How The Hymnal Was Replaced

"Why does all this history matter?" you may ask. Hopefully, the answer is now clear to you. This change has had a crucial impact on worship and music resources.

It is clear that four major areas of change have altered church music and resources irrevocably:

- **Style**: historical change in music style – hymns to popular music
- **Methods**: change in liturgical music tools and methodology – piano and choirs gave way to guitar-driven rock bands
- **Tools**: technological changes in music and media – hymnals to computer driven screens for the congregation and digital PDF sheet music and online audio for the musicians
- **Repertoire Source**: change in promotional channels for popularizing new songs – hymnals gave way to continuity clubs, popular events, and eventually Christian radio as the promotional vehicle for songs to the local church.

As the following diagram illustrates, each one of these areas was previously governed by the hymnal. As we have said, the hymnal was the lyric source for congregations. This has now changed to computer drive video screens (and software). The hymnal once was the music source for the organist or pianist. That changed to

separate musician songbooks and collections, and is now PDF sheet music and online resources. The hymnal was once the source for songs in developing a local church repertoire. This has now changed to radio (and some internet promotion).

With the development of modern worship, much of the hymnal functions were replaced by a number of other resources. The result was an explosion of need in worship resources. With so many resources available, it soon became confusing for churches to understand how to make good decisions on which resources were best for them.

It is out of that need that this book has been written. My hope is that the pages of this book help to save you time and money in searching for the resources you may need for your local church.

Hymnal to Digital: Timeline Of Worship Resources

Much of what we have explored in these sections explains how the hymnal has been replaced by other tools as the primary worship resource of most churches. This does not mean the hymnal is gone or is without value. In fact, for churches that choose to use the hymnal, it can be a simplifying, helpful resource that rids them of the complexities of many "modern" solutions.

The following diagram details the transition through the recent decades for many churches. One benefit of viewing the changes in worship resources this way is that it allows us to see how the functions of the hymnal dispersed into the various online, digital and media resources that exist today.

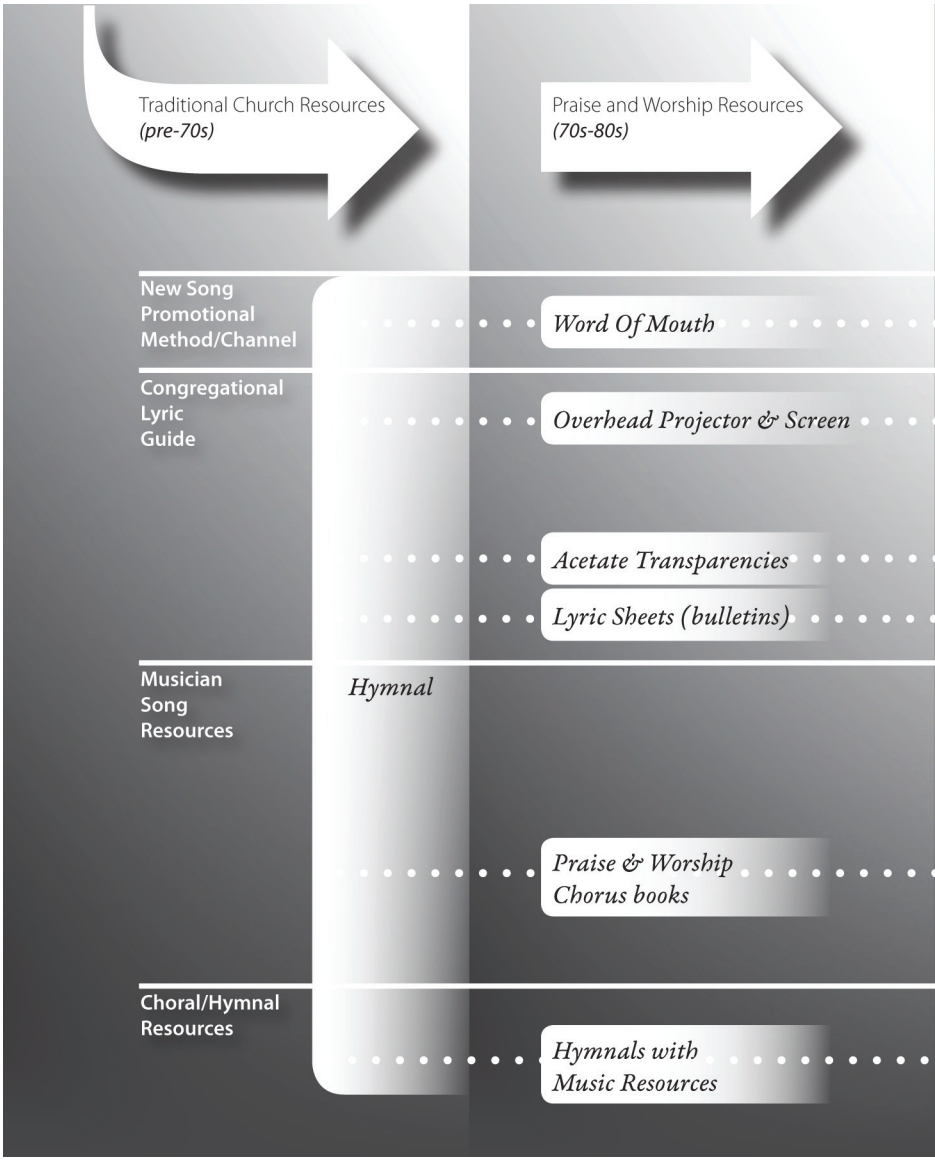


Figure 1 – Forty Years of Church Music Resources