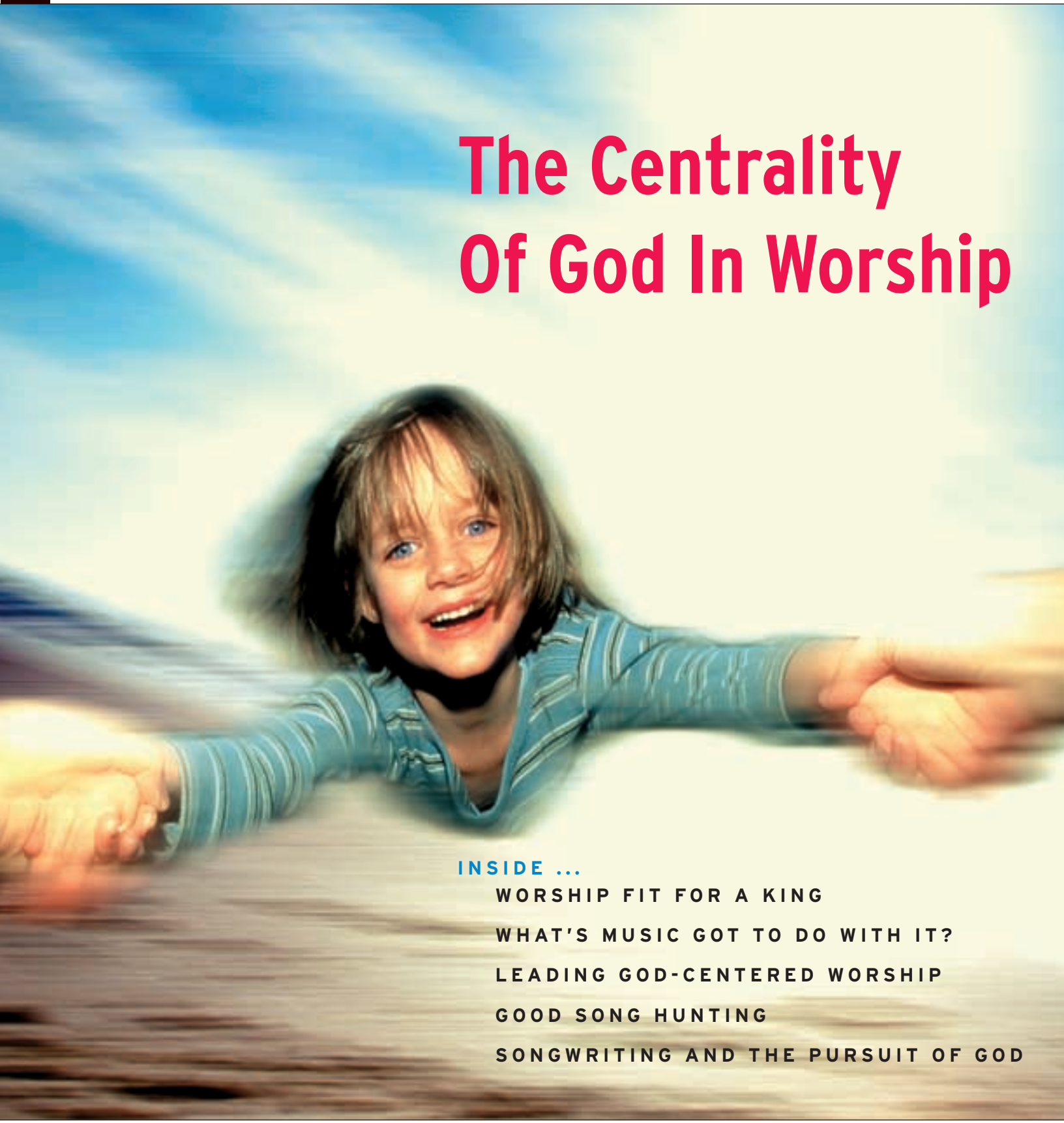
vineyard music™

VOLUME 44 | SUMMER 2001

inside worship™

A DEEPER LOOK



The Centrality Of God In Worship

INSIDE ...

WORSHIP FIT FOR A KING

WHAT'S MUSIC GOT TO DO WITH IT?

LEADING GOD-CENTERED WORSHIP

GOOD SONG HUNTING

SONGWRITING AND THE PURSUIT OF GOD

PLUS: THE SAVING GRACE OF SONGBASE 2000

Different, But Still The Same

As a kid I loved those "Spot the difference" puzzles where you had to find changes to a picture. Some changes were easy to notice while others were more difficult. Similarly, the *Worship Resource Center* has changed in several ways, to simplify and improve on what we already provide to you. Let me guide you through the changes.

First of all, let me draw your attention to the most obvious change. *Inside Worship* magazine has changed its look! It will now be full color with inspiring and practical articles, plus interviews and much more.



In the past we have had two subscription programs, one called *Worship Resource Center* and the other called *Vineyard Music Club*. *Worship Resource Center* provided you with new songs on a CD or cassette, songbook and our *Inside Worship* magazine. *Vineyard Music Club* provided you with a CD or cassette only.

We have merged the clubs together and have renamed them ***Club Vineyard*** and ***Club Vineyard Basic***. *Club Vineyard* will be very much the same as *Worship Resource Center* was, providing you with great new music, a songbook and our *Inside Worship* magazine, except with more added value. *Club Vineyard Basic* is for those desiring to receive additional copies of the music for their worship teams, or just wishing to receive only the music.

Also, in an effort to provide you with our current top releases from around the world, *Club Vineyard* will not be limited to the *Touching The Father's Heart®* series. While you will still be receiving new songs with each release from the church for the church, **they now will be chosen from our best new releases internationally.**

Our mission is to touch all people in this world, of *every tongue, every tribe and every nation.* As we reach out to them, we have the incredible honor of being blessed by new worship songs that have been birthed in their different nations, and sharing them with you.

Therefore, as a *Club Vineyard* subscriber, you will have access to the best that Vineyard Music has to offer from around the world! You will benefit from a wide range of additional worship resources not available to non-Club Vineyard members, while saving money and receiving them ahead of retail.

We hope you will enjoy the new, enhanced *Club Vineyard*, and as always, your feedback is greatly appreciated.

May God bless you through the music!

Chris Whitelock
International Development Coordinator

P.S. If you are already a subscriber to one of our clubs, don't worry, your subscription will continue just under the new name of Club Vineyard.

insideworship

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Letter From the Editor

The current explosion in the commercialization of worship music presents the worship leading community with incredible opportunities as well as with some definite challenges. Never before has the door been so wide open for the expansion of the arts and music as related to the activity of worship. Yet, never before has the need been greater for us to keep focused on God and His fame as the true object of our worship.

So, I invite you to be encouraged by the refreshing insights and reminders in this issue concerning the ***Centrality Of God In Worship.***

These articles will challenge us as worship leaders to lead God-centered worship that is fit for a King as well as help us understand how to balance the issues of musicality with right attitudes of the heart. Also, Scott Underwood shares an inside view of the SongBase 2000 computer software for worship leaders.

Finally, you've probably either noticed or heard about a few exciting changes happening with Vineyard Music, so don't miss the enlightening letter from Vineyard Music's International Development Coordinator, Chris Whitelock.

Worship Leader/Songwriter Michael Frye wrote, "(Jesus) Be The Centre." My prayer is that these articles will encourage you in making those lyrics a greater reality in your life.

Brent Helming
Guest Editor

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Worship Fit For A King





BY DON WILLIAMS, PH.D.

(The following is adapted from Dr. Williams' article in the January 2001 issue of Equipped Magazine. Used by permission.)

God is King. In the Bible, whenever the windows of heaven open, He is reigning over His universe. Isaiah sees the Lord on a throne, high and lifted up; His train fills the temple (God's house or palace on earth). The Seraphs, His shining angelic retainers, worship: *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory."* Isaiah is staggered: *"Woe to me."* His reason? Unclean man, unclean people. How does he know it? *"My eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty"* (Isaiah 6:1-5).

Micaiah reveals the Lord *"... sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing around Him on His right and on His left"* (I Kings 22:19). Ezekiel's heavenly vision includes a throne with a burning, divine figure on it. When he sees it, he falls face down. (Ezekiel 1:26-28) For Daniel, God sits on a fiery throne, giving an everlasting kingdom to the Son of Man. (Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14) In the New Testament, John is transported into heaven before the Creator's throne where angels worship. (Revelation 4:1-11) So it goes.

Worship is not getting; it is giving. We give our lives over to God.

What is true for the Bible in general is true for the Psalms in particular. Here, in the Bible's prayer book, we encounter worship to the King, fit for the King. This includes high praise, fervent petition, temple celebration, bold witness, sane wisdom, calls to warfare, intimate abandonment, breaking and healing hearts, prophetic drive, secure hope. God's people form and are formed from this kind of praise and prayer. As the revelation of God as King comes down, worship goes up. This is the heart of Psalms.

Vision Of The King

In the psalms, God is proclaimed King: *"The Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods"* (Psalm 95:3). He sits on His throne: *"The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; He sits enthroned"* (Psalm 99:1). His garments are regal: *"The Lord reigns, He is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and is armed with strength"* (Psalm 93:1). A footstool stands below His throne: *"Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool; He is holy"* (Psalm 99:5). He holds a scepter in His hand: *"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of Your kingdom"* (Psalm 45:6). He is surrounded with heavenly retainers: *"He sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake"* (Psalm 99:1). He is worshiped by a sea of angels: *Praise the Lord, you His angels ... Praise the Lord, all His heavenly host"* (Psalm 103:20-21).

Vision Of Ourselves

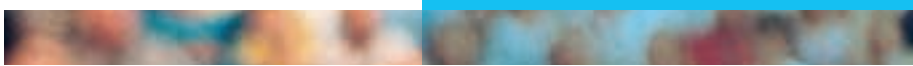
As Calvin says, to know God is to know ourselves. Humanity is revealed in the Psalms in the very act of worship. We discover hearts abandoned to God, overwhelmed by sin, struggling under conviction and guilt, gripped with fear, raging toward enemies, filled with doubt, delighting in the Presence, longing for home, suffering with weaknesses, sick and disabled, waiting for death, hoping for life. We sit alone in the night watches. We lie on beds of pain. We anticipate the morning battle. We experience abandonment, deception, gossip and slander. We meditate upon God's law. We climb Zion with joy and gladness. We learn the new song of salvation. We see the blessing of our children. We know that God rules the nations. We feel His shepherd's heart. We plead His covenant promises. We long for the Messiah to triumph. We rest our case in Him.

O Worship The King

How then do we learn to worship this Sovereign from the Psalms? First, we come before Him and make our act of submission.

In Hebrew, the word "worship" [shakah] means to fall down or bow down: *"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God"* (Psalm 95:6). To fall down is to surrender, to give up, becoming physically lower than the King. It is humbling. We are helpless, at the Sovereign's mercy. This is where worship begins. It destroys our narcissism: "What's in it for me?" Worship is not getting; it is giving. We give our lives over to God. To withhold is to revolt. To surrender is to worship: *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise"* (Psalm 51:17).

The Christian life begins with worship (submission) and confession: *"Jesus is Lord [and I'm not]"* (Romans 10:9. Paul says to offer our bodies as living sacrifices: *"... this is our spiritual act of worship"* (Romans 12:1). It is holistic,



DON WILLIAMS, Ph.D.

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incarnational and intentional. When we lay our body down before God, He has us.

Second, God taught Israel never to come empty handed. Just as heads of state honor each other with gifts, so we bring our gifts to God. We bring the gift of ourselves. We bring the gift of our praise. We sing to Him; we shout to Him (a ringing cry of victory): *"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs"* (Psalm 100:1-2). We honor and extol Him as the object of our worship. This expresses loving Him with all our heart. We tell of His greatness, His goodness and His faithfulness. We marvel over His character and His works. Here worship turns into witness.

We remember God's mighty deeds. We recall His miracles, His deliverance from Egypt, His rescue from the hands of the enemy, His forgiving our sins, His healings and His triumph over death. As we proclaim His mighty deeds, the nations listen. They come to fear and honor the one true God: *"Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples"* (Psalm 96:2-3).

As we worship, we also bring our gifts, our sacrifices, our tithes and our offerings. We pay our vows. These are acts of obedience. They maintain the temple and its priesthood. They are also acts of love and devotion as we give God His due: *"Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High"* (Psalm 50:14).

Third, worship includes petition. Dallas Willard says that requests are the heart of prayer. We bring them to the Great King. We come boldly. We come as sons and daughters.

As we petition, we come on our behalf, and also on the behalf of others. We represent those who do not know the King. In their idolatry and unbelief they cannot come themselves. We lay out our requests, knowing that God's face is turned toward us. He is anxious to receive them and to answer them for our good and His glory.

Fit For A King

Central to biblical faith is not only that God is King, but that He has His kingdom, His reign and rule. In the Vineyard we are especially tuned in to the message of Jesus, that the Kingdom is at hand, within reach. We know that God has decisively intervened in His Son to reclaim this planet from the counterfeit kingdom of Satan. Jesus' healings and deliverances roll back the enemy's advances.

Spiritual warfare courses through the Psalms. David's cries for victory and vengeance denote not only a win over his enemies, but also a win over their idols by Yahweh. These psalms point beyond themselves to the time of fulfillment. They join the messianic theme which is a central part Israel's worship. The Warrior-King Himself will rise up, overthrow His enemies, identify with us in His suffering, and restore His people fully, bringing the nations to Zion and vindicating Himself. Like the fall of Jericho, it is through worship that this assault on the idols and their darkness is launched and sustained.

Worship draws us into God's presence, His Spirit moves among us and His power is released in us. Worship is a weapon of warfare because worship fulfills the first commandment ("no other gods"), refocuses us upon the living God and gives us a taste of our ultimate destiny: to delight in him in the promised kingdom fully come. There, as C. S. Lewis writes in *The Weight of Glory*, we will be with Christ, we will be like Christ, we will be glorified with Him (receiving beauty and praise), we will be feasted and entertained and we will exercise His authority over the renewed heavens and earth.

To withhold is to revolt.
To surrender is to worship.

I add one thing more: we will also be elevated in ecstasy, worshiping through our perfected and transformed bodies. There God will be all in all and we will be complete in Him, knowing fully as we are known, knowing the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, being filled with the fullness of God.

As we worship through the Psalms, we learn more and more of what that all might mean and be for us. The heavens open, revelation comes down and our worship goes up – fit for the King.

What's Music Got To Do With It?

BY MARTY KAISER

A few weeks ago a young worship leader who was contemplating some of the mechanics of leading worship asked, "On issues like music, style, volume, congregational participation, lyrical content, where is the radical middle that will bless God, be a true expression of our hearts and culture, while inviting the people to join us in worship?"

Certainly a good question, and one that I've found myself wrestling with early on in leadership. What part does music play? What is our goal? How do we find a balance between the One we worship and those we are leading in worship? Over the years I've learned a few things that have allowed me some freedom in this area.

If broken down to its most basic form, our job description as worship leaders is two-fold. Our first priority is that God is worshiped. This begins with our own response before God as we worship Him with all that is within us. Second, we are to lead the people to do the same. In light of the above asked question, let's examine what part music, style, rhythm and volume play in accomplishing the first half of our job description: God being worshiped.

More Than Music

When we gather in a corporate setting, whether large or small, we set out to exalt our God. We do this in many ways; prayer, the reading of His word, giving, etc. Music (volume, style, rhythm) just happens to be one of the vehicles we use to accomplish the goal of exalting God.

However, the "music" is not the worship. Music, in and of itself, is nothing if not offered from the right heart and attitude. Is God more blessed when our worship is done with music than worship through acts of kindness? Is He pleased more when worship is done with music than through spoken words of praise? The answer is no. It is the act of worship, giving our all to the One who loves us, that is important.

This needs to be accomplished through every part of our lives. Music is just one medium that we happen to use. Too often I've found myself looking for the style, song or rhythm that will capture God's heart. However, the truth is what captures God's heart is my heart. Whatever style we choose is far less pleasing to Him than our sincere expression of love through the song. I stress again, music is not worship. We can use music to worship, but the melody, instrumentation and sound are nothing without one's heart behind them.

More Than Style

Musical styles have changed drastically throughout history. If it was the style of a song that blessed God, we would have to ask this question: For every time there has been a change that affected the sound of worship music, was God no longer glorified? Was there a period of time that He had to adjust to a "new sound"? Did it take time before the new style was a fragrant aroma to Him?

Of course not! Musical styles, however packaged, are just that. A package. The true expression lies within how it is used. If the rhythm or style is what's pleasing, we have reduced our King to a "Top 40" God, who sits upon His throne waiting for His favorite songs to be sung, not caring who or how the songs are presented before Him. Just so long as He hears His favorite tunes.

On the contrary, God sits upon His throne waiting for a heart to approach Him in worship with sincerity and love. If this is done wrapped in the package of music, wonderful. If through prayer, fantastic. Giving, great. However the means, the importance of worship lies in our personal response and heart attitude before Him. Is music important in our worship? Absolutely! We are even told to use musical instruments in our worship. However, the emphasis is not on the sound of music, it is on what the music represents and expresses.

So what does this mean to you and me as leaders of worship? Hopefully it allows a bit of freedom. In reply to the initial question, if all else is stripped away, the musical elements of a song really don't matter as it applies to the first part of our job description, God being worshiped. Use whatever style, volume or rhythm you like. Assuming that lyrics are biblically sound and your heart is being offered to God as a sincere expression, He will be well pleased.

This brings us to the second half of our job description as worship leaders, leading the people. As already stated, if God is not truly worshiped, then all is for loss. But it is here, in the leading of people, that musical style comes into play.

Music, in and of itself, is nothing if not offered from the right heart and attitude.

As worship leaders, we are being used to lead. That means the people need to be able to follow where we are leading. If we do something that the people cannot follow or relate to, we've failed in the second half of our job description. Do we need to take into account culture, musical style, volume and rhythm when leading others? Most definitely; they assist us in leading the people.

Who Are You Leading?

Back to my friend's question. On issues like music, style, volume, congregational participation and lyrical content,



where is the radical middle that will bless God, be a true expression of our hearts and culture, while inviting people to join us in worship? We've discussed that God being blessed is not dependent on the type of song used, so I would ask this simple question. Who are we leading? Young, old, new believers, seasoned believers, conservatives, etc.?

Identifying "who" we are leading will, in part, determine the style used. Remember, God is exulted with all types of music. Pounding drums, a cappella, jazz and country are all acceptable as long as our hearts are for Him.

Determining Style

So what style can the people grasp hold of and relate to? What would best serve and lead the congregation or small group? The answer to these questions will change over time. In some churches, it may change from one service to another.

We recently had one of our youth bands lead worship for a Sunday night service. They are a decent band and well equipped to lead worship for an adult crowd. However, they saw this as a good time to introduce the "style" of worship that works well with their age group.

As you might guess, from a worship standpoint it did not go over too well. Musically the band was fine. However, their song selection, style, volume and so on was not what the majority of the people related to. Thus, the people had a hard time following. Was the music bad, off base, lacking in content? Definitely not! The style just didn't fit the people they were trying to lead. The end result, the second half of their job description (leading the people) was not accomplished.

So, use a style that will bring the people before God, whatever that may be. This may take us down many roads. The good news is this. We're free to travel those roads. Knowing that if our heart's response is genuine before God, the music is theologically sound and the people can participate and follow where we're leading them, God will be pleased, whatever the sound may be.



MARTY KAISER

Marty is the worship pastor at Vineyard North Phoenix where he has served on staff for the past seven years. He and his wife Shelia have three children and live in Peoria, AZ.

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24 PRACTICAL TIPS TO LEAD EFFECTIVE AND DYNAMIC WORSHIP

Hot Tips for Worship Leaders

by Brent Helming



This book of helpful information by Brent Helming comes from great experience in leading worship, ministering with pastors and developing worship teams for the past 11 years. This is a useful and practical tool that any worship leader would benefit from!



Leading God-Centered Worship

BY ROBERT HARTMAN

I recently listened to a preacher instructing other preachers on how to deliver God-centered sermons. The speaker pointed out that of the many things that people would like to hear in a sermon, and the many things that we think they should hear, a sermon is really achieving its purpose only when it is centered on the person and work of God.

While listening to this, it struck me that this is also true of our worship. Our worship songs and worship events should have only one objective and aim: God Himself. As Carol Wimber has said, "Worship is not a vehicle to warm up the congregation for the preacher, or to soften the people up for the offering. Worship comes from Jesus and goes back to Jesus from us. Everything He gives to us, but worship belongs to Him."

As worship leaders we have a responsibility to lead worship in a way that allows it to retain this God-centeredness. The way we lead can enhance or inhibit worship from staying properly focused on God. Worship centered on anything less will (or should) leave us and the people we lead feeling short-changed.

What Is God-Centered Worship?

I view God-centered worship as worship that informs the people about God, inclines them toward God and invites the presence of God. In other words, God-centered worship deepens our understanding of God, opens our hearts toward God and is filled with the tangible presence of God.

This definition was illustrated by my introduction to this kind of worship at a Sunday service at John Wimber's Yorba Linda Calvary Chapel in 1979. The fact is, I don't remember anything about the service except the worship. It wasn't the "music," because though I was already a musician at the time I didn't spend much time watching John and his band. I was watching the people worship in a way I'd never seen before! The people were communicating with God in an open, personal and relational way. They were inviting God to come meet them, and the song lyrics were all about God and this relationship they had with Him.

The idea of leading this kind of worship sounds good on paper, but when you stand at your next worship event ready to lead your group or congregation in worship what will you do? How will you actually lead worship so that it retains its proper focus? Will you just do what comes naturally and hope it works? Fortunately, there are practical steps you can take to insure that worship stays God-centered. What follows are a few tips to help you improve your ability to lead God-centered worship.

Know Your Intentions

Leading God-centered worship begins with our intent as worship leaders. If our primary motivation for standing up and leading is anything other than to bless God then we've immediately lost the battle for God-centered worship. I don't mean to say that only those with the purest of motivations are able to lead worship. After all, *"There is not a righteous man on earth who does what is right and never sins"* (Ecclesiastes 7:20).

We will always have a mixture of motivations that include self-focused ones like wanting to "look good," but we are the ones who choose which motivations will drive and control us. One very practical step you can take that will help you look past distracting motivations is to quiet yourself for a moment before worship and recall all

that God has done for you. Perhaps He has healed your body, salvaged a relationship or rescued you from an addiction. As you remember the work of God in your life you will find your focus shifting to Him and your motivation to bless Him will increase.

Informing The People About God

God-centered worship deepens our understanding of God. In fact, Sunday morning worship sometimes preaches a more memorable, effective and powerful sermon than the words of the preacher. In an almost effortless way, people connect at an emotional and experiential level with the topic of a song. Music deposits a message with incredible staying power. So what messages about God are we depositing in the hearts of the people we lead?

One way to answer this question is to review your last several weeks of worship sets. Look over your song selections and ask yourself what you have been teaching the people. Did your song selections accurately inform the people of the timeless truths of the person and nature of God? His righteousness, mercy, justice, grace, power and love?

Also, did the songs inform the people at their point of need? For example, if your congregation is in a time of repentance did your song selections correctly inform them about what repentance is?

Hearts Inclined Toward God

God-centered worship inclines people toward God. By this I mean more than that they simply think about God. I mean that they are open-heartedly communicating with Him during worship.

At a recent Sunday morning worship service I played the final song and sensed that there was something more to do. Instead of immediately closing the worship I led the people in a prayer thanking God for all the good he has brought to our lives. I then asked the people to remain silent and allow God to remind them of specific things He has done for them and then I closed by encouraging them to quietly thank Him.

In doing this, I was very consciously following the direction of the Holy Spirit to guide the hearts of the people into direct, worshipful interaction with God. After the worship service one young woman thanked me for leading worship in this way. She broke into tears as she explained to me how good God had been to her. In the midst of worship her heart had been directed toward God and then opened to Him. For her, the worship experience had centered on God in a very real way.

We should continually ask ourselves if the people we are leading in worship are experiencing this open-hearted interaction with God. How can you tell? Open your eyes occasionally while you are leading so you can observe people and see if the connection is being made. Listen for reports, like the one that I described, of communion with God during worship. If you discover that genuine openness toward God is not occurring in worship then think and pray about how you can fix that. This may mean teaching the people how to communicate with God in worship, being more careful to choose songs that invite people to commune with God or becoming a more active listener to the Holy Spirit as you lead worship.

Inviting The Presence Of God

Though I am addressing this issue last, I believe that inviting and experiencing the real presence of God is at the core of worship. After all, the loving, adoring language of our songs is spoken to a real Person who actually hears what we say, so it should not surprise us when He "shows up" to receive our worship. In fact, think of worship as an invitation to God, not just a set of statements about Him.

When I speak of God's presence in this way I am speaking of more than just the knowledge that He is present everywhere all the time. I am talking about the presence of God that is sensed and experienced in our hearts, minds and bodies. It's something like the difference between your friend being "present" across the room or "present" right next to you where you can feel his breath and physically sense his nearness in "your space."

It is an amazing thing to see how worship deepens when God is noticeably present, to sense that we are touching the heart of God and to see people healed or delivered as a result of God simply being present in all His goodness.

So how can we work toward leading worship that invites God to join us? The answer is simple: "dial down" (relax) and be a worshiper as you lead. When you worship Him you will find that He will meet you, and as He meets you others will be drawn in as you lead.

Now, I know from personal experience that while leading worship, particularly if you lead a band, there are a multitude of things to juggle at once. However, the one thing you can't sacrifice is the worship you give to God. The worship leaders I know who are most effective are the ones who have learned to lead without giving up their own ability to worship.

ROBERT HARTMANN

Robert Hartman has been involved in pastoral ministry and church planting since the early days of the Vineyard. He's also spent many years playing, writing and leading worship. Robert currently resides in San Marcos, CA with his wife Susie and their three children.

Good Song Hunting: Choosing Songs For Children's

BY DEBBIE WICHMAN

Are you a worship leader "hunting" for that perfect song which will make it possible for children to experience true worship? If so, be aware that children's worship is a different species of animal! Although it has the same goals as adult worship, children's worship sounds and looks DIFFERENT! Children's worship leaders need to keep these differences in minds as they select appropriate music.

Children's worship sounds different because children need worship songs that express their feelings toward God, and their understanding of Him. Songs that are appropriate and meaningful for children should literally mean what they say (avoid symbolism), and be easy to sing, follow and remember.

Much adult worship music uses a lot of symbolism. Children simply cannot understand symbolism until they are in the fifth or sixth grade. When a child sings about a river, for example, he or she envisions a literal flowing body of water. Any spiritual connotation is lost. I have childhood memories of singing about "sinners plunged beneath the flood" and thinking it sounded like a terrifying experience!



A few adult songs have easy to follow tempos, literal language and suggest motions that help communicate the meaning. It's great when we find those! However, most often our best choice is music written especially from a child's point of view.

Discovering music that will express children's feelings toward God takes a lot of research! It's necessary to explore a variety of sources. Children's worship leaders need to build an extensive musical library. When you discover a simple song with an engaging tempo, literal lyrics that can be illustrated with motions, and which tends to stick in your mind, you just *might* have found yourself a children's worship song! Keep this rule in mind: Choose music children will love to sing over music you find interesting.

If children's worship also looks different from adult worship, what should we expect to see? Children involved in authentic worship will probably not be standing still, hands lifted up, eyes closed, with tears running down their faces. To a child, crying is equated with sadness, so why would they cry when they're in the presence of an exciting, loving God? And if they're in the presence of an EXCITING God, why would they be standing still?

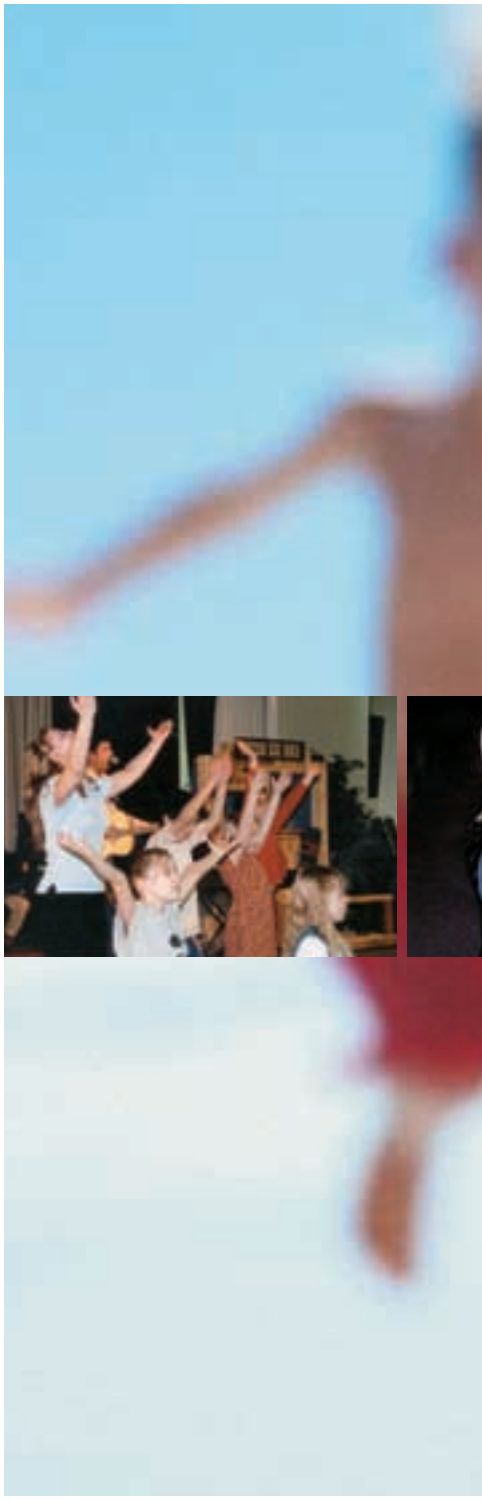
Children engaged in worship will be enthusiastic, responding to a sense of God's presence with shining, excited faces. They may twirl, jump, dance or bounce. However, authentic children's worship will NOT be disorderly or wild, because the children will be totally focused on God's presence rather than on poking and pushing each other.

Most of all, children's worship music should be fun! Keep in mind the differences between children's and adult's worship music for a fun, meaningful kids' worship time.



DEBBIE WICHMAN

Debbie is the director of Vineyard Seed Co., the children's ministry of The Vineyard Church of Fort Collins, Colorado. She has been involved in children's ministry and leading kids' worship for over 10 years.



Worship



Let The Kids Sing Out!

Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from an interview with producer/worship leader Casey Corum about the new kids' worship album that Vineyard Music USA recorded in April at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Boise, ID.

Inside Worship (IW): *Tell me some of the specifics about this recording.*

Casey: On the first weekend in April we recorded the initial tracks during four separate live sessions. The cool thing was that the congregation was almost entirely made up of kids and their parents. We estimate that we had 300–400 kids participate.

IW: *Who led the worship?*

Casey: We had Dave Chumchal from Vineyard Toledo, Cindy Rethmeier from the Anaheim Vineyard and "Ranger" Bud Redberry and me from here in Boise.

IW: *What makes this kids' project so unique?*

Casey: One of the big goals of this project was to document what currently is happening in kids' worship. We wanted to capture songs that have been birthed out of and are being used primarily in the context of kids' worship. As a result, the songs for this project were gathered from kids' programs in churches from around the US.

IW: *So what are the songs like?*

Casey: We had a lot of great songs come in for this project and they run the stylistic gamut. Everything from surf rock to reggae to blues to ska to country to hip-hop and more find a place on this project.

Our hope is that the songs would be a resource to churches across the body of Christ and help inspire those who are currently leading kids' worship to begin to press into the Lord and write songs for their own specific kids' ministry.

It would be great to see kids begin to own worship the way we do as adults. Hopefully through projects like this one we can begin to help kids find their own voice in worship through songs they can call their own.

IW: *When is this project due to hit the streets?*

Casey: This kids' project is slated to be released in October 2001 and a companion video, which was filmed during the recording, is due out at the same time.

The Saving Grace Of SongBa

Product Review

BY SCOTT UNDERWOOD

Simply put, SongBase for Worship Leaders by DASAN Research Corporation is a must for anyone planning set lists for any type of worship leading occasion. I've been using various versions of this program for five years now and the time I save, the records I keep and the peace of mind I now have is immeasurable. Really!

Years ago when I started leading worship, I would stand over a copier making extra copies of songs, cut them to fit on the copier glass, then shrink them until I got all the songs to fit on a page. This was always a time-consuming and, not to mention, messy process. Sound familiar?

To complicate things further, the "copier ritual" took place only after I had finished my Saturday night task of going through my notebook of songs and deciding on the songs for the next day's service. Sometimes this didn't happen until Sunday morning, which then left no time to make copies for my band mates. Does this still sound familiar?

If your situation is in any way familiar to mine then you know that leaving the coordination of the worship set until Saturday night went over real big with the family. I would usually become preoccupied by noon on Saturday and remained that way until the Sunday's worship time was over. STILL sound familiar? With all the extra time spent, both mentally and physically preparing just for the song list and making copies, something had to change. Then came SongBase.

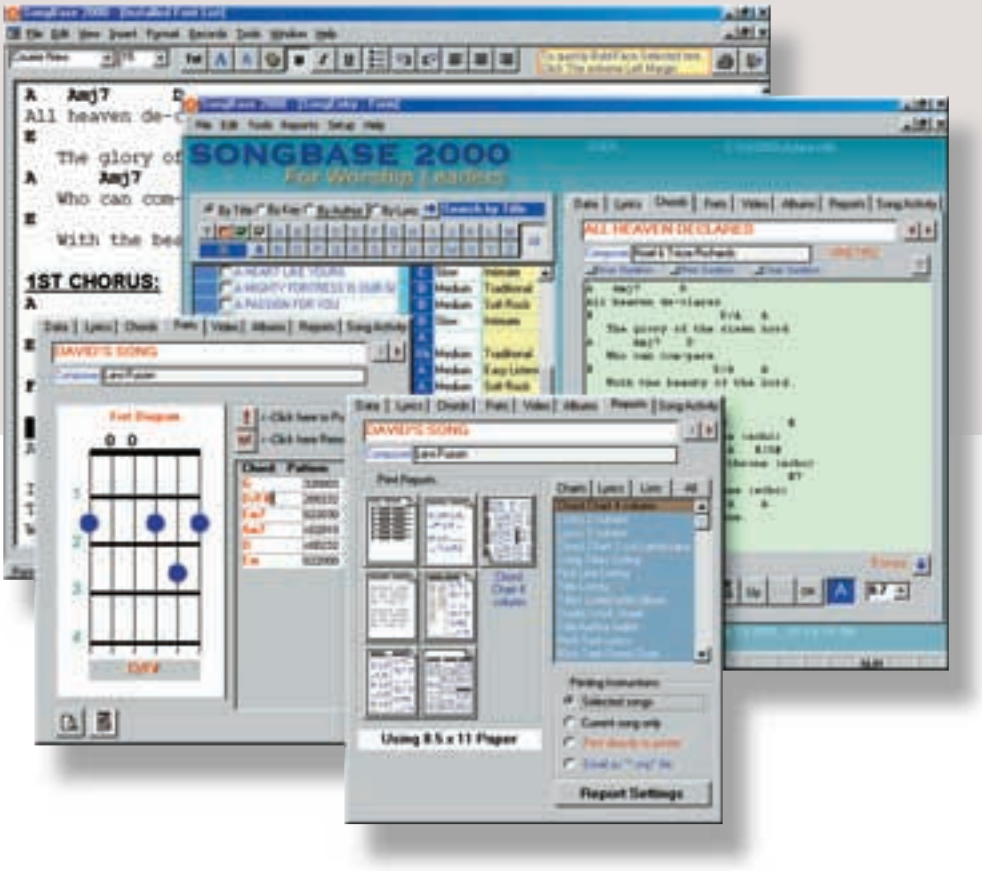
I can now sit down at my computer and, starting from scratch, put a set list together, print copies for the overhead people, along with single-page chord charts (anywhere from one song/page to six or seven songs/page) for each band member and include lyric charts for the singers (anywhere from one to nine songs/page). All this used to take me hours. I can now accomplish everything in 10 to 15 minutes. Seriously!

The time saved has been enormous. With a database of over 2,600 songs (containing every Vineyard song ever recorded to date along with other classic worship songs), I can quickly scroll through songs by title, author, theme or key to find the songs that will best fit. I can also enter in new songs and chord them in less time than it takes to enter them in a Word document. SongBase can even include actual pictures of chords to each song if I desire.

Other really nice features include the ability to draw my own chords to songs (yes, they are different than the song books sometimes!) and the ability to instantly transpose any song to any key with a click of a button (in my opinion, the best added feature of the program!). With the MP3 files that are included in the latest version, I can play 20 second excerpts from many of the songs in the database. This is a great help when I've forgotten a melody to an oldie (very cool)!

For those in a church with video capabilities, SongBase includes something called the Video PresenteR that, among other things, allows you to choose the next slide while the current one is being displayed. It also allows you to choose from over 100 different backgrounds that are pretty cool. Another very useful feature is the CCLI report that provides all the info regarding your play list that CCLI requires its

se 2000



members to complete usually every two years (you ARE a member, right?).

As with every computer program around there are a few minor glitches. Chords on some songs aren't aligned over the right words. However, you are able to modify any song within the database, so this is easily corrected. I also found that when I tried to use the scroll button on my mouse while in the 'Albums' tab, the program began to automatically scroll through every album in a continuous loop. I was not able to get out the loop without using Control+Alt+Del, thus ending the program completely.

Next to the Holy Spirit in me, my guitar and my pre-amp (in that order), SongBase is the next 'must' tool.

Editors Note: SongBase is not a Vineyard Music product nor does Vineyard Music provide customer service of any kind for this program. Please direct all inquiries to the DASAN Research Corporation, 1-800-717-7833, www.songbase.com, or sales@songbase.com



SCOTT UNDERWOOD

Until recently Scott was director of worship development for Vineyard Music USA. He is still involved with leading worship at his home church in San Luis Obsipo, CA but has recently returned to the classroom to resume teaching.

A Worship Leader / Songwriter's Checklist

BY INSIDE WORSHIP

- Is your song vision **rooted in Scripture** rather than just personal experience?
- Does your song contain **elements of timeless truth**?
- Does the song advance the worshiper's **understanding of who God is**?
- Are you writing about a **standard interpretation** or a "unique" interpretation of Scripture? Be sure to **get feedback** from someone with more theological training than you (like your pastor) in order to determine whether your song is in or out of bounds.
- **Do other people worship** when they sing your song? The songs we write and sing are not opportunities to push a personal spiritual agenda. They are meant to capture the heart cries of the majority of the body of Christ.

Worship Songwriter's Bookshelf
– *The Craft of Lyric Writing* by Shelia Davis
– *Systematic Theology* by Wayne Grudem
– *Strong's* Concordance
– *Experiencing God* by William Blackaby
– Songwriter's rhyming dictionary

Songwriting And The

BY RANDY McCOY



Over the years I've come to realize that serious songwriting is much like our Christian walk. They both are a process. We don't become prolific songwriters in a day just as we don't become Christ-like overnight. The similarity is that both need the fermentation of time.

However, the connection between our Christian walk and songwriting doesn't end there. One of the results of God's maturing process in us is that our focus on Him becomes clearer. Likewise, as we continue to mature as songwriters the focus or theme of our songs also becomes more clear. This observation is more than a technical parallel. When we are having trouble seeing Jesus in our life, people will have trouble seeing Jesus in our songs.

The simple truth is that the closer we draw to God the more Christ-centered our lyrics will become. This is important for us as worship songwriters because our goal should be to write songs that lead people into the Throne room of God.

To do this our songs need to be well-crafted, congregational in nature and theologically correct. The only way to accomplish this goal is with a commitment to grow in God while pursuing the craft of songwriting. This way as Jesus becomes the central person in our lives, He will then become the central focus of our songs.

Let me again emphasize that this is a process. I've been writing songs for almost 22 years and I'm still growing as a songwriter. It's a never-ending process just as being a disciple of Jesus is a never-ending process. I've been walking with the Lord for 22 years and I've yet to arrive.

As I've examined my songwriting over the years, the connection between my commitment to pursuing God and the Christ-centeredness of my songs is undeniable. In fact, I can not fathom being able to accomplish what God has called me to be, as songwriter and as a worship leader, if I were not committed to pursuing excellence in my Christian

Pursuit Of God



walk and in the craft of writing songs.

Author and worship leader Ron Owens once wrote; "Our knowledge and understanding of God will greatly affect our ability to worship Him effectively." Do you want to become a great writer of worship songs? Do you desire to worship God effectively? Then pursue excellence; excellence in knowing God and excellence in the technical craft of writing. These two are interconnected.



RANDY McCOY

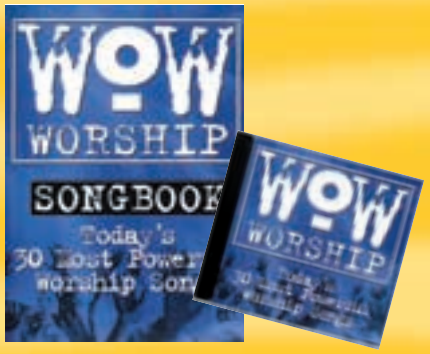
Randy is a songwriter, worship leader and is on staff as a pastor at VCF of Kansas City North. He and his wife Jana live in Kansas City, Missouri with their 4 children.

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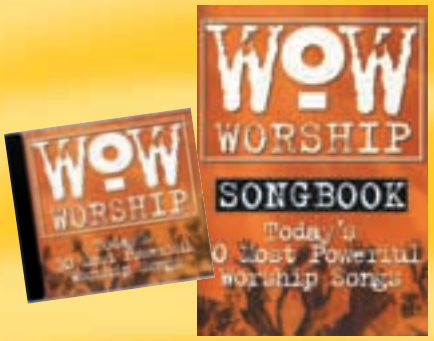
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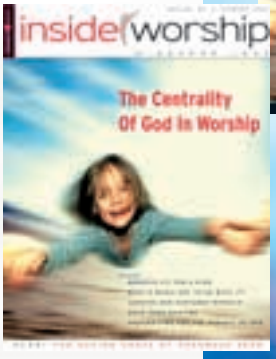


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