



September 23, 2008

### **Start up the Sound**

Performance with Economy

Hadley, MA- Just west of downtown Fort Worth is Weatherford, Texas, home to the Christ The King Covenant Church. The congregation has thrived for twenty years, occupying several buildings over that time. In March of 2008, they completed construction of their new, permanent home on Tin Top Road. The church has an average attendance of about 250 people every Sunday, but it is designed to be large enough for twice that number.

When the church installed their old audio equipment in the new building, it did not perform to their expectations. This larger space required more robust sound reinforcement to handle the spoken word as well as live music from a fully staffed praise band, plus guest artists. It was desirable to reuse as much of the existing equipment as possible. What the church really needed was someone to get in “under the hood” and make the system work with some key new purchases.

Music Minister Debbie Smith called Craig Swancy, of Craig’s Music Inc., also in Weatherford, and asked him come and look at the system. Craig’s Music celebrates their thirty year anniversary in the musical instrument sales business this year, and Craig also provides audio system installation services. Working with youth minister Jeff Hopkins, Craig assessed what could be reused and what new equipment would work best with it. He recommended a pair of JBL 6215/95 speakers, two Peavey 2652 Nearfield speakers, our Horizon Custom made floor boxes, and an Allen & Heath GL2200 32x4x2 mixing board. Craig was able to integrate the existing amplifiers, two Crown CE 1000 and two CE 2000 units, into the new system. He cleaned up the mike cables, reused existing microphones, and set up an Aviom in ear monitor system.



What remained was how to safely and effectively hang the pair of JBL 6215/95 trapezoidal enclosures. They needed to be center hung at the front of the sanctuary and have independent pan and tilt control. Craig had met Mike Akrep of Polar Focus at Infocomm08 back in June and he gave Mike a call. The independent angling control from a spreader beam using Zbeam halves and Polar Focus Tilt Cable Kits was simple. Attaching the cluster to steeply slanting steel beams was less so. However, those beams happened to be holding up two purlins which ran across and in full contact with them, making a natural “elbow” which keeps the chain slings in place. Key to arriving at this configuration was a data worksheet which Craig filled out and faxed back to Polar Focus, giving designers there a clear idea of the factors affecting their calculations. Such worksheets, of which Polar Focus offers many, are invaluable to their process of producing safe, user friendly audio rigging systems which come to the customer completely kitted.

Craig enthuses, “Installation was flawless. The design is quick, easy, secure and most of all safe.” He adds, “The rigging was packed well and arrived in ready-to-go condition. It took me only two hours by myself on a scissorlift to put up the cluster.”

There is now plenty of sound to go around this long awaited worship space. Future endeavors may include theatrical productions, as the stage is large enough for that. For now Craig is training volunteer system operators and the Christ the King Covenant Church is very happy with the smooth sounds of their revved up audio engine.