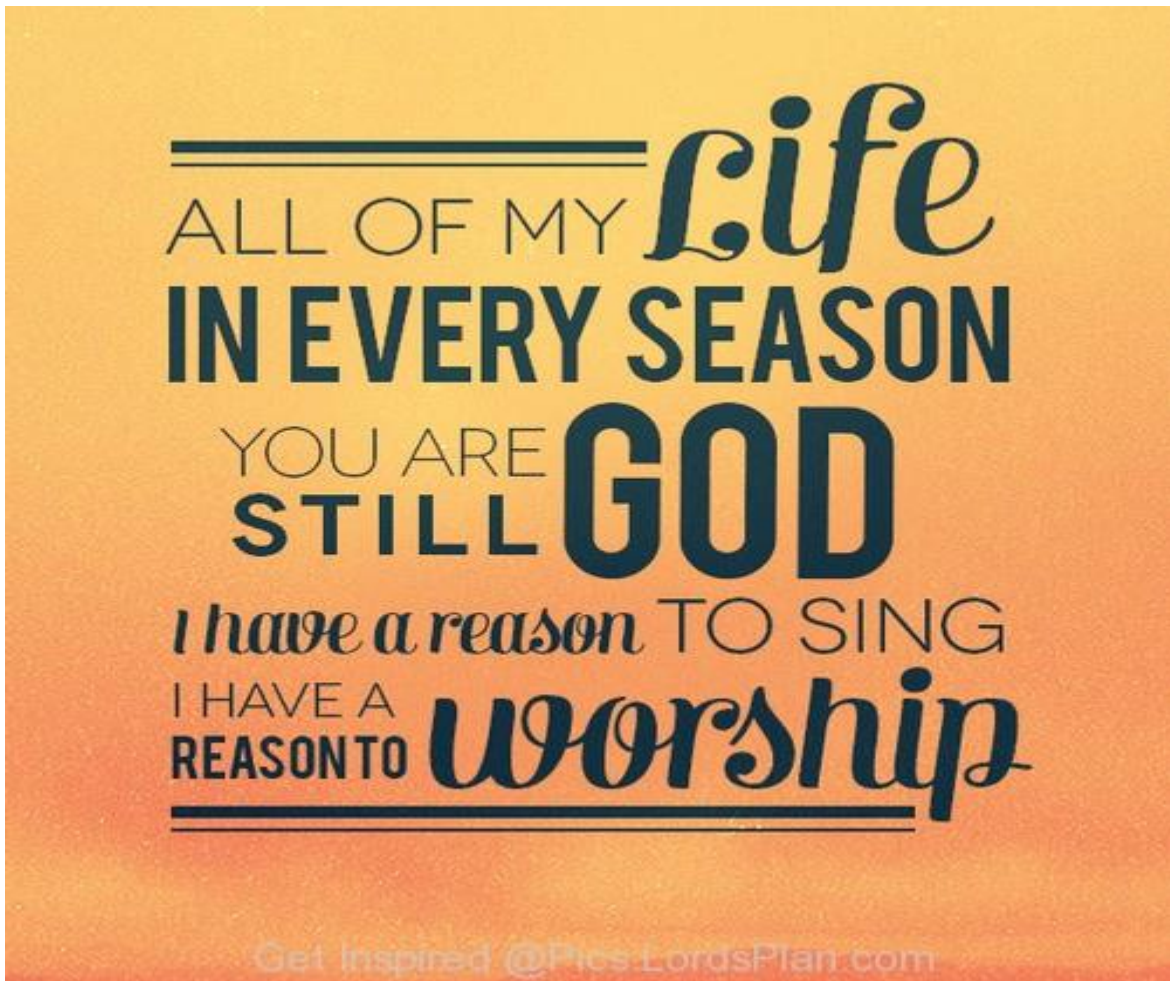


THE ENCOURAGER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF HUDSON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Exploring the Fundamentals of Worship (Part 2)



Last month we looked at the role worship plays in our spiritual lives and congregation. It is vital for the health of any follower of Christ and for every congregation. I am thankful to be at a church where I can come knowing that I will hear the voices of my brothers and sisters in Christ lifting up the name of our Lord in worship!

Kinds of worship songs

There are many kinds of worship songs that address the various roles that worship plays in our lives and relationship with God. The trend in modern worship is to sing a large number of songs that focus on ourselves, and intimacy with God. The trend in Revival-period hymns is on human response and sentimental connection with the experience of being a Christian.

While these are valid songs, there are many other purposes we sing together as a church. These purposes need met as well. Our primary focus should not be our own relationship with God, but edifying the church, as this is what we are commanded to do when we are together (Ephesians 5:18-20; Colossians 3:16). Worship for the purpose of our own relationship with God should be done throughout the week along with prayer and Bible study.

Personal worship

- This happens when you are alone meeting with God.
- Aside from bringing Glory to God, the goal of personal worship is "Lord, edify my spirit."

Corporate worship

- This happens when the church is gathered together.
- Aside from bringing Glory to God, the goal of corporate worship is "Brother, let me edify you."

So when we worship together our focus is on God and each other. We choose songs not because they minister to us, but with the purpose of encouraging the congregation. We sing not for our own connection with God, but to help one another be encouraged in the Lord.

In order to meet the diverse needs of the congregation, our worship song set should be musically and lyrically diverse.



Photo courtesy of patheos.com

Lyricaly diverse:

The words of a song should address all of the purposes of worship.

"Change Me/I Will" Songs

- Increase or declare intimacy with God
- Heighten or declare our desire to follow God
- Encourage righteous living
- Repent of our sin
- Request God's help
- Move our focus from temporal to eternal

"You Are" Songs

- Declare to God and each other His attributes
- Tell what God has done
- Give thanks to God
- Move our focus from self to God

"Body Building" Songs

- Celebrate the joy of salvation
- Declare the work of the cross
- Uplift the downcast
- Remind of the certain destruction of the wicked and coming justice of God
- Encourage one another with the promises and faithfulness of God
- Increase a yearning for The New Heavens and New Earth
- Celebrate the presence of God in our midst

Musically diverse:

Songs should reflect the range of emotions that are in the Christian experience. The mood of a song moves our emotions and our will to respond appropriately to the message of the song in our mind. Therefore, the music should match the words and attitude of the song. Some songs should stir us to action for God, others should stir our affections for God. When all of the songs that we sing have the same musical "feel," it is easy for the congregation to become distracted and fatigued.

How do we worship?

Unified- Our relationship with God is only as right as our relationships with others. We are not ready to sing of our love for God if we cannot say that we love our brothers and sisters in Christ. For a community to rightly worship God, they must be living in unity with each other.

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift." -Matt 5:23-24

Unashamed & Unreserved- Worship is a response to who God is and what he has done. That response should be in proportion to those great truths! When we attend a sporting event or national rally, we shout and carry on in enthusiastic emotion. How much more should we be willing to "own" our God than our team or country?

David danced before God with such enthusiasm that his wife was embarrassed and rebuked him. He responded, "I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes." -2 Sam 6:21b-22

The prostitute who anointed Jesus' feet went to a home where she was not welcome to kiss and wash Jesus' feet with her own hair. We also should be able to let go of fear of looking too "extreme" in our worshipful response to who God is and what he has done in our lives. Put fears of how you sound and what you look like out of your mind when you are singing in the congregation.

Sincerely- Jesus said that New Testament believers would worship in spirit and truth (Jn 4:23). This meant that the concerns of worship would no longer be on the external temple and gifts brought, but on the internals of worship. Worship must come from the mind and heart working in response to sound doctrine. It is our spirit moving in reverent and loving expression to our mind's agreement with the truths of God.

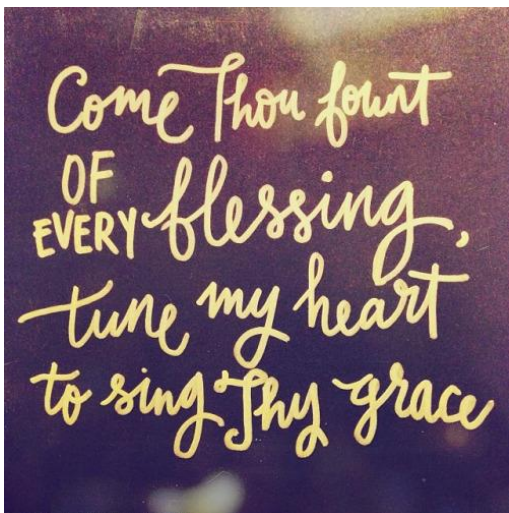


Photo courtesy of littlethingsaboutgod.com

We should not treat worship like it is a ritual, just mouthing words without allowing our heart to feel or our mind to understand. It also should not be just a "spiritual" experience--being carried away in emotion without thinking about the meaning. Worship requires our hearts and minds to be engaged together.

We don't always "feel" like singing to God, and in those times we sing from the will and mind to move our emotions into a right response. The goal is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind." The goal is not to have some "spiritual" experience for ourselves, but to delight God with our love for him. God has not changed no matter how we feel. He is always worthy of our worship!

Joyfully with Thanksgiving- The overall tone of worship should move into these two moods. At times we appropriately express our frustration, anxiety, and sadness to God, and we reflect meditatively on the grievousness of our sin, but we should always move to a place of joy and thanksgiving as a realization of grace.

What is the result of worship?

The church is encouraged with the truth of God and more prepared to live in response to it. Hearts are lifted up to God, and God's name is glorified. Further, we have drawn near to God and he has drawn near to us (James 4:8)

Someone who worships God in song:

- Knows some worship songs by heart and sings them throughout the week
- Is regularly at church during corporate worship (on time) and is focused on God and encouraging others
- Is able to ignore distractions and sing unashamed before God
- Puts personal preferences aside and focuses on what is good for the community
- Sings with a heart full of love for God and a mind focused on the meaning of the song

-Pastor Brandon

Parking Lot Resurfacing



Photo courtesy of Asphaltsealcoatingdirect.com



Photo courtesy of pcclv.com

A big thank you to the men who spent their time and energy in the hot sun resurfacing the parking lot. We had ten guys show up to do the work, and the results are beautiful. Not only did they save the church a lot of money, but the work was much more carefully done than if we had hired it out. We also ended up with a thicker coat than would have been put down by a contract crew.

Beyond doing a great job taking care of the church property, the men had a good time deepening their friendships with one another. I loved to see the guys getting to know one another better and to see their personalities and gifts coming through in the work. I hope we have more opportunities like this in the future!

-Pastor Brandon

MISSION OF THE MONTH

New Life For Asia

Our missionaries to Asia are Sam and Grace Daniel serving in India with New Life For Asia.

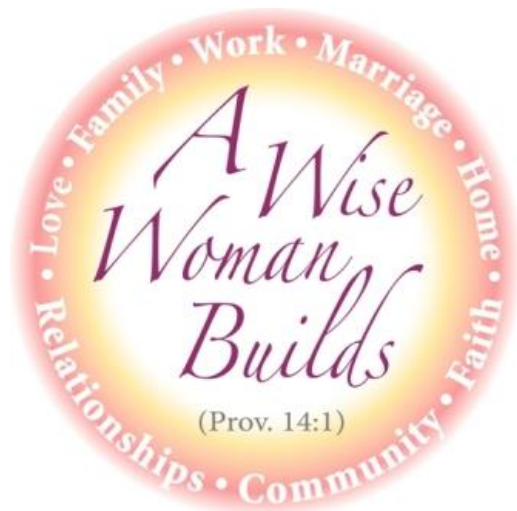
Sam was born in Kerala, India to baptized believers in Jesus Christ. His house was the place of worship for local believers. While in college, Sam taught the Word to fellow students.

His first degree in theology was from Bangalore, Southern Asia Bible College in 1974. He began pioneering churches while teaching the Word of God at Eastern Bible College in northeast India from 1974 to 1976.

He married Grace during this time, and she became his life and ministry partner. In 1977, they came to Cochin and started Home Prayer Fellowship which was the beginning of New Life Christian Fellowship.

Sam came to Lincoln Christian Seminary in 1989 to pursue a masters of Divinity in Theology, graduating in 1993. While at Lincoln Christian Seminary, New Life For Asia was organized and they returned to India in 1993 continuing the New Life Christian Fellowship Ministry with the support of New Life For Asia.

For more information about their ministry, email Sam and Grace at nlfasamg@yahoo.com.



Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid group meets the third Tuesday of every month from September through May at 9:00 a.m. at HCC. If you have a servant's heart and enjoy serving the Lord and others, please contact Margaret Meyer or Miriam Koons about this hands-on ministry.

Area Men's Meeting at Hudson Christian Church! Tuesday, September 6 - 7:00 p.m.

Please join us at HCC for worship, music, fellowship, and great food!
This ministry helps support Little Galilee Christian Camp.

You don't want to miss it!



Photos courtesy of Little Galilee Christian Camp

September Birthdays

Merriann Leininger	9/1
Jan Wills	9/7
Yvonne McKinley	9/10
Don Beverage	9/14
Jacob Nichols	9/21
Pat Dowden	9/21
Jamie Current	9/24
Becky Hussemann	9/24
Theresa Miller	9/26



Summary of the Deacons & Elders Meeting August 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. The members present were Brandon Current, Donnie McKinley, Dave McGraw, Larry Dowden, and financial officer, Jenny Wagner. The meeting was opened in prayer by Larry Dowden.

The meeting minutes of June 9, 2016 were reviewed and approved. The financial reports were reviewed and approved.

Brandon reported the worship team had a good meeting focused on the purpose of worship. The resealing of the parking lot is scheduled for Wednesday, August 17, 2016, at 7:30 am. Dave McGraw is planning to resume regular mission team meetings now that his work schedule is more settled.

Pastor Brandon presented the report of his activities including work on our website content, plans for a doctrinal booklet for HCC, and no Great Start for this school year.

He reminded the deacons of by-laws calendar triggers:

1. The annual meeting November 6, 2016
2. Setting up a nominating committee 6 weeks prior to the meeting
3. Posting the agenda by October 1, 2016

He presented a summary of his pastoral care activities and a summary of the use of benevolent funds. Additions to the wish list were:

1. A proposal for padding the pews, seats only for \$5,113.40 and seats plus backs for \$6,978.20
2. A proposal for restoration of the stained glass windows for \$18,228.

Several concerns have been expressed regarding the electrical systems at HCC. Money was donated by Jan Wills from the Hudson Days sale of baked goods for this purpose. An inspection will be scheduled to assess our electrical systems and identify problems. A church purchasing policy was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m. and closed in prayer by Brandon Current.

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	5 LABOR DAY	6 7:00 p.m. Area Men's Meeting Hudson Christian Church	7 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Adult Prayer 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	8 5:30 p.m. Deacons/Elders Meeting	9	10 10:00 Food Pantry
11 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	12	13	14 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Adult Prayer 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	15	16	17
18 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts 11:00 a.m. Sunday School	19	20 9:00 a.m. Ladies Aid 6:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting	21 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Adult Prayer 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	22	23	24
25 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Coffee/Donuts 11:00 a.m. Sunday School 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Deacons/Elders Spiritual Focus Meeting	26	27	28 10:00 a.m. Ladies' Prayer and Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Adult Prayer 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study	29	30	

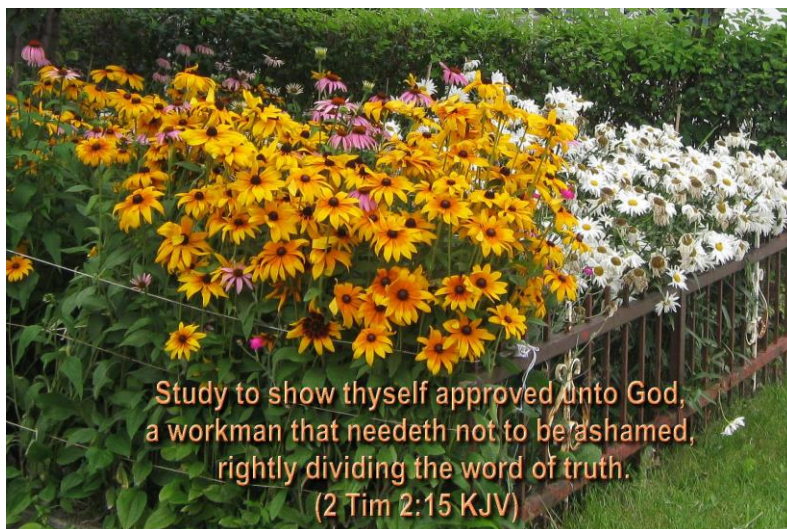


Photo courtesy of freemindconfession.wordpress.com