

Time has flown! It seems like just last year that Robin was launching the **International Council of Ethnodoxologists (ICE)** with a few colleagues and a shoestring budget. It's actually been *five* big ones since the ICE age began in 2003. Today ICE has close to 200 members representing over 80 organizations in 60 countries around the world. Thank God for His blessing!

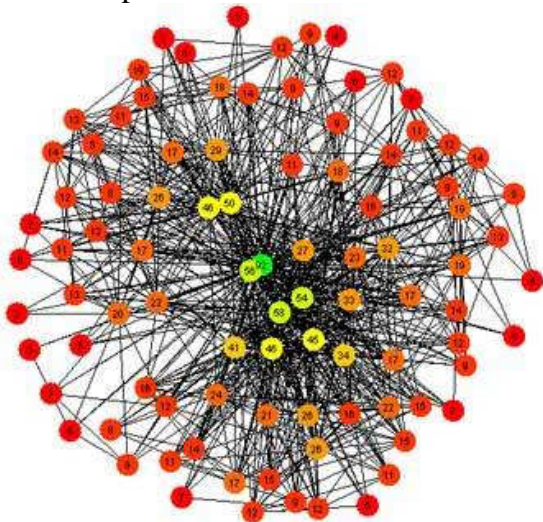


The ICE Queen herself

....Recapping for our newbies, what's ICE? The website www.worldofworship.org tells it all, but here's a short synopsis:

ICE is all about helping cross-cultural ministries be more effective by giving attention to a main reason Christian workers overseas so often describe their ministries as "slow, difficult and unresponsive." Too often missionaries just don't know how to make their ministries look and feel local. Common mistakes include translating the missionary's favorite praise songs into the local dialect and holding church services in ways that feel very alien to the local people.

ICE helps overseas workers network with



each other in order to understand what they're doing wrong and find both culturally and

biblically appropriate ways to worship. It's great to see all their hard work suddenly begin to be much more fruitful! ICE encourages and trains overseas Christian workers by providing networking, conferences, teaching modules, ideas, resources and certification.

Recently, one of our members wrote to say:

You will probably never know before eternity even half of the ripple effects created by this ICE initiative -- and in the process you have built such a great sense of camaraderie from which new initiatives happen. In short, I do not know where I would be without you guys!

-- a missionary serving in Tibet

ICE is meeting a deeply felt need and becoming recognized as a strategic way to help missionaries world-wide in their church planting and evangelism. ICE board members are increasingly being included in gatherings of mission leaders to help them decide how to include culturally appropriate music and arts.



Board members Robin Harris, Brian Schrag, Paul Neeley, Frank Fortunato and Jim Eriksen

For example, Robin and Frank Fortunato (our Heart Sounds International boss and also an ICE board member) are headed to Thailand next week to meet with a think tank of music and arts leaders who are gathering at the invitation of the Mission Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance. This roundtable will explore the possibility of launching a Music and Arts Track in that organization. It could be that ICE will play a key role in this new initiative; we'll really appreciate your prayers for that trip (October 28 - Nov. 5).

Another one of the projects we're working on right now for ICE is an ethnodoxology seminar for churches – check out the website at www.worldofworship.org/event09. ICE has received a grant to adapt the three-unit ethnodoxology graduate course that we do for seminaries to a streamlined weekend version for churches. We have three multi-church events planned for 2009 and Robin is working hard now with a planning team to put on these

events in Minneapolis, the Washington DC area and Dallas.

In our “other role” as OM missionaries, this last summer Robin and I led a Heart Sounds trip to Tuva in southern Siberia. We took a team of eight and we’re still amazed with all that the Lord did on that trip. One of the highlights of that trip was when we met a couple named Andre and Ludmilla who have an amazing vision for ministry.



Ludmilla is a native Siberian who teaches local people to play their indigenous instruments. She and her husband (who is a pastor) have an extensive ministry in the villages around their (large) town of Abakan. They want to make their ministry more culturally relevant, so they’re planning to form an ethnic music ensemble for ministry in nearby villages. They challenged us to help them obtain some indigenous instruments and costumes for this ensemble. We agree that this is a key way reach their people with the gospel.

Robin and I are very excited to tell you that Faith Bible Church (where Robin’s father serves as the pastor) is making this need their Christmas



giving project! If you want to join them in this project, they’ll be delighted!

Checks can be made out to “Faith Bible Church” with “instruments for Siberia” on the memo line. The church’s address is:



Faith Bible Church
403 Vine Street,
Willows, CA 95988

Extra funds will go toward instruments for other Tuvan churches. Please join us in supporting this worthwhile project!

Our other big news is that Robin has started to study again, this time as a Ph.D. candidate in ethnomusicology! Doctoral studies help to lend credibility to ICE as it develops its training courses, and gives Robin access to a number of academic circles for ministry that would otherwise be closed to her. I’m delighted to see her continuing to grow in her field. Robin’s thrilled that the Lord has provided a fine Christian lady as her primary professor at the University of Georgia, Athens (UGA). This professor is very supportive of our work in Heart Sounds International and has been an ICE member for some years now. Please pray for Robin as she works to develop ICE while keeping up on her studies. Go Robin!



Our daughter, Katherine will graduate from the University of South Carolina in May 2009 and is now making important decisions regarding her future plans. Please pray for her and for her Senior Piano Recital on November 25th!

We praise the Lord for His blessings on:

- ICE’s 5th anniversary and solid growth

Please pray for:

- Music & arts meetings in Thailand
- Ethnodoxology course for churches
- New fund for national instruments
- Katherine’s Senior Recital Nov. 25th.

Many thanks for your prayers and support – you are a blessing to us!

Yours in Him,

Bill and Robin

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