

## **Music, Worship and Plenary Sessions – Missions Fest™**

Throughout our history, we have not paid our musicians for participating at Missions Fest. We are all VOLUNTEERS for the sake of the Great Commission. Many of those who volunteer are professionals in their own field. Some are musicians, some are television producers/technicians, some are lawyers, teachers, accountants, doctors, etc. We don't even pay the seminar presenters. Part of the reason is that we cannot afford to pay for most of the professional help during this conference, so we don't pay for any of it. If you decide to pay one, then others are going to ask why you're not paying them. There's no end to it.

Furthermore, when it comes to musicians, many musicians are looking for the publicity. Missions Fest is a great opportunity to get publicity. Actually, this publicity is worth thousands of dollars. So, if Missions Fest gives them an opportunity to participate publicly, they are already receiving a great benefit.

We look for special qualities among our musicians. We look for humility and servant-hood; we look for people who have a heart for the Great Commission. If they are Worship Teams, we look for the same qualities. We want people who are prepared to lead worship and not perform. Therefore, they must chose songs that people know so that the people can participate. Missions Fest is not a good place to be learning a whole new repertoire of songs, otherwise, it becomes a performance with everybody listening and not singing. Songs must be chosen that most denominations can sing.

It is good to have a worship band that is consistent throughout the weekend. On the other hand, it doesn't need to show up at every plenary session. This year, we had the same one participate on Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon.

Another consideration to be made is how you handle having an MC for the Plenary Sessions. We once tried having a different MC at each plenary session. It created a fragmented effect on the weekend. Consequently, we have a consistent MC throughout the weekend. This is much better because the people will bond with the MC and feel more secure when the same person returns to greet them each time and lead them through the weekend. (It is much easier on the musicians also, working with the same MC.)

Now, you may wonder if we reimburse anyone. Yes, we take care of our Plenary Speakers. We expect them to present at least one Plenary Session as well as 3 or 4 seminars. We provide airfare, accommodations, food and a modest honorarium. I can send you our policy sheet for our speakers if you wish.