

CHAPTER 18: HOW WE MOVE ON

It was 2003 and a good year to evaluate the masterplan.....where were we in the fulfillment of the great vision of 1986....??? First we thought ourselves to be already quite far in this development to have an influence in Europe as figures and facts of this ministry are impressive.....But we had to reconsider this thought. The following happened:

1- Leen was speaking at and visiting various festivals, arts-meetings and union-meetings around Europe. Here he got from participants the SAME sorts of questions that people had asked him in the eighties.....had they learned nothing??? Leen asked if they had read his books, as those books provided almost every answer to these questions.....no they had not, even not the english versions. But in the Netherlands those type of questions did NOT occur anymore, the answers to these questions were common knowledge of churches, artists, groups, etc and had resulted in a tremendous growth of acceptance, participation, quality of the arts.....So it would become of importance to get these books out in the European languages. So Leen selected 6 of the key-books to become translated...

2- Willem (the office-manager, son of Leen & Ria) analysed a need for a better public profile to boost attendance and sales. Well such can be reached by doing point 1.

But how to reconcile these needs with the master plan? Hadn't we reached already the right positions for positive change??? Leen started to think and to pray but could not grasp the reasons.

In January 2004 Leen was in Sofia, Bulgaria to introduce the first book coming out in Bulgarian. This turned out to become a major cultural, social, political and media-event, it was even on the national news. Here he saw first-hand the possibilities and the reasons why the book-strategy had to be done.....but how did this all fit in THE PLAN????

And suddenly *LIGHT-FLASH*.....from 1986 on they all had been working on this masterplan, but everything had never moved beyond compartment ONE of the hologram-drawing; time had come for phase 2.

And this march into the future had everything to do now the new Academy would be launched summer 2004.

And in October 2004 would be celebrated 35 years of ministry.... all of this can NOT be coincidence.

So 2004 is the mark of change. Change in activities of Leen and Ria, change in the responsibilities of the staff, but a great window on new possibilities of seeing God at work

The book-strategy has the following titles:

The WHOLE series is called:

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

vol.1 = creativity and the arts

vol.2 = music and ministry

vol.3 = praise & worshippers (including as well the performing arts and other arts)

vol.4 = the message (so about content)

vol.5 = leadership

vol.6 = the church and the public domain;

this book has an introduction of the Dutch prime-minister