

Technical Arts NEWS

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Upcoming Events

- Jan 25: Tim Hawkins comedy
- Jan 26-28: LN Innovation3
- Feb 22: enVision
- Apr 10: Good Friday
- Apr 12: Easter

Relentless

Hello and Happy New Year! I've been reflecting on the relentless nature of what we as technical artists do. Relentless (from Dictionary.com) means: *Steady and persistent; never ceasing.*

I know many of you were at our Worship & Arts Christmas party. At the party we showed a highlight video clip of all we did in the last year.

As Jonathan Moon and I worked on that video, I was hit by the fact that "tech" never gets a break. I've said for years that "Sunday comes every week" and know how relentless serving in a worship ministry is (remember I was a worship pastor for 11 years), but I never really focused in on just tech and how we NEVER get a break.

If Pete wasn't preaching, we still had tech. If the band was off, we still had tech. If Scott or Wayne wasn't leading

worship (guest artist), we still had tech. If there is a concert, conference, event, or comedian—we still have tech.

You are a special, special ministry and I just want to

applaud you for the way you tirelessly serve and contribute. It's an honor to work with you.

Much love!




STORIES: God's Food Pantry (Fall Service Project)



The week before Thanksgiving we took a group from our Tech Arts Team to God's Food Pantry in Plano. It was a wonderful time of service and fellowship and really put Thanksgiving in perspective.

DEVOTIONAL by Dickie Richard

We always take down our Christmas decorations on January 1. I have to admit though, the older I get, the quicker I would like to get them down. I start asking my wife if we can take the outside lights down on December 26. Then when the last box is in the attic, I always announce with relief, "Christmas 2008 is now over!"

There are things I missed this Christmas. I didn't get to watch any of my Christmas movies all the way through or listen to all of my Christmas Cd's. I was rushed in my baking and my shopping. (I'm not one to wait till the last minute.) More importantly, I didn't focus on the season itself.

First Call sings in their song "After December Slips Away":

"The season comes but once a year, A gift of precious wonder
For all who hold it dear, But past the sights and colored lights
Lord, far beyond December, I will remember....
After the carols fade away, after the Yule fire dies down
When there are no longer dreams to open and see.
Because You are the hope and joy and peace
Because You're the only gift I need, in my heart the season will remain
After December slips away."

I realize that I remembered not getting to watch my Christmas movies I've seen a hundred time or listen to the Christmas albums I've heard at least that many. However, I didn't remember why we celebrate Christmas. I forgot about the CHRIST in Christmas. As I packed up the decorations and put them away, I did the same with the little baby in the manger.

I found myself talking to God. Saying things I've not said in years. Things like, "I want to be more loving, I want to be more forgiving, I want to know you more, Father, and I know the only way I can do these things is with you." I was beginning to find the Christ of Christmas. I was beginning to look at the baby in the manger and, like the shepherds in the fields, worship. Not just on December 25, but setting the stage for the rest of the year also.

So, how was your Christmas? Is the baby in the manger packed up and put away or are you looking at that baby and worshiping?

TECH TIPS by Greg Atkinson



Feel the Beat

Many of you may remember that I was a worship pastor for 11 years. There are some things that I take for granted or assume that I just realized I, as your friend and leader, should share. These thoughts concern the amazing

benefits and advantages of having a musical bent when serving as a technical artist.

Whether executing lighting cues, mixing a live band, advancing graphics/lyrics, running camera or video directing—it gives you a HUGE advantage and dramatically improves your serving when you know the music.

Tom, our Audio Coordinator, is a great mixer because he's a piano player/musician and has a great ear. Some of the best technical artist that I've ever worked with (from lighting to sound to video) all had a music background in common.

I share this with you because several of you have asked me what you can do to grow and improve in your various roles. I think THIS is a huge thing that all of you could experiment with and add to your "bag of tricks".

It's simple: each week that you're serving go on to Planning-CenterOnline.com—click on each song and **listen to the mp3** for it.

I guarantee that if you do this regularly, not only will you improve at what you do, but most importantly you'll be FREE to worship and comfortable enough to serve and have fun while you're doing it!