

MIRE YA

Why am I here? In the last couple weeks God gave me the privilege of seeing some of my vision for worship ministry become reality.

I must confess, I had not really understood or embraced the element of leadership development in my context. I had been furtively working with many individuals and small groups to try to model a Christ-like life, and exhorting them to do the same. But it wasn't until last night that I felt like the vision really took root in my heart.

Every Monday evening I lead the Worship Ministry group of about 30 people. This group consists of everyone in the church who has the desire to use their musical gifts to serve the local church. Recently, while discussing what our expectations were for the group, it came out that they wanted to be more actively involved in leading the study/worship, etc. This was an exciting moment that was for me. Last night was the first time the group that was entirely "theirs."

When I lead, I bring with the teaching a bad accent, bad grammar, and culturally irrelevant illustrations. When Mireya taught last night, she didn't bring any of that baggage with her, and she drew them out in ways I have never been able to.

I was impacted by just how necessary it is to have godly national leaders, and not American missionaries, leading the way here. To develop such leaders—THAT is why I am here.

Paul Hovda, 2002