

Praise and worship are very special activities for every christian. Under the influence of certain trends praise and worship can be narrowed down to simple texts, blown-up emotions, or one-sided doctrines. Rather than presenting a 'dream scenario', this book is based on many years of practising praise and worship in a variety of artistic forms and in numerous different ways. In combination with years of research into the history of praise and worship. After reading the book it is suggested to use it as a biblical diary, by reading a chapter a day and thinking it over. The book is also very suitable for group discussions of leaders in the music ministry, the praise group, leaders of the church, the choir, the dance group, the band, visual artists, theatre makers and youth leaders. We hope this book will prove to be a spur for a general review of praise and worship.



Leen La Rivière (1946) has been actively involved in the arts since 1969. He founded the work of Continental Sound. In the course of years this work expanded rapidly and La Rivière was the driving force behind the foundation of a publisher, the Magazine Music & Art, the annual Christian Artists Seminar, the European Continentals, the foundation of the CNV Kunstenbond (a union for christian artists), the Continental Art Centre, the European Academy etc. Leen La Rivière has written more than twenty books on faith, art, culture, and youth. He is the editor of a series of academic publications on culture and is frequently asked as a speaker at conferences and in churches. Each year, the activities that are organised by the Continental Art Centre attract on average 150,000 people.

"Praise and worship are eroded in our evangelical churches by lack of content. At times songs are selected just because they are easy to sing along with. We are glad about this book." Jan and Nel Kits

"I very much enjoyed this book. It has opened up some new vistas to me, although at times it took a while to take it all in. But the bitter pills had blessed effects! A must-read for any leader, artist, leader if the music ministry, and worshipper." Guido Verhoef, Manifold Clowns and Events

"My compliments for this book. I would like to see its splendid insights widely discussed in the church. It is very important to emphasise the lives of specific people and their functioning in society, as it puts praise in a sound perspective." Hans Savert, cabaret performer

"Leen La Rivière has again managed to write a captivating book about praise and worship. The author has studied a number of biblical personae and investigates how and in what way they were worshippers in their faith. The chapters can also be read as a biblical diary. A striking feature of the book is La Rivière's drive to stay close to the Bible. Worshippers are not zealots or wanderers, they remain level-headed and walk with God in a very practical manner. This daily walking with God before His countenance can be characterised as worship as well. The views of Leen La Rivière show constructive criticism and a critical distance that is remarkable for a man who has invested so much in music, art and songs throughout his life. The book concludes with a brief survey of the history of song in the church and a number of conclusions, one of which is that a revival in churches or congregations without a new wave of songs and music is inconceivable. The author touches on an important point here. Apparently a revival is at first predominantly a movement that communicates strongly via emotion, followed by a phase in which people learn to secure their faith in the words of God. Perhaps this reflects the story of the author himself as well." Rev. Piet de Jong - Delfshaven

"This book is an excellent initiative. It is important to keep giving clear direction in this area." Prof. Roel Kuipers

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Praise & Worshippers

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Leen La Rivière