

July 12, 2018



The New City Network News, July, 2018

While at the New City Cross-Cultural Music and Worship Conference one African American brother said to me, "I was hired two years ago to help lead music at a white PCA church." (That church is seeking to change and grow in diversity). He said, "Last year I went to LDR and now I am here at this conference and I realize there is a place for me in the PCA." Comments like this make my heart glad, and they give me assurance that some of the things we are doing are paying off, and they give me hope to keep going.

The Worship Conference, held at St Paul's Atlanta PC, was excellent, with some very good speakers and lots of joyful worship and learning about worship. As the Coordinator of the Network it is so encouraging to see various member congregations send their musicians and people to experience this time of fellowship, training, and encouragement. It is the process of "networking" actually taking place right before our eyes, and again I am assured that our work is effective, and that our people really do need these experiences.

Thanks to all of the pastors and leaders who have sent their worship directors, musicians, and praise and choir team members to soak up some of this good teaching. Hopefully they will bring some new songs back home to bless your church.

(Photos: right, host Pastor Tolivar Wills. Below left, praise team from Redemption Fellowship, Fayetteville, GA. Below right, lunchtime conversations during conference)





One of the aspects, or marks, of New City type churches is “joyful worship.” That is a direct contribution from the historic Black Church experience. That experience is known for suffering and endurance through oppression. How does joy come out of it? My answer would be “grace.” It is reminiscent of what Paul speaks about concerning the Macedonian churches, “We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.” (2 Corinthians 8:1-2). I would suggest this verse does not make logical or mathematical sense. How does affliction + poverty = joy + generosity? Only through grace is it possible. When God shows grace to a suffering people joy is the emotional response. There may be lots of lamentation in the trials but there is joy in the hope, joy in the rescue, and joy in His presence. Christianity is not merely knowledge in the midst of suffering, but faith, hope, and joy. Worship is where we get to demonstrate that joy.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Pray for the right people to come on our Network cruise this year (see event below), that the Lord will put together the best combination of people for mutual encouragement and growth.
2. Pray that the Lord will provide scholarships for some couples to come this year.
3. Pray that our visits around the country, and maybe outside of it this year, will be to just the right places, at just the right time, to do just the right work. We need wisdom to get it right.
4. Pray for additional long term major supporters. We are grateful for those who made three year commitments, please thank God with us for them, but some of those are coming to an end this year.

Upcoming Events:

LDR Weekend, 2018 is happening August 31- September 2, 2018 in St Louis, MO. For more information or to Register [click here](#).

CCDA National Conference: ROOTED will be held in Chicago, IL November 1-3, 2018. [Click here](#) for more information.

The Gospel and Our Cities: Chicago 2018, register at thegospelandourcities.org. October 18-20 at historic Moody Church in Chicago.

The Network Leadership Summit November 26-30, 2018 contact: Ferris Bland: fbland@vacationstogo.com. Office hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-7pm (central time) US and Canada: 1-800-5149986, ext. 7020

Sincerely,
Randy and Joan Nabors
Urban and Mercy Ministries

To send donations by mail make checks out to Mission to North America with the New City Network or Nabors in the memo line and send it to the PO Box below.

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