Why A Worship Resource Guide?

Why Do we need a Worship Resource Guide? Good question. Let me answer that for you. In the last 20 years, the proliferation of online data, search and ecommerce options have turned shopping into an experience that happens more and more at your desktop instead of at a mall or brick-and-mortar store. This has helped countless people find resources, evaluate products and shop for better prices. However, what this online world has not done is give us a clear indication of quality, or even allow us to filter through the hundreds of choices available. In fact, now we have so much information at our fingertips that filtering through it has become a full time job. The reason for building the Ultimate Church Worship Resource Guide is to give you *an edited professional church resource guide* that filters out the marketing and notes the top quality companies, products and services we believe should be listed. For a more complete history of how church worship resources have developed over the last thirty years, and why this guide was developed, see the *"The Development of Modern Worship Music Resources: Impacts of History, Style, Promotion & Technology"* on page 29.

What The *Ultimate Church Worship Resource Guide* is my answer to finding resources that are actually helpful, actually effective and ultimately worth spending actual money on. It is an edited list of the finest resources we believe are available today. It is not primarily an advertising listing, unlike many other publications. We all know what happens when you get a publication with every second page filled with advertisements – the

publication feels worthless. Every single resource listed in this guide is added and edited by our staff, and reviewed and approved by myself, Kim Gentes. Every company, service or product that appears in these pages is a high quality resource, and has made it in here based on its merit as a resource. We are not paid for inclusion of listings. This is a publication based on our evaluation of quality and impact to local churches, not on marketing campaigns or advertising promotions.

Who

Most church worship services include music and media. This resource is for church leaders, ministers, musicians, media techs, planners and administrators who make worship happen in local churches each and every Sunday. You already have tireless jobs. And while there are thousands of music and media sources for church worship ministries, you just do not have time to filter through them all. Our staff has spent years in church worship resources. This is our job – to resource the church. We have done the work of developing this guide to help you do your job of leading your church in worship.

How

This guide is formatted for function. Sections are meant to help you find what you are looking for quickly. We will review several of these sources in this guide, and give you appropriate links, phone numbers and addresses to the resources so that you know where to look when building your own worship song and media libraries. In this information you will find listed the most notable examples within the following types of resource category, each relating to the Songs & Media focus of this edition of the Ultimate Worship Resource Guide. For those

seeking to acquire new worship songs, the following kinds of sources are included:

- Online Song Sources
- Software/Digital Files
- Periodical/Continuity clubs
- Physical Products
- Musician Instructional Resources

The second major section of this guide includes some references for those of you seeking to acquire new worship related media, both as online items or as physical items. We evaluate the following three main types of media resources:

- Online Media/Image Sites
- Physical Media/Image Sources
- Song-based Media/Image Products

More This guide is a living document. In other words, it can and should change over time. However, each printing of it cannot be updated in hard copy – it would have to be an entirely online resource for such updates to occur. Yet the purpose of the guide is to be a "hold-in-your-hand" companion, not another online tool that gets lost in your string of endless book marks and searches. So, we have chosen to print the guide and believe it has more value to you that way. However, we recognize that the information in the guide can, and does change.