

ELEVATE EUROPE

THE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER OF
JEFF & KATHY SLAUGHTER

Dear Friends,

The year 2020 is definitely one for the history books. No one saw it coming, but everyone wants to see it go!

During this unconventional year we developed unconventional strategies to continue our ministry. Thanks to the internet, Facebook and Zoom we moved forward with virtual group meetings, virtual conferences and even virtual worship leading.

Through these virtual ministry activities, we trained or worked with leaders in Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Sweden, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Bulgaria, Morocco, The Philippines, Panama and even the USA!

In this, our end-of-year newsletter, we'd like to share some of what God has done through our ministry this year.

On this page, we feature testimonies from three members of The Worship Leader's Mastermind.

On the inside, we'll look back at what God has done through our ministry in 2020. While it wasn't the year we envisioned, it was more than we could have imagined when the reality of COVID-19 hit us in March.

And on the back page, we'll take a hopeful look at what 2021 might look like.

Thank you for praying with us and standing with us financially this year. While we've seen God move this year (as evidenced by the testimonies), we believe the best is yet to come!

With a heart for the nations,

Jeff and Kathy Slaughter

TESTIMONIES



"I am really thankful for the Worship Leader's Mastermind initiative. I like the fact that we can meet people from different parts of Europe and beyond on a regular basis and get different perspectives on worship ministry, share experiences, concerns, and help each other. Each session has been so inspiring and enriching."

Antonella Constanza
Worship pastor of Brussels Christian Center

"The Worship Leader's Mastermind provides an invaluable experience that includes high quality mentors who deposit rich wisdom and practical advice in a highly relational and interactive forum. As a pastor of more than 10 years and worship leader for more than 20 years—I am able to glean from the high quality leaders who share and participate."

Joel VanBriggle
Pastor of Redefined Church, Tervuren, Belgium



"God created community and made it very clear how important it is. The Worship Leader's Mastermind has been that for me, a new community, where I found an avenue to share and learn. It has been very interesting to meet people from so many different countries, who face the same struggles, have the same kind of questions, and have been through similar experiences. It's been an enriching experience!"

Mariana Luz
The Bridge International Church, Paris, France

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OUR 2020 MINISTRY JOURNAL

NOT THE YEAR WE ENVISIONED,
BUT MORE THAN WE IMAGINED!

CONVERGE AMSTERDAM



Even though ConVerge Milan had just been canceled, I traveled to Europe in February as plans for events in Amsterdam, Paris, Spain and Morocco were still on. We had a wonderful ConVerge training event in Amsterdam, but by Wednesday of the following week, our events in Paris, Spain and Morocco were cancelled due to the rapidly-spreading virus.

So, ConVerge Amsterdam holds the unique distinction as the European Worship Institute's only in-person training event of 2020! I returned to the USA one day before the international travel ban and just as much of Europe went into a strict two-month lockdown.

THE BELGIUM BLESSING



In May, I (Jeff) was invited to sing on the 'The Blessing Belgium' video recording.

You may have seen this song on YouTube or Facebook as it swept across the world in March. It was a song for 'such a time as this' and was recorded virtually in dozens of countries, languages and versions across the world as nations grappled with the virus.

The Belgian project involved more than 100 singers recording in the three national languages of French, Flemish and German. It was released July 21, Belgium's national independence day.

WORSHIP LEADER'S MASTERMIND

Naively, I was planning to return to Europe in the summer for Immerse 2020 and iYouth Camp. But as the long-term effects of the virus became more evident - with masks, social distancing, lockdowns and quarantines - it was clear that the virus wasn't going away anytime soon.

I began to hear thought leaders turn the negative into a positive by asking the question, 'what does this make possible'? Much of Europe was in lockdown or enduring public meeting restrictions and people were struggling with isolation.



That's when God led us to start the Worship Leader's Mastermind. We started in June with leaders from Belgium, France, Sweden, Italy and Spain. Leaders from The Netherlands and The Czech Republic joined along the way. We're still meeting each month, encouraging one another, learning together and praying for one another. It's been an amazing experience. (See testimonies from group members on page one.)

KOINONIA WORSHIP PIANO

I also launched a virtual worship piano class. We met weekly for a couple of months via zoom, and with my phone dangling over a keyboard in my home office, I taught various worship piano concepts and gave tips to help students grow in their skills.



IMMERSE 2020



As the virus spread in the USA, European governments banned Americans from traveling to the continent. It became obvious that my summer events were not going to happen in person. So I began meeting with my Immerse team and discussing the idea of holding the event on zoom.

We moved forward with the idea and were thankful that 54 'campers' from Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Romania, The United Kingdom, Morocco, The Phillipines and the USA attended the three-evening event.

CONVERGE VIRTUAL SPANISH

Taking a cue from the success of Immerse 2020, we planned our next virtual event for the fall. In November, we held a Spanish-language ConVerge, attended by 35 participants from Spain, Italy, Panama and the USA.



FEIC VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Every year I serve on the admin team for Summit of the Fellowship of European International Churches. Traditionally held during 'Week #42', we kept to our usual date but held the event virtually with pastors attending from churches throughout Europe.

Like the other virtual events we organized, it wasn't the same as being there - but it was much better than doing nothing! We were thankful for the online worship, encouraging messages and breakout sessions.



VIRTUAL WORSHIP LEADING



As churches went into lockdown in March, some needed help with recording a few worship songs for their online services. I served Brussels Christian Center with a virtual worship session, and served International Christian Fellowship in Padova, Italy with multiple worship sessions.

In addition, I've been serving Life Church Lisbon in Portugal with weekly worship sessions for their online service recording. Although I served them some over the summer, I've been consistently serving as their 'virtual worship leader' since September.

What a joy it's been to be part of a church plant in this unique way.



A HOPEFUL LOOK AT 2021

Questions remain as to how long the pandemic will affect international travel.

I have summer dates booked for Immerse 2021 in Belgium and iYouth Camp 2021 in Germany, and feel fairly certain those events will happen. While in Europe next summer I'll also be available to guest lead worship where needed.

If things clear up sooner, I may head to Morocco in May for a ministry event and then to Belgium for pre-Immerse meetings and promotion.

When possible, we will reschedule live events in Milan, Morocco and Spain and then look for other opportunities for conferences.

In the meantime, I'm continuing plans for virtual ministry including:

- The Worship Leader's Mastermind
- A Digital Media Leader's Mastermind
- Virtual ConVerges 2021
- Koinonia Worship Piano Group
- Virtual Worship Leading

Of course, we'll leave 2021 in God's hands and trust Him to guide us as we all navigate our exit from this pandemic.

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