

Missionary Families of Christ Music Ministry Workshop

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

At the end of the session, the participants are expected to:

1. Have a basic understanding of what a music ministry is
2. Know purpose and attitudes one should take as music ministry members
3. Be able to express to worship God's gift of music

METHODOLOGY

1. Teaching a songs (to be used in worship) 10 minutes
 - Music ministry should bring their instruments
 - Songs should have chords
2. Opening prayer 2 minutes
3. Talk proper 30-40 minutes
4. Q & A 5-10 minutes
5. Worship 15 minutes

SPEAKERS PROFILE

The speaker should be someone who is an experience member of the MFC music ministry. It is preferable that he/she plays an instrument as there will be teaching of song prior to the talk.

EXPANDED OUTLINE

I. Introduction

A. Praise and worship is an important part of our community life. Everytime that we gather as a community, we start with this. In praise and worship, our spirit gets nourished and renewed by God. Worship is our community lifestyle.

B. Connected to this lifestyle is the ministry of music. Praise and worship becomes vibrant when accompanied by music. Together, they give life to the gathering. It is therefore important that the ministers of music has the right posture in playing for the Lord.

II. What is Music Ministry?

Music ministry is defined as:

A form of service by way of using God-given talents in the area of producing music through songs and instruments. Let us breakdown this definition:

1. A form of service – The music ministry give our time, talent and sometimes, even treasure by being part of the music ministry. We are to be there when the community needs us like in assemblies, CLS and other activities. We teach songs and play during worship.

2. God-given talents – The music ministry are to acknowledge that our talents came from God and should be used to serve Him. Being His, gift, the credit should be to God alone not because we are good, our timing is great, our musicality, etc.

III. The Purpose of Music Ministry

A. To SUPPORT the worship of the community

1. Music ministry provides the musical accompaniment for the songs to be sung during the praise and worship in the assemblies and CLS .
2. As a support, the music ministry is not the main attraction. We should NOT be so noticeable by playing too loud, so fast or slow, so spectacular with adlibs and belting of the vocalists.

B. To TEACH new songs to the body

1. New songs gives freshness in our worship. No matter how beautiful the song is, if it is sung repeatedly, it loses its appeal.
2. The music ministry is responsible in learning new songs and teaching it to the community. This is done usually during assembly before the worship. Our basic reference for songs is our sound the trumpets song book.

C. To EVANGELIZE through songs

1. In our CLS, some participants who were “forced” to join may feel uneasy with the talks and the discussions but might find the music interesting. Some of them leave the CLS humming the songs in their head.
2. Music is also a big part in our events not only in worship but in creatives to enhance the message of the sessions.

D. To Fire us up

1. In an army in the olden times, trumpeters signal the attack and march of the soldiers. The music ministry also functions this way. That is why we end our events with a closing song or praisefest to send off the people.
2. Therefore, being a part of the music ministry is being in a warfare. One should not only be talented but spiritually mature.

IV. Attitudes of a Music Ministry Member

A. Humility

1. The motto of the music ministry should be: “We are not performing but forming”. The intention of music ministry is not to showcase their talents but to lead people to Christ.
2. Being part of the music ministry is not “a dream fulfilled” but a humble way to be used by the Lord.

B. Commitment

One should be committed in practices, all outings and to practice on their own.

C. Openness to Learning

1. Being teachable is an important attitude that a music ministry member should have. No matter how talented one is, he/she should be able to follow instructions of the leader.

2. Correction should always be done in a loving manner.

D. Prayerfulness and Discernment

1. We should not always sing the songs that are easy to sing or those that we have already practiced. Songs that are used should be discerned according to the message of the Lord.
2. The music ministry leader should always listen to the Lord's message during prayer meeting and prayer assemblies. He should be able to choose an appropriate song based on the message God is telling the whole assembly.

E. Support the Good Order

In the music ministry, there are different kinds of roles and every member should know theirs. There is a music ministry leader, the one who will teach the song, one who calls the practice, one who discerns the songs etc.

1. If you are the one who discerns the song, familiarize yourself with most of the songs on the songbook and their message. This will make it easier for you to choose a song depending on God's message.
2. The music ministry leader determines the number of members. It is not ideal for the music ministry to have so many members that they take up most of the space in front or nobody is left in their chairs when they play.
3. It is ideal to have 1 acoustic guitarist, 1 rhythm electric guitarist, 1 lead guitarist, 1 bass guitar, 1 percussionist (drummer) and 2-4 singers. But this is depending on the size of the assembly. For a smaller assembly, the music ministry may be composed of 1 guitarist and 1 to 2 singers.

V. Some Practical Tips

A. Group Awareness

1. Be in unison. Always ask yourself if you or your instrument is in tune.
2. Know your place.
3. Look at the music ministry leader or worship leader for what part to sing next.
4. Adopt (hand) signals.

B. Practice Regularly

1. Know the songs and lyrics by heart. One should be able to sing or play the songs without looking at the songbook. This requires a lot of practice.
2. Do not practice only when there is an upcoming assembly. Practice should be constant even on your own.

C. Pray and Listen

1. Pray when singing. Do not just sing or play songs but pray it. It is evident when we are just singing the songs without feeling it. After playing, listen to the talks or sharing.
2. Being a part of the music ministry is not a license for you to have a chat at the back.

D. Avoid Being a Distraction

1. When going in front, be discreet. It is advised that the music ministry always sits in front.
2. If you are late, do not immediately go in front.
3. Stop chit chatting when you are in front.
4. Do not tune your guitar when you are about to play.
5. Do not play your guitar when someone is talking (i.e. worship leader giving an exhortation)

E. Always Bring Your Musical Weapons

1. Bring extra guitar strings, pick, microphones, etc.
2. Always bring your Sound the trumpets songbook.

VI. Conclusion

We are in a spiritual battle. As music ministry, our weapons are our voices and instruments. Let us make use of these to rally the people of God and fight the good fight that God has called us to be in.