



"Helping ignite culturally relevant heart worship, especially in places where Christ-followers are restricted, persecuted or unknown."

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Two Pioneers Receive Lifetime Achievement Awards

At a recent ArtsAlive! conference in Nashville, Tennessee, the president of Artists in Christian Testimony, Byron Spradlin, awarded Frank Fortunato, co-founder of HSI, and Colin Harbinson, founder of the StoneWorks Initiative, a lifetime achievement award called "The Artist in Missions Pioneer Award."



Byron referenced Frank's pioneering of music ministries in Operation Mobilization that stretched to fourteen years with the OM ships followed by various music, worship and arts initiatives while based at OM USA for the last 20 years. Byron mentioned how Frank responded to the need for nations and people groups to sing the Scriptures in their own language by starting Heart Sounds International. HSI has since completed indigenous worship recording

projects in more than 25 nations. The projects have including bringing in recording equipment and setting up recording studios for ongoing projects in-country. In many cases the HSI teams have recorded the first-ever scripture worship and praise songs in different language groups, using nationals to do the recordings. Frank mentioned the privilege he had teaming up with Byron for nearly 20 years to oversee both program and worship aspects of various international mission events.

What made the event particularly meaningful to Frank was sharing the honor with his good friend, Colin Harbinson. Like Frank, Colin's career in Christian arts spans more than three decades. Among his achievements has been creating theatrical presentations seen by millions of people around the world. He has also organized arts festivals in various nations. Following years of service in YWAM where Colin pioneered educational initiatives for the University of the Nations, he became the Dean of the Arts at Belhaven College. Most recently he started the StoneWorks Initiative. The Stoneworks Initiative brings leadership to the spiritual, creative and missional formation of the next generation of artists so that they reclaim the world of the arts and the imagination for Christ. They want to work to see the Church educated, artists discipled and cultures transformed.

May God inspire many others to become servants like these who will spread the gospel worldwide in biblically appropriate and culturally relevant ways!

Warmly,

The HSI team

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