

Supernatural Programming: Repurposed

I have been the Director of Programming for the past 15 years at Crossroads Community Church in Mansfield, Ohio www.crossroadswired.com . Once in a while, when I get out of the way, God takes our creative ideas and something quite supernatural and unexplainable takes place. That is the place in which I found myself at Easter this year.



In late January I chose several girls at Crossroads and taught them how to begin with nothing and create a thematic series. Specifically Easter – a high order!

I recruited Stephanie, the girl I have been training ‘to be me’ to lead the creative process and fought my tendency to lead as I sat as part of the team.

She did great, she started the creative discussion as we worked through the first of three brainstorming meetings. As we were standing to leave one of the meetings where we had been trying to ‘name’ the series, someone said “Repurposed”, and there it was. The title. We all sat back down. What happened in the following weeks was truly supernatural.

The idea behind Repurposed was; worthless junk (our lives pre-Christ) to eternal treasure.

In light of this idea I proposed that we go to the local recycling plant and find pieces for the set design;

I also wanted to shoot video at the recycling plant to use with Gungor’s song “Beautiful Things” (you can watch the video here <http://vimeo.com/22807608>) and finally I proposed that we would use useless junk for pieces that our Crossroads artists would use to turn into works of art for a silent auction. The proceeds would go toward our Cambodian Orphanage (we partner with Asia’s Hope <http://www.asiashope.org/>). The silent auction would take place in our large foyer area referred to as Town Square. All of these creative pieces along with other music and details were approved when we presented them to the teaching pastors.



After approval I worked immediately to contact artists and anyone who would need the next couple months to prepare for the Easter 3 week series. A couple of weeks later I flew away to Cambodia to work with orphan children for several weeks.

During my absence something supernatural began to happen. While we were away serving in Cambodia many people back home became interested in what we were experiencing as they read our blogs www.loribiddle.com and they kept asking what the orphans needed. One man who talked to our pastor was a businessman who oversees a foundation. He became interested in helping us meet the needs of those orphans.

And so the Repurposed series we had designed took a turn, a very good turn. Not only did we embrace the concept of worthless to treasure in our own lives – but the lives of orphans – rescued from the sex slave trade or from the garbage dumps, now *that* is repurposed in every sense of the word!

By the time we returned, it had been decided that Palm Sunday weekend, Easter and the weekend after Easter would all be part of the repurposed concept and would be dedicated to our orphans. We decided we would take an offering for the Cambodian orphans – hoping and praying to build a permanent orphanage to replace the leased facility that Crossroads currently supported. We have NEVER taken an offering in the 15 years of our existence. God began to work in ways we never imagined possible!



Next we found out that the Director of Asia's Hope Cambodia JUST HAPPENED TO BE planning to be in Ohio the month of April and JUST HAPPENED TO BE available to be with us at Crossroads on Palm Sunday weekend. And so the hand of God continued to form the series He had designed.

On Palm Sunday our congregation met the Cambodian Country Director Savorn Ou and their heart began to melt toward this mighty man of God. In the end, we raised \$380,000 on Easter weekend. (We are a very small community of unemployed people and we prayed diligently for \$50,000 – the cost of one orphanage, and



instead the Holy Spirit filled this place and made sure we knew this was nothing we did on our own!) The fears we had entertained briefly regarding our promise to never take an offering fell aside as we rejoiced in the supernatural way God used our preparation for Easter.

As the Director of Programming it is my responsibility to oversee the preparation of every single detail of all of our services from conception to completion. In 15 years I have never seen creative ideas come together to be used in a way different from the original concept like these were used.



I have often heard worship people say, “I just like to wing-it and let the Holy Spirit have freedom in our services”. I don’t assume to know it all, but I know this, every time I creatively and spiritually work in advance on our services, they are far more excellent and allow MORE room for the Holy Spirit to fill them. I believe it’s because we get out of the way, we walk into the services confidently and lay them at His feet as our offering of worship.

I wrote this as an encouragement to all those involved in planning services for the local church. Begin to plan ahead thinking through all the details, cover your services in prayer, be creative and release it to the Lord.

(Below is a picture of some of the junk I hung on stage beside the center screen. I knew they would create great shadows on the cyc, but they exceeded anything I imagined! The center screen shows a little of one of the background slides we created from the photography we did at the recycling plant. And the sculptures standing in the front are what we welded on site when we shot the “Beautiful Things’ video. Originally the video concept had been that a cross would raise out of the junk, however, when we changed the concept to ‘orphans’, we thought it appropriate to have an adult sized sculpture with a child. I encourage you to watch the video to fully grasp the process and the beautiful pieces we used on our stage and in our video!)



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