

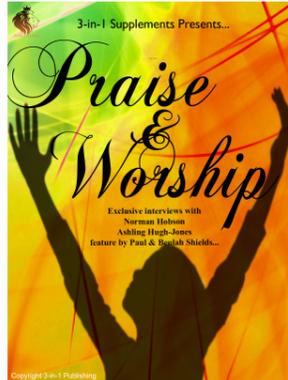


3-in-1 Supplements Presents...

# Praise & Worship

Exclusive interviews with  
Norman Hobson  
Ashling Hugh-Jones  
feature by Paul & Beulah Shields...

## 3-in-1 The Voice Supplements



Praise and Worship -  
3-in-1 Supplements

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# PRAISE & WORSHIP

Exclusive InterviewS with Norman Hobson & Ashling Hugh-Jones UK

## Introduction

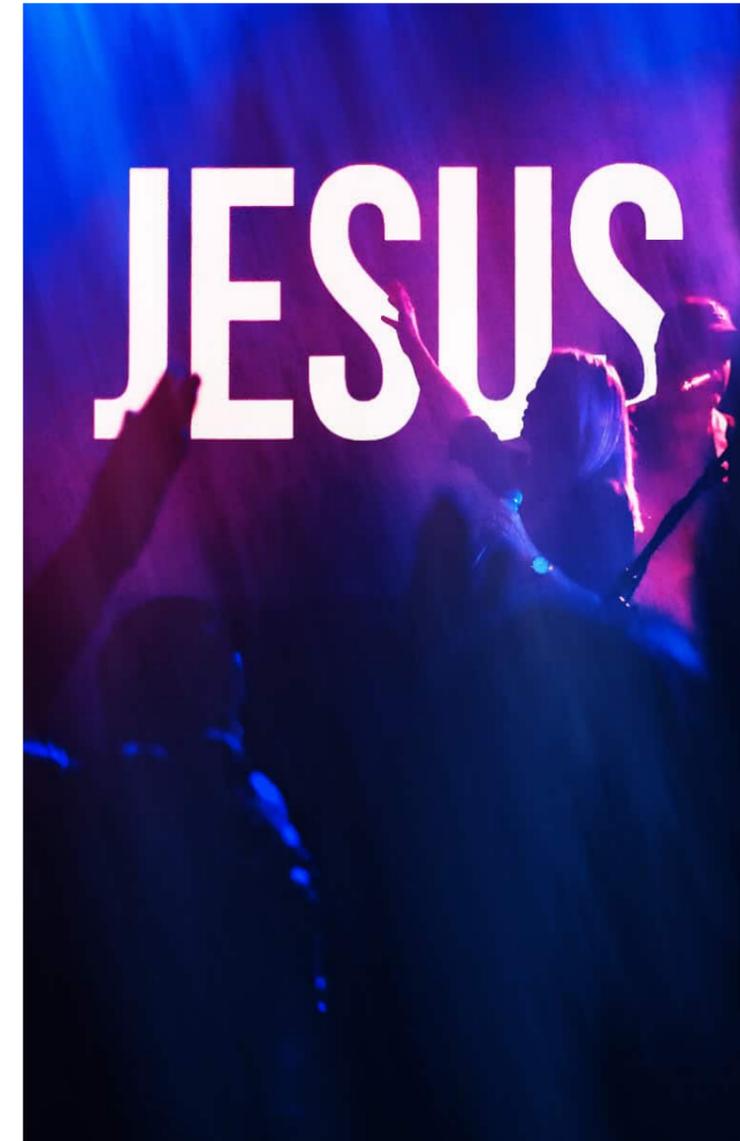
Praise and Worship is one of the most easily identifiable aspects to being a Christian. In this the first of two supplements on Praise & Worship this year we get an insight about praise & worship.

Pastor Norman Hobson gives a detailed insight into corporate worship in an amazing interview with 3-in-1 The Voice, how this not only has an important impact on non-believers but how praise and worship ministers and support believers within the body of Christ. Pastor Norman's full interview will be featured in an accompanying edition of 3-in-1 The Voice...

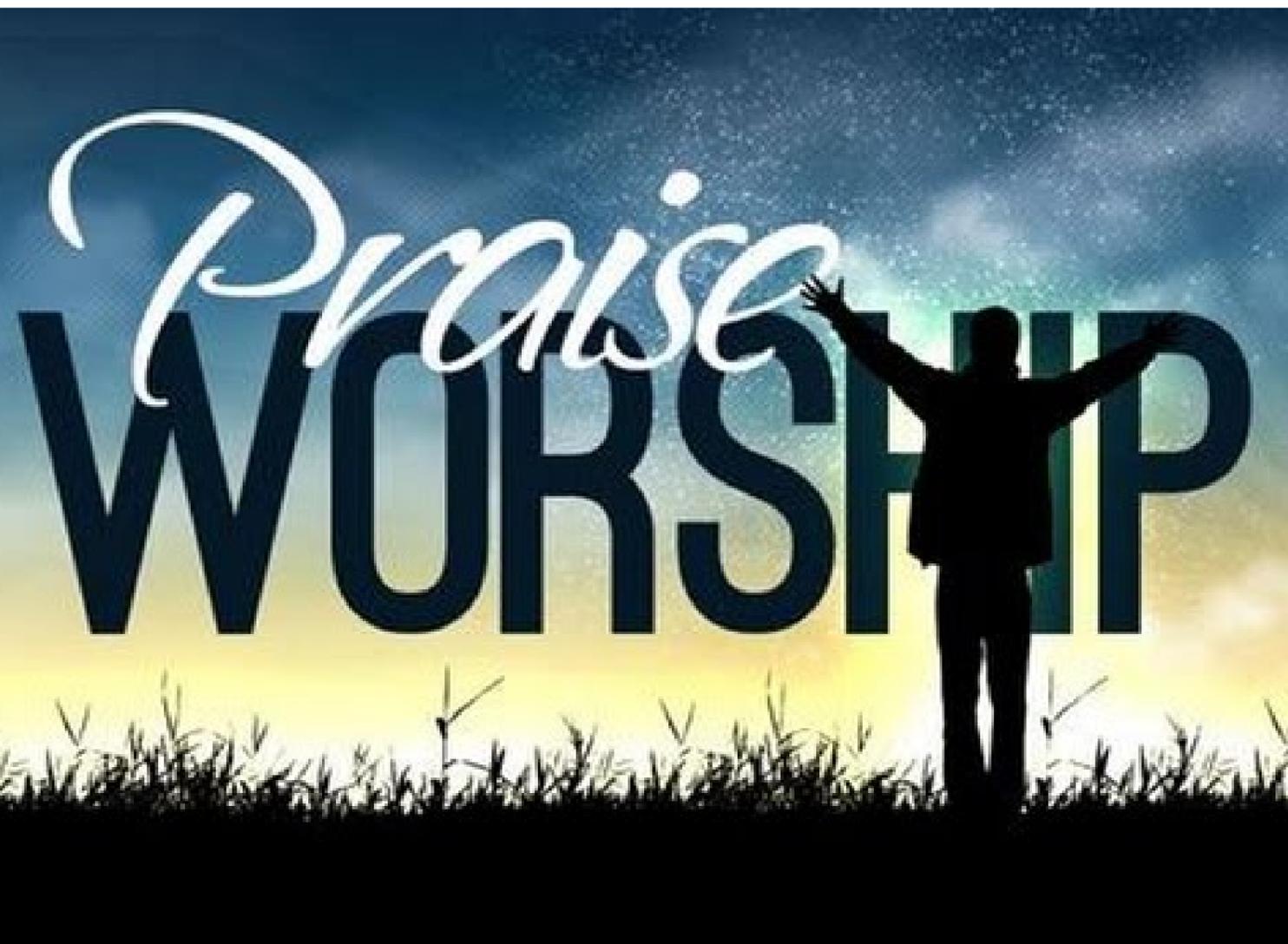
With also have other contributors for those in the 'front-line'. Ashling Hugh-Jones and Paul Shields and his wife Beulah.

We hope that this will help you the reader to understand that Praise & Worship plays a vital role in our lives. That sometimes the battle can be won without ever fighting, and that though it may have its entertainment value to us as humans it is much more. Enjoy!

Karin McBride-Chenoweth



Pictured above:  
PRAISE & WORSHIP



## Ashling Hugh-Jones

Ashling is originally from Galway, Ireland. Prior to relocating, she was part of the Internationally acclaimed Abundant Life Church UK, now known as LIFE Church UK. Several years ago, I had the privilege to meet with Ashling for regular coffee mornings in N. Ireland! Here she writes a great piece on what Praise & Worship means to the believer.

### WORSHIP IN THE FRONT-LINE AND IN THE SECRET PLACE

As a newly saved Christian, I was so refreshed and excited by the atmosphere of worship created at the church, I began attending. I was always most excited about getting into that atmosphere. By observing the others in the congregation worshipping, I learned a lot. Also from those who were part of creating the sound and environment of worship. I had absolutely no frame of reference of what worship was supposed to be like or what the true role of the people involved were. Other than they had to be good singers. Perhaps good musicians and of course, Christians!

It makes me laugh when I think about it now because in a very simplistic way that is true and that is what most churches look for in people for the worship team. Actually, there is nothing wrong with that. However, I believe there is a new wave of worship across the earth. I believe God is raising the standard for us who are involved in serving the church and leading her in worship - in whatever capacity. There is a wave of worship. where the standard is being raised higher. In the level of His presence. He is gifting us with and what the fruit of that will be.

Because of this, I believe there is a call on Christians - especially those who are involved, in leading in worship - to widen their tent pegs. Particularly when it comes to the role of worship and hosting the presence of God in their lives. This will look like different things for different people as the Lord leads. For me, personally, the Lord has emphasized two different things. He has shown me how I approach the privilege of guiding others into the presence of Jesus. I would like to share these:

1. The first is that I take up the role of intercessor for the people I am leading; to contend for their connection with the presence of King Jesus. That nothing would hinder or distract them from meeting with God. God's presence is always available. Victory is always available and accessible, but it isn't always realized. I believe God has given us a key to how it can be. So often in the Old Testament when Israel went to war, God gave specific instruction for the tribe of Judah to lead the way into the battle and btw the word Judah means, "praise". If the old testament is given to us for our instruction (1Corinthians10:1-11, 2Timothy 3:16, Romans 15v4) then this is a picture for us. That means, a few chosen ones going ahead of the others,.Glorifying God in order that the ones following behind could benefit in the victory.

There is a particular event that speaks very strongly to me regarding this in 2 Chronicles 20 where when worship leaders positioned themselves at the front line of the battle and sang our praises to God, the men behind them never had to fight, for the enemy had destroyed themselves when they heard the sound of worship! If that wasn't contending for the victory of those they were leading, I don't know what is!!!

2. The second instruction the Lord has given me so that I might serve those I lead best, is that I spend time worshiping in the secret place. By myself - where no one else can see or hear. This has been separate to my time of prayer. It has simply been a time when I am a child worshiping my Heavenly Father. The Lord impressed on me that my time of leading others in worship is not to be my core time of worship, but that I am to have already worshiped in the secret place. What I have found is that this has left me so much more receptive to hear from God about what He wants for others than what He wants for me. There is more required of me when I am in the privileged position of leading others - much entrusted, much required. This means I have to deliberately schedule the time. However, the freedom I feel when leading others, when I have already worshiped in the secret place, is so releasing and refreshing. It has left me free to sense in my spirit what direction God wants the time of worship to take.

### **In Summation**

As I've stated before, God will ask different things of each of us who have the responsibility of leading others. There is no 'one size fits all.' But I do believe there is an awakening happening across the earth and this is accompanied by a greater hunger than ever before. Mahesh and Bonnie Chavda recently described it like this,

"We are in a fresh season of awakening. People are beginning to experience hunger and thirst for God in new ways. People everywhere are finding God as they have not found Him before...people are beginning to think differently than before, perhaps even beyond how they've thought before."

People within and without the church need victory and freedom so they can access God in the ways they are hungering and thirsting. We all need to play our part by listening out for fresh instruction from the Lord instead of relying on the way it's always been done or by relying on what has been comfortable for us.

The area of musical worship is only a part of a much wider definition of worship, and I thank God for all who play their part in every other area of church-life. We are all contributing to the whole body.

As God's word has shown us, when a few answer the call, to step to the front out of love for God and the people He loves proclaiming "give thanks to the Lord, for His loving-kindness is everlasting"(2 Chronicles 20:21-23), praise has the power to win a battle without there even needing to be a fight.



# Norman Hobson

Director  
WHITEWELL TABERNACLE CHOIR  
Interviewed 2011

**Q You have been involved in music for around 25 years now, have you always been involved in music or was it really only something you got involved in whenever you came to Christ?**

A I really only got involved in it whenever I came to the Lord. Because whenever I was growing up like everybody else there was football, running about and do the normal things that teenagers do...but on the other hand I had always been brought up in church. I had always been around music but church music then in the late 60's early 70's was nothing like what it is today. It was an organ and a piano and occasionally somebody would bring a guitar and that would like the real 'wow' factor! Early days praise and worship didn't really interest me, however whenever I did get saved and came to know the Lord, the church I was in their Christian music started to evolve. Obviously there was a big American influence with Andre Crouche and The Disciples, Barry Maguire they all came across to the different halls in Belfast, so really from that the whole praise and worship as we know today started to really kick in and my interested started to kick in also...

**Q What role does the tabernacle choir play in the ministry of the Tabernacle?**

A In Whitewell we break bread every Sunday morning so it's a more traditional type of service. We try and keep everything very 'worshipful'. Obviously the Pastor preaches, but around the table we do worship songs and the choir are the main body of people that lead in worship, and then we would do what I call a performance song like a 'Stand Alone' anthem or song before the preaching. On the Sunday night we now have a worship band in place that has evolved out of the choir; so they would lead the worship on Sunday night with the choir behind them, so obviously when you are learning for instance a new song and you've got already 200+ people who know it, it is a huge 'kick off' to get the congregation singing and praising and to keep the worship going and evolving...

**Q Now Whitewell has 200 members in its choir, which is the size of the congregations of some churches. Therefore, do you sort of look on them as a congregation?**

A Well I think it would be very easy to look on them as a 'wee' clique for instance this is our 'wee group' but I try and not do that probably because I am on the pastoral staff here it makes it easier for me to look at it as one body. I always have a fear of cliques and groups developing as it can create the feeling of 'you're in your small corner and I am in mine'. So in one sense whilst it is almost like a 'community' on its own we always try and not let the clique mentality enter into things.

**Q** What sort of commitment level is required to be a member of the choir?

**A** Well first of all you have to be saved, you have to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, that is paramount, and to have a testimony. Secondly you would have to be a member of the church or be in the process of becoming a member. What happened in the early days of the choir, people wanted to belong to something that was big and successful, plus I had a lot of younger kids coming who would maybe come to church for a couple of weeks or months and then leave. So this helps to guard against this and also the commitment level has to be extremely high and the members have to attend all practices...

**You will be able to read more about the fascinating world of The Whitewell Tabernacle Choir in future issues of 3-in-1 The Voice where Pastor Hobson helps us to examine even more about this area of corporate Praise & Worship...**





# Feature

A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR CORPORATE  
PRAISE AND WORSHIP

By  
Paul Shields â€“ MA Theology

Psalm 100 encourages us to "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise". Whilst this approach may lead into either individual or corporate worship, it is only an approach; it is not worship itself. The writer of the Psalm knew what he was exhorting the reader or more importantly the "praiser" to do. He had the physical example of God's Temple close by or at worst a short pilgrimage away. Let us study the position and arrangement of the Temple as a model for our entering into praise and worship.

Firstly, the Temple was in Jerusalem, approximately 3000 feet above sea level. The worshipers from "out of town" had a steep climb to the place of worship for the established Feasts. As with any difficult journey, a distraction was always welcomed. What better way to prepare for the climax of the pilgrimage than to sing songs of the Lord's goodness, love and mercy; His might and His majesty; His righteous acts? And so the "Song of Ascents" originated.

As the pilgrim's geographical height increased so did the height of his spiritual anticipation. Thus his mouth and his heart were full of thanksgiving and praise before the gates of the temple were even within view. Within the gates were the outer Temple courts. Inside these courts was the Holy Place where the Israelites worshiped, and where the regular sacrifices took place, however the Holy of Holies was the innermost sanctuary where the High Priest (and he only) could enter after ceremonious preparation on one day of the year upon which he was accepted to offer the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all the people. This was the ultimate act of worship to the Lord Jehovah. We make a similar excursion when we offer our ultimate worship to him, having ascended the same spiritual heights using the same themes of thanksgiving and praise and relating to the same divine attributes, as we enter His courts and approach that Holy Place, offering up the sacrifice of praise.

Worship is always accompanied by sacrifice in the Old Testament. The first mention of worship in the Old Testament is found in the account of God's testing of Abraham in Genesis chapter 22. He told his servants to stay with the asses while he and Isaac went to worship. To Abraham the sacrifice was the offering up of his beloved son Isaac - a costly presentation to God - yet we know how God taught the lesson of substitution (and importantly of His total abhorrence of human sacrifice which was common during this period, later during the time Israel was enslaved in Egypt and later still during the time of the Judges and Kings).

In the Biblical record in 2 Samuel of the closing years of King David's reign, we learn how David sinned in his act of numbering the fighting men of Israel and as a consequence brought the Lord's judgement upon that nation. When confronted with God he was commanded to make a burnt offering to him. The site of the offering was the threshing floor of Arunah the Jebusite, and when David offered payment this foreigner said; "You are the King, take the lot, animals and all for free." [My paraphrase] David's answer was significant. He said,

"I will not make an offering to the Lord that has cost me nothing".

In the New Testament we are told about "The sacrifice of praise" in Hebrews 13 v15. The best illustration in the New Testament is the record of Paul and Silas at Philippi. After experiencing sharp opposition to their preaching of Jesus Christ, the two were lashed and incarcerated in the innermost Roman dungeon. While you and I would have been questioning God's righteousness and goodness, perhaps examining our lives for un-confessed sin; and calculating the length of time since our last Tetanus boost; Paul and Silas were offering praise that was costing them dearly.

We, in our pilgrimage into true worship have to often overcome hurt and pain, hardship and loneliness and perhaps even doubts about God's goodness, by commending God and praising him for His goodness, love and mercy; His might and majesty; His righteous acts. As Paul and Silas entered into, and reached the pinnacle of their worship, a mighty miracle took place. An earthquake opened the prison doors and shook off the heavy shackles. On a personal note, I recall clearly the year we were married how I had been plagued by an inflamed throat which was accompanied by what I can only describe as a permanent strain of the vocal muscles.

As well as having the regular feeling of choking and of having an obstruction, my voice was regularly hoarse. This problem had persisted for two years when we were invited to a special praise and ministry weekend in a local Pentecostal church. The visiting worship band sang a song whose origin I have never been able to trace. These are some of the words:

I will offer up a sacrifice to You, Expressing praise, because Your word is true., and I will bless Your name, no matter what I'm going through, yes, I will offer up a sacrifice to You.....

That night as we sang the "Eight-fold Alleluia" I was aware of making a painful (perhaps for the people next to me as well!) vocal sacrifice, but I knew as I worshiped, that God was going to heal my condition. It did not happen that night, but I was able to cancel the tonsillectomy that I was on a waiting list for. Some while later my doctor examined my throat and remarked that I had had my tonsils removed. I said no and he looked puzzled. Did the Divine Surgeon remove them that evening as I worshiped?!

When Jesus Christ offered the ultimate atoning sacrifice hanging on a roughly hewn Roman cross outside the walls of ancient Jerusalem, as he cried "it is finished" the scriptures record that "the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom." (Mark 15 v 38 NIV). The veil was the curtain which sealed off the Holy of holies from the people. In the days of the Tabernacle and in the days of Solomon's temple this place had housed the Ark of the Covenant, which signified God's presence and his glory, as well as the old covenant he had made. When the veil was torn (note the way in which it was torn shows that the act was done from above) it signified that access had been granted into God's holy presence, to behold his glory, under the terms of his New Covenant. Jesus had, just prior to his arrest, told his disciples that,

*"This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22 v 20).*

It is therefore through faith in Jesus' shed blood that we gain access, in both prayer and worship, to a holy God.