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HILLSONG'S 18TH LIVE ALBUM PRESENTS POIGNANT MESSAGE

Hillsong Music this week releases the church's 18th live praise and worship album *Faith + Hope + Love*.

The album is expected to be one of the nation's biggest sellers over the next few weeks.

Creative Director Joel Houston says the new album appeals to a broad audience with appearances from the entire Hillsong worship team including Hillsong United, Darlene Zschech and Reuben Morgan.

"We're trying to bring different songs that relate to people where they're at," Joel told TRAA. "I think this one's [album] perhaps a little broader in scope."

Houston says the title of the CD sums up the church's journey over the past year.

"We've really been on a journey as a church, bringing it back to what it's all about as followers of Jesus Christ," he continues.

"So often we complicate the simplest things. When I read the message of Jesus, it is clear what it's all about - faith, hope and love. So I think the title *Faith + Hope + Love* is really a poignant statement.

"We've framed the church around these great tenets of faith over the past year," Joel explains.

HILLSONG 2008 INSPIRES US ROCK WORSHIP ACT LEELAND

Leeland Mooring, the lead singer of the progressive American Christian rock band Leeland, says a visit to last year's Hillsong Conference inspired the group's new album *Love Is On The Move*.

Mooring says that during the conference one of the speakers spoke about the connection between worship and justice, and they played a clip of Bono giving an acceptance speech for an award that he'd received for the work he's been doing in Africa.

In accepting the award, Bono reminded everyone that "God is with the poor and with the needy, and if we want to be with God, we need to follow him to the poor - where the poor 'play house' inside of cardboard boxes..."

Leeland says those words impacted the group's new album with its emphasis on social justice.

THE PRIESTS, TOP CHRISTIAN ALBUM OF 2008

The self titled debut CD from Northern Ireland's singing priests was the biggest selling Christian album in Australia last year.

The Priests - Fathers Eugene and Martin O'Hagan and Father David Delargy - garnered gold status in Australia within its first month of release selling more than 35 000 units, and many millions more worldwide.

According to ARIA's list of gold and platinum accreditations for 2008, the album was the only Christian album to achieve gold in Australia last year.

The Priests have continued their success this year gaining platinum status in late May for selling more than 70 000 CDs.

The trio's DVD *In Concert At Armagh Cathedral* has gained platinum too.