

# **The Purpose Of The Music Ministry**

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# About James E. Goodlett

I, James Edward Goodlett, was the Minister of Music at Christ Holiness Apostolic Temple Inc. from 1994 to 2009. I was also the Minister of Music of the Missouri Council during the JCAC era and the Youth Director of Christ Apostolic Temple Fellowship Inc. from 2006 to 2011. During these years I was responsible for raising up music ministries in churches, teaching choirs, musicians, and singers. I have managed and run many choirs and musicians' rehearsals. I have written and produced many songs, written for choirs, TV and podcasts, and edited church content for publication. So many times, I have been the solo musician for functions and was required to play for many people and church events throughout the country.

I have helped to open three churches, Cedar Rapids IA, Knoxville IA, and Louisville KY. During this time, feeling a strong obligation to represent my father's church, I became very familiar with canvassing for souls, door to door witnessing and bringing people to church services. Frequently I have picked up people and brought them to church and at times, drove the church van. With the works in Knoxville IA and Louisville KY, I was constantly on the road on weekends, assisting in witnessing and providing music for services.

I became a minister at the birth of the church in Hannibal MO. Since then, not only have I officiated a wedding, but have prayed for many, visited the sick and shut in and visited the nursing homes. I have worked on the alter team and baptized and tarried with many. I have led services, closed them out, preached morning service, bible class and taught and continue to teach Sunday school. I have setup and run the sound department for the church, cooked for the church and cleaned as well as taken care of the church grounds. I have also had my part to play in the finance department. While I have performed all these things, I was still responsible for taking care of my wife and children while sometimes juggling 3 jobs at once. But working for God will pay off after a while.

Currently I am the Minister of Music at Christ Apostolic Temple Inc. Church has been my life. I have been in this fight for a while and am very passionate about the work of God. Through the teachings of my pastor the honorable Bishop Jeremiah Reed and his beautiful wife, Mother Willie Mae Reed, and the constant direction from my pastor Dwight A. Reed, I have been able to come to the full knowledge of what the music ministry is all about.

## God's Music Ministry

Exodus 15:1, 1 Samuel 16:16-17, 23, 2 Kings 3:15, 1 Chronicles 15:22, 25:7, 2 Chronicles 5:11-14, 2 Chronicles 35:15, Psalms 23:2, Psalms 33:3, Psalms 100, Psalms 135:3, Psalms 150, Romans 1, Romans 12:1, Philippians 4:8, James 5:23, Revelation 14:3

**The purpose** of music in the church is to change the spirits of the people by making a spiritual and emotional connection through the atmosphere to prepare their minds for the word of God. To complete this purpose, our **mission** is to establish and operate a ministry of music.

In music God uses a lead minister or ministers to control the service and persuade the people to look toward God. The anointing is the life of God that empowers one for spiritual ministry. It is the spiritual power that must exist in the music for the individual hearer to be prepared to receive the living word. The anointed music changes the atmosphere, touches the soul, and elevates the mind opening their heart. When the heart is open, it is prepared to receive.

1 Samuel 16:16, 16:23

The music ministers must be completely subject to the word, the teaching, and the pastor. They are the stronger people because their job is to bring the people to God regardless of the mindset of the people. The music must break down the hard spirits and lift the low. Those who are responsible for music ministry must maintain a healthy spiritual life because they transmit their spirit through the music they produce.

Music ministers must maintain an active prayer life to stay tuned with God, keep a spirit of love, joy, humility, forgiveness, keep a positive attitude, and to maintain an ear to hear God, the pastor, and people.

The nature of sound is spirit thus the nature of music is spirit. Music ministers produce the music and use instruments to manifest their production. The singer's body is their instrument. Practice is to increase skill and through increased skill, ministry is expanded and with expanded ministry, God can do greater things. God will use the one who practices because God can do more with them.

1 Chronicles 15:22, 25:7, Psalms 33:3, 1 Samuel 16:17

In ancient Israel, musicians and singers trained for 5 years before engaging in the music ministry. Therefore, extensive training must be given to all who wish to participate. Being able to play and sing skillfully is essential for ministry. Those who are unskilled must not participate due to the dangers of not being able to effectively carry out God's will in its entirety. Talent only carries so far. Hard work and dedication over time is the only acceptable way for the music ministry to be completely available for God's use. All musicians, singers, and directors must put in extensive time to develop their craft. God demands only the best.

To maintain continuous engagement, the mind of the hearer of the music must be handled with care by the production of various kinds of sounds and genres of music. The mind needs different exposure for continuing interest.

Music causes a physical reaction in the brain. Through musical connection, the mind is stimulated and releases chemicals. Those chemicals produce a physical reaction that causes the hearer to change. Music elevates people.

## Effects of music

- Reduces anxiety
- Blood pressure
- Pain-Improves mood
- Improves mental alertness
- Improves memory
- Improves sleep quality
- Changes the ability to perceive time
- Reduce seizures
- Makes you a better communicator
- Boosts your immune system
- Helps repair brain damage
- Makes you smarter
- Evokes memories
- Helps to get through trauma

Music brings people to God by changing and improving their spirits and opening their hearts and minds in preparation to receive the Word of God. Participants in the music ministry should be much more focused on preparing for ministry than preparing for services. All participants, especially leaders, must do all from their heart, have a passion for and love what they do, working in diligence to complete and secure their ministry. The Music Ministry is accountable to God and the pastor. Therefore, all directions come directly from the word of God and the teachings of the pastor and must be immediately and faithfully executed.

# You and the Music Ministry

Ministry is about a connection.

## **Attitude**

1 Samuel 24

The principle of leadership-The anointed position

You must obey those who are in charge. Those offices are in line with the Pastor and the anointing flows from the Pastor through those offices. To respect those offices is to respect God and the pastor and the church. We must respect everyone.

Position over information-The leader may not know all the information but the leader leverages resources to carry out their ministry.

We must have the right attitude towards each other and work to understand one another. We are to be working in one accord. We are different people with different ideas and ways of doing things. But our differences work together for a purpose. No one is to be neglected. God has given everyone a contribution. Maintain constant communicate, build relationships with each other and work towards common goals.

## **Preparation for rehearsals and services**

The level of the music ministry must match the ministry of the local assembly.

You must practice; 10,000 hours will get you there. Research the 10,000 hours rule.

EDUCATION – takes lessons. Talent only goes so far. Work is what gets you the rest of the way. This is God's ministry, and He deserves the most you can give Him, THE BEST. If you are a singer know your body and take care of it. Learn how to stretch to your limits and maximize yourself. Get a vision for yourself and set goals and challenge yourself. No one should not be in the same place a year later. You should be growing every month.

## Rehearsals

Send material to everyone well in advance for the purpose of practice. They will be responsible for knowing the material and no time will be taken teaching them during rehearsals. Practice is when you learn the material and rehearsal is when you collectively put together what you have learned, and do it as it is to be performed. That's how you get a unified vision for the songs and music. Leaders come to rehearsal with a plan, knowing what you want to do. Come with direction so that there is no question about execution. You don't want confusion and doubt toward the leader or anyone on the team. Make sure all the key people know what's going on so that there's no undermining of authority and loss of credibility. Make sure the leads and directors know the song and they have worked with and have a relationship with the musicians so there is unity, and everyone's time will be respected. Organize and plan. Decent and in order.

People know when the music is not prepared and that has an effect. We must be professional in everything. This is Gods music ministry, and you must make an investment and sacrifice for the ministry to be what God wants it to be. Don't work things on the fly because people will not have all the information and it can create tension and lower morale. There may be times where that might have to happen but be always prepared. We are in warfare and the enemy is prepared.

Work on and know backwards and forwards a core group of songs that are historically popular so that you can call them up at a moment's notice and it will always sound like you know what you are doing, and you will have an instant connection. You are prepared for ministry. Get the mind of God in all things before you move.

## **Ministering**

Follow the spirit. You must be prayed and fasted up to follow the spirit. The lead follows the spirit, the director follows the spirit, and the minister of music follows the spirit. Directions come from the leader. There shouldn't be independent decisions. Follow the pulpit. The idea is to prepare and set everything in place so that when the spirit moves things are already where they are supposed to be. God will take what you have prepared for Him and do with it what He will.

Stay in concert with the spirit, service, and the music. Listen and pay attention to what's happening. Do not get off and have church by yourself. The point is connecting with the people. You can get so emotional you lose yourself and no one knows where you are. There must be unity throughout the service.

**Cultivate your talent**

God has given you a job within the music ministry. Find out what it is and do it. Work hard and do not stop. Pay no attention to people and consult with the pastor and above all, get the mind of God.