

PRESS RELEASE – IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 19 MAY 2008

SPRING HARVEST WORSHIP MASTERCLASS A REAL SUCCESS

Sensing a real need to take a deeper look at the importance of worship to the life of a local church, Spring Harvest 2008 launched the very first Worship Masterclass stream which took place during Skegness Week 2. Bringing together 350 worshippers and featuring morning plenary sessions led by Dave Bilbrough, Chris Bowater, Ben Cantelon and Sue Rinaldi, afternoon seminars with experts and instrument masterclasses, this new teaching stream was a welcome resource to many who had come in need of re-visioning and equipping.

One Masterclass Guest commented, “I was attending with most of the worship team from church and it has opened up many areas of discussion in terms of dynamics and also the time we commit to our gift. It has been, and will be, quite literally life-changing for us!”

Led by the planning team, the morning plenary sessions covered topics including Theology of Worship, Character and Heart of a Worshipper, Transformative Worship, and Linking Past and Present with Future Trends. “I have found the format of the sessions most helpful – sincere, practical advice and personal, sometimes vulnerable, examples” one Guest explained. Another was inspired by the teaching given during a session, “thank you for emphasising how a worship leader is a Levite – the carrier of the presence of God”.

The afternoon seminar topics included Worship Service Goals and Purpose, Application – Interactive Forum, Building Team and Service, Application – Personal Worship Expressions, Worship and Mission, and Discovering our Distinctive Flavour. The afternoons also offered Instrument Masterclasses including Vocals and Choirs, Keys, Loops and Digital, Bass and Drums, and Electric and Rhythm Guitar. Each Masterclass was lead by an experienced specialist - “the musicality of the team was outstanding and the instruction was extremely kind, compassionate and sensitive” remarked one Masterclass Guest.

Chris Bowater reflected upon the week saying “from the outset, there was a commitment and desire to learn, be expanded and stretched, challenged and be inspired that, quite frankly, brought the best out of the teaching team. The wealth of experience, knowledge, passion and vulnerability of the team was in itself an inspiration and a model of how team can truly function”. Chris Bowater adds, 'This has been in all the years of conference style teaching and ministry, amongst the most memorable experience of 'team-craft' where the absence of inflated ego, a united desire to enrich and build the church, as well as a simple and genuine joy in sharing our lives and gifts in the service of Jesus, was manifestly evident.'

Every year, Spring Harvest is dedicated to delivering not only powerful worship but inspired and applicable Biblical teaching. The teaching programme takes over 18 months to develop and incorporates input from a vast array of speakers, teachers and theologians.

Spring Harvest 2009 will embark upon the theme of *Apprentice – walking in the way of Christ*. Jesus' first followers were real apprentices, learning from him through observation, imitation, trial and error and the formation of habits and skills. An apprentice learns from their teacher, not from a textbook alone, but through getting it wrong, misunderstanding, debate and, of course, success.

Attracting over 45,000 Christians from all denominations, Spring Harvest's Main Event is held at Butlins Resort in Minehead and Skegness every Easter. The event invites Guests to experience a comprehensive adult, youth and children's programme of Bible teaching, worship, workshops and seminars. There are also many Butlins leisure facilities at the Resort and a late night Big Night Out programme offering comedy, drama, worship, chat shows and the best of the UK's bands.

Booking lines, **0870 190 0192**, will open for Minehead on 11 June 2008 and for Skegness on 18 June 2008 at 8.00am. For a more information, visit **www.springharvest.org** or call Customer Services on 01825 769000.

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