

## CHAPTER 19: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

Looking back you see an endless list of activities, hundreds of thousands of participants and visitors. Special moments of learning have been described in the previous chapters. It is amazing how God has used THIS ministry to give so many innovation-impulses to the churches and artists from Europe.....

1. new ways to communicate with contemporary christian music, started in 1969/1970 with the Continentals
2. to serve the community with recordings; the first European christian record company with contemporary christian music started in 1974. Besides its own recording and import, songbooks and books came out.
3. Christian ROCK and POP-music from 1974 and onwards with artists like: New Hope, Barry McGuire, Wings of Light, Second Chapter, Jerusalem, etc
4. New forms for praise & worship music: 1974 and onwards with artists like: Merv & Merla Watson, Davel & Dale Garratt, Graham Kendrick, etc
5. PraiseDANCE and other performing arts: 1974 and onwards with artists like: Shekinah, Randall Bane, Springs Dance; and from 1984 as part of CA-Seminars.
6. New forms of black-gospel(started in 1975 with Choralerna, they created the basis for groups like Oslo Gospel Choir and such
7. new forms of training and international cohesion for artists in all art-disciplines(1981 and onwards via the Christian Artists Seminars)
8. the importance and rediscovery of the visual arts(especially for protestants): 1986 and onwards via the CA-Seminars and national associations
9. central arrangements for copyrights for churches, musicians, choirs, etc 1984(with the PRS) and the CCLI arrangements for the Benelux in 1989.
10. the need to unite and as an artist to be engaged in social and political developments (1989, the acceptance as an artists trade-union)
11. new ways for working with teenagers and the use of teenmusic: 1992 with the Young Continentals
12. The national Academic Youth survey, the largest study ever done among christian and secular youth, done by the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. This study provided a lot of knowledge about youth
13. new ways for working with kids and kids-pop-music: 1999 with the Continental Kids
14. the Art of Living, 2000,how to understand the future. A key study of 25 of the best Christian scientists and thinkers from Europe, with contributions from the (future) prime-minister of the Netherlands
15. The last innovation is going to be the new European Academy for Culture and the Arts, opening in 2004. With great new solutions for post-academic adult education/ life-long-learning.
16. The School of Rock, started in 2006. A special project open for any kid in the age 8 – 17 years. In close cooperation with every school in our district of Rotterdam-Eastside. The school has each year app.80 students per semester (September-June), see [www.school-of-rock.nl](http://www.school-of-rock.nl)

*We are very thankful how God used us for all these innovations and activities. He gave us the directions and the possibilities and the creativity*