



International Council of Ethnodoxologists (ICE)

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Updates from the Field

ROBIN HARRIS, USA and RUSSIA

I just thought I'd write up a quick report on the positive results from the networking that happened at the Society for Ethnomusicology (SEM) 50th Anniversary Conference in Atlanta. I know that many of you prayed for this event -- the Lord answered and blessed us in so many ways; one of the main blessings was finding such warm Christian fellowship in that fairly secular place. I was able to talk about ICE and GCoMM with a significant number of Christian people. Many of the Christians there were African-American brothers and sisters in the Lord whose focus was on gospel, hip/hop, jazz, and other forms of popular music and its use in the church.

I got lots of stares at my name tag, which unbeknownst to me until I got there, was printed with *International Council of Ethnodoxologists*. A number of people said, "What is ethnodoxology?" to which I got to practice giving a variety of answers, depending on who asked the question and how much information I thought was wise to give.

The lunch-time meeting that we had together in the food court the first day was great! Many thanks to Brian Schrag for urging us to do that! It actually ended up to be so much fun that we continued it on other days. The most gratifying thing to see was how thrilled many were to know that these networking opportunities exist. Some of them truly thought that they were alone; they felt completely isolated. Some were grad students in what they felt were "Christian-hostile schools"; some were accomplished professionals in their field, and of course there were a number already associated with ICE. I will follow up on these new contacts in the near future.

In short, this conference provided many more networking opportunities for ICE/GCoMM than I ever dreamed. I really enjoyed wearing my "Russian hat" as well, and got to speak Russian several times with various Russian and Ukrainian people.

I hope that the number of ICE associates at the next SEM conference (in Hawaii) will be even greater. Mark your calendars now for Nov. 14-19, 2006 and join us in Hawaii!

Blessings,
Robin Harris
ICE

Every month, we would like to highlight an area of the world and the ethnodoxologists working there. If you would like to contribute, please send an update of 200 words or less to News@worldofworship.org

The vision of ICE

is that Christians from every culture will have the opportunity to express their faith through their own heart music and arts.

SEM 2005 Conference Points of Interest

- ⊗ Tim Rice (SEM president 2004-2005) led a panel discussion about changing the name of the discipline of Ethnomusicology. It was decided that we would keep the name for several reasons. The main reason is that our field is just now becoming established and accepted in academic circles.
- ⊗ David McAllester spoke during the first plenary session giving a nostalgic recount about the four founders of SEM and how the society came into existence.
- ⊗ Philip Bohlman (University of Chicago) was elected as the 2005-2006 president of SEM.
- ⊗ Anthony Seeger, author of *Why Suya Sing* (now back in print), gave the Charles Seeger lecture during which he talked about his father and current directions in Ethnomusicology.
- ⊗ There was an emphasis on trying to expand the membership and scope of the society to have a more international focus.



GCoMM 2006
July 11-15

Bethel University, St. Paul, MN

If you haven't done so already, please go to the website at www.gcommhome.org and click on the yellow links to sign up for the free email "GCoMM Updates" – this will provide you with information regarding registration and other breaking news.