

Interview with Adri Vermeulen – Worship Leader

Fielies de Kock

I was born and raised in... I was born in Windhoek (Namibia) and lived in Bloemfontein for four years, after which we moved to Pretoria where my husband and I still reside.

My family... My father worked at the Post Office. He was quite arty and painted beautifully. My mother is also a creative person. She currently works as a conference co-ordinator and had her own florist at a time. My only sister, who also sings, lives in the U.S.A.

I started singing... At school I sang in the choir and took part in the *revue*. I always wanted to do acting, more than I wanted to sing.

I married... Dries on 3 February 1996 in Pretoria. Dries grew up in Williston in the Northern Cape and studied electronic engineering at the University of Stellenbosch. After his studies he went to the Army for his National Service and was stationed in Pretoria, where we met.

My life story in short is this... I grew up in a middle class Afrikaans home. After Matric (Grade 12) I started working, instead of going to university. It was my way of rebelling against my father for his refusal that I study drama. I had a few jobs in the three years before Dries and I got married. While on honeymoon, my father committed suicide, which phased in a very intense time in our lives. I became so depressed that I developed an eating disorder and got addicted to prescription drugs. It nearly destroyed my life and our marriage, but God's grace was so powerful that He healed me in an instant. After healing me, God revealed his calling on my life. Today I am free to worship in His throne room. To serve God's heart is an exciting journey which I wouldn't change for anything!

I believe... that God allowed my time in the desert to prepare me and form me to become what He wanted me to be. I also believe that Jesus cleansed me and freed me through His death on the cross and that everything I am, is by His grace only.

My life purpose is... To live a life of worship with a servant heart that is tuned in to God's. I am also called to facilitate praise and worship where and when needed, so that people can open their hearts for God to touch them and reveal Himself to them.

My passion in life is... Jesus - to follow His calling on my life and to be a wife who submits to the husband He gave me.

Other things I like to do... I love movies and breakfast! I favour holidays at the seaside with good books and love moving around furniture in our house...

Friends are important in my life, because... They fill my life with laughter, tears, joy and pain. We have a group of friends who 'builds up' our lives and to whom we can be accountable to. My friends and I love sharing and caring over a cup of coffee.

My first CD... A few years ago I felt in my spirit that it was time to record a CD. I hesitated, due to the fact that I wasn't a trained artist, but God confirmed that the idea was from Him. I was facilitating at a big women's conference when God revealed it to me how He wanted us to serve Him through praise and worship. God urged me to contact Louis Brittz (whom I didn't know at the time) and share my vision with him. Once when worshipping, I saw an open door leading to God's throne room. Lots of people waited in front of it while busy cleansing themselves before going in. As they moved in through the door, I saw them falling down in front of God in worship. I realised that the CD must consist of worship music - to help people enter God's throne room and have a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him.

I learned what I know about being a worship leader from... After God healed me and changed my life, I got involved in our congregation's praise and worship ministry. I didn't know anything about it, but I enjoyed taking the microphone and start singing. Abri Brancken was the music director of our congregation at that stage and he and his wife Leoni, became mentors to Dries and I. Abri is an anointed worship leader and he helped me discover my anointing. He taught me a lot, but it was a difficult road, because there were many things in my life that were not in line with God's Word and His will for me. God had to take all these things away from me and that was a painful process, because I had to become humble before Him. Sometimes I became discouraged and fell, but then He picked me up again and we

started all over again... Today I know that I am called to serve God's heart and that every believer is commanded to live a life of praise and worship and that where ever we go, that our hearts must be one with His so that He can teach us to worship in spirit and in truth.

The person who influenced my life most is... God used my husband as king, priest and prophet in my life. He is the quiet one always in the background and makes sure my feet are anchored. He is my greatest supporter and my greatest critique.

My dreams for this ministry God gave me are... that God will be glorified and that He will always be the One that everything is about. And that people will experience His presence and that they will turn their hearts toward Him and live passionately for Him.

I and my husband's dreams for our life are... to glorify God through everything that we do and to live in His will for our lives. Also, to obey Him - no matter how much it costs or how difficult it is.

My advice to young artists in ministry is... Creativity is close to God's heart, because he is the Creator of all things. Be true to your identity, live with integrity and keep your life's calling in mind in whatever you do.

My advice to artists who want to become worship leader is... Pray, pray pray... Keep seeking God's face. Praise and worship is a lifestyle and not entertaining people in church or at shows by singing nice songs. Live in line with Biblical principles and deal with things you haven't dealt before. It is not an easy road, but God will give the breakthroughs if one persists. Get a mentor, make 100% sure of your life's calling, because it is a responsibility you will be accountable for before Him.

I want to tell every believer in Jesus... Enjoy every moment of the journey. Let the Potter form you into the shape He wants you.

I want to tell every person who doesn't believe in Jesus... God loves you just as you are, because He created you. You don't have to do something special or be

someone special. You are free because of his grace to let Jesus die for your sins. Accept his atonement. The journey with Jesus is an awesome one.

Adri's favourites

Worship song/s... For Your name is Holy, Face down.

Scripture verse/s... One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple (Ps 27:4).

Bible translation... My green 'NIV Intimacy Bible'. I feel completely lost without it.

Worship/gospel artist... Matt Redman, Darlene Zschech, Casting Crowns.

Adri's playful side - favourites

Ring tone on your cell phone... Father into Your courts (all the earth).

Movie/s... Good Will Hunting and action movies.

Song/s... Praise You through the storm.

Music... 80's music is still tops.

Actor... Matt Damon.

Actress... Drew Barrymore.

Singer (male)... Josh Groban.

Singer (female)... Darlene Zschech.

Place... Anywhere with a sea view.

Saying... Blessed are the flexible, for they won't be easily broken.

If I wasn't a worshipleader I would have been... Not living in God's will.

The one thing I cannot do without is... My green NIV Bible and my sunglasses.