

THE MINISTRY OF CHARIZMA

“MANY TIMES PEOPLE WONDER WHY WE’RE IN THIS BAND, WHAT KEEPS US GOING. WE BELIEVE THIS IS OUR CALL. IT IS WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO”

THE MEMBERS

Göran Nikolausson/Guitar & backing voc.

Jan Nikolausson/Drums & percussion

Bo Nikolausson/Bass & backing voc.

Johan Mauritzson/Lead voc. & keyboards

Thomas Karlsson/Lead voc. & guitar

Charizma has been a band for quite some time and during these years the Christian faith has always been a part of each member’s life. Although at times our priorities may have been wrong, God has shown His faithfulness time after time. Through the years God has given us the opportunity to share the Good News with people all over the world. On this journey we have seen and learned a lot of things, but none more vital than this; as a band we need to have a strong vision founded in prayer and bible reading. This learning experience has come at a high price at times, but we thank God for leading us through days of joy and days of self-doubt and turmoil. Here’s a story about our growth process and what has become our vision.

LIVING THE VISION

During a three-year period (1989-1992) we got to realize a vision to spread the gospel to a whole youth generation in Estonia. This experience came to change us completely. Before we ever went to Estonia, God had through different people spoken to us on a number of occasions revealing that we would; “conquer the records stores in the east”, “write songs that would touch a whole nation”, “play at sold out venues” and “win crowds for Christ” to name a few examples. This and more came true when we surrendered ourselves completely to Christ and His vision for us.

During these years our lives were signified by prayer and our goal was to complete the task God has put before us. This was the result of us having strong role models and leaders that stood very close to Charizma backing us up in every aspect.

After we had seen the Estonian vision brought to it’s completion, we had a hard time accepting that what had once worked through a strong vision, did not work any more once we had seen it through. This led to a lot of frustration and we felt as if we were in the desert, without guidance and without a vision. What was God’s will for us now?

At this turning point we felt that God told us to lay down our lives before Him, to sacrifice what we loved the most – being in a band. Just like Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac. Since Charizma had become such a

huge part of our lives, this was very challenging and we went through a lot of struggles and pain before we took the decision to break up the band.

In hindsight we can see that in doing so we learned that obedience to God is the key if you want to follow Him. For 18 months we did not play at all together. Instead we sought God in our own, personal ways. Some of us went to Bible school, some got more involved in their local church. We all learned to take responsibility for our individual calling as well as our personal spiritual growth. God worked hard with every one of us, and this was the foundation for the rebirth of Charizma.

CHARIZMA - PHASE II

Not only were two new members added and the music quite different, the focus of the group was adjusted. Today our aim is first and foremost to be missionaries for the Kingdom of God. Being artists and musicians comes second place.

We stand on the following Bible verses;

Matt 28:18-20 “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matt 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

CONCLUSION

We want to go to places where the message of Christ is seldom or never heard. Through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we want to influence and change peoples lives that otherwise never would have come in contact with the Gospel. We believe this is what God wants us to do and if we stay true to Him and His calling, we will see it happen. Pray for us and our vision, to reach young people with the message of Christ.

CHARIZMA