 yards is done on Sunday morning. The rehearsal is meant for putting all of the ideas and plans together. The creative arts assistant and lighting guy are there for doing production notes and getting ideas together for Sunday.
- 15) How do you deal with complaints regarding mix, volume, etc?
- It comes down to this-you are only answerable to your authority. It is leadership’s opinion that matters- no one else!

- 16) How do you deal with conflict in the band?
- The band is not necessarily the people called to be here like, Lee, Justin and RoseAngela. If we come to a problem then we are honest with them about it. If they need to not be used anymore, then we won't. You should never get to a point where you rely on a band member when it's someone hurting the attitude of the ministry.
- 17) How does the relationship flow between worship leaders and sound guy?
- Honestly, great. We work hand in hand through a lot of things in each week. There has to be a trust there. Lee trusts Joel because of Joel's ability and ear and Joel trusts Lee because of his musicianship. It's all about working on an even plain as they both - - along with Justin (worship leader) and Roseangela (worship leader) and any staff Joel has - work under the creative arts department.
- 18) Do you have any standards or requirements for musicians and leaders?  
Do you require training in sound or leaders before hiring?
- We believe in these 3 things= Character, Competency and Chemistry. Competency is honestly, the least important because if the talent is there, everything else can be learned. As far as, your band, you have to know them well so you can be able to go to them to address issues as they arise. We DO want Christians on stage because every person whether with an instrument or at the front is leading worship.
- 19) How do you feel about using non-Christians to play in the band?
- That doesn't necessarily work for us, but if it works for you, then that's fine. We do think it's a good way to minister to someone, absolutely, but personally would not do that on a regular basis.
- 20) Do you invite or allow outside artists to use NewSpring as venue?
- Typically, no. It's very complicated and can even be stressful to bring in whole other crew for a concert here. We run such a full schedule here during the week anyway, we wouldn't always have time for it.
- 21) How much instrumentation is compressed? Drums?
- Drums, no. It has gates. Acoustic, bass and vocals are the only things compressed. Joel has learned how people play and knows how to control the sound.
- 22) If you could either upgrade from wedges to ears or your front house console, which would you do?
- EARS. You do not understand how much of a difference ears will make for your band.

23) How do you compromise sound in a smaller setting?

- We have home-made isolation boxes that are kept backstage. It is best to run amps hot and have them hidden away so that players can have the right tone. Tone is massively important and can even help your players worship better when they know they are putting forth the right sound.

24) Do you use clicks and loops?

- Yes. We almost always use a click, unless it's a more felt song. Sometimes, they are both used together. We use pro tools on Mac M. Audio for clicks and create loops through Reason.

25) Are your lights synced with loops?

- No, they are not. That is done separately. We rarely use loops really because it takes a lot of time to do them. However, Daniel Harper, the Worship Leader in the Student ministries, spends a lot of time on loops and uses them quite often for the youth!

26) What is the youth bands schedule?

- It actually mirrors ours. They do the things the same way we do and are mostly set up the same way. They rehearse on Tuesday afternoons and then do run through before Wednesday night service. Jared, Joel's assistant sound man, runs sound for the youth and also records for mixing purposes.

27) How do you handle copyright issues?

- Every church, no matter what size, needs a CCLI license. We are also involved with ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC, which are other music licensors. Having a CCLI will also allow you to be able to put lyrics on your screens! The price also depends on your church size. The smaller, the least expensive and the bigger, the more expensive. Mediashout is the Program we use for putting lyrics on screens.

## LIST OF GEAR

Speakers					
	18 I-Acoustics dV-DOSC tops				
	6 I-Acoustics dV Subs				
	8 I-Acoustics SB218 Subs				
	8 I-Acoustics 108 XT Front Fill Speakers				
	2 I-Acoustics 112 XT Outfill Speakers				
Consoles					
	FOH-Digidesign Venue with D-Show control surface				
	Monitors-Dididesign Venue with D-Show control surface				
	*FOH also has a Pro Tools HD card installed with Pro Tools HD2				
Microphones					
	Handhelds And Headsets				
	6 Dual-Channel Sennheiser EM550G2 Wireless Recievers w/ 835 and				
	865 Capsules on Handhelds				
	2 Shure ULX-P Wireless Recievers w/ Beta 87 Handhelds				
	Countryman E6 Headworn Microphones				
	Sennheiser 935 Handheld Wired Microphones				
	Drum Mics				
	Kick- Sennheiser 901 and Audix D-6				
	Snare- Shure SM57 top and bottom				
	High Hat- Shure SM81				
	Toms- Sennheiser 904				
	Overheads- Shure KSM27				
	Ride- Shure SM81				
	Guitar Mics				
	Sennheiser 906				

	Shure KSM32				
Amplification					
	16 lab.gruppen LA48 amplifiers				
System Processing					
	XTA DP324 [SiDD] Digital Dynamics				
	2- XTA DP448 4-In 8-Out Audio Management				
Direct Boxes					
	Avalon U5 for Bass				
	Radial, Groove Tubes and Quantum for everything else				
Other Accessories					
	Buttkicker BK-Concert Low-End Enhancement Module				