



Why Table Time Ministry?

TTM is built for **you**, for your journey on the Salvation Road.

Everything about this ministry revolves around helping you develop your faith in real time, with real talk. TTM is not flashy or full of "celebrity" talking heads. This ministry is made up of misfits, just like you trying to do good things and change their life. All we need is your willingness to listen, ask questions, and begin your personal journey to Jesus!

What do I need to do?

Show up to bible study if you can and participate with an open heart and an open mind. We have leaders in most units and if not, find one of us at a church service. We are here to serve and to facilitate your faithful walk to a destination of Christian discipleship.



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Easter Truth – The Impact of Music

I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact that music can have on the Easter season, particularly within the context of resurrection services. Easter, the cornerstone of the Christian faith, marks the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection, a pivotal event that embodies hope, renewal, and redemption. Today, I delve into why music plays such a vital role in capturing the essence and significance of Easter within these programs.

Music has a unique ability to evoke emotions, transcend barriers, and communicate messages with unparalleled depth. In the context of Easter, where themes of sacrifice, salvation, and triumph are central, music becomes an indispensable tool for conveying the essence of this sacred occasion. Whether through traditional hymns, or contemporary worship songs, music serves as a vehicle for expressing the profound truths and sentiments of the Easter narrative. One of the primary reasons music holds such significance in Easter resurrection programs is its capacity to inspire reverence and awe. Through solemn melodies and powerful lyrics, music creates an atmosphere of worship, inviting us to reflect deeply on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. From the haunting strains of "Were You There?" to the triumphant refrain of "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today," each musical piece serves to deepen the spiritual experience and foster a sense of connection with the divine.

Music has the power to unite communities and foster a sense of belonging. In Easter programs, people from diverse backgrounds come together and celebrate a shared faith. Through singing and participation in musical performances, individuals find common ground in their beliefs, reinforcing the bonds of fellowship that are integral to the Easter experience. Through its emotive and communal aspects, music also serves a practical function in Easter services by enhancing the storytelling of the narrative. Through carefully curated musical selections, music helps to illuminate key moments in the Easter story, from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the scenes of his crucifixion and resurrection. By weaving together melody, rhythm, and harmony, music brings the biblical story to life in a compelling manner, engaging the senses and the imagination. Music has the power to evoke a sense of hope and renewal, the heart of the Easter message. Through uplifting melodies and lyrics, music reminds believers of the transformative power of Christ's resurrection and the promise of new life. In times of despair, music serves as a beacon of light, guiding individuals towards a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

I will end with this ...music plays a pivotal role in Easter resurrection programs by capturing the essence and significance of this sacred occasion. Through its emotive power, storytelling capabilities, and ability to inspire, music enriches the Easter experience and enables people to engage with the profound truths of the resurrection. We gather to celebrate the triumph of life over death, let us allow music to uplift our spirits, unite our hearts, and draw us closer to the transformative message of Easter.

How to learn an instrument while incarcerated...What?

From the perspective of scientific psychology, there are many reasons to doubt the notion of purely inborn musical talent and to challenge attempts to identify it. While some may believe greater musical skill is the result of being born with a brain well suited for music, an alternative explanation is that a different (more musical) brain results from engagement in music activity. This latter explanation finds support from brain research. For example, differences in structural neuroplasticity between highly trained pianists and nonmusicians have been linked to their sustained musical training; furthermore, the pianist structural brain characteristics are more pronounced in those who began piano study early in childhood, as compared to those with a later onset of piano playing (Vaquero et al., 2016). Studies show how the brain is altered by experience (Kolb, 2018).

Rather than accepting musical ability as a special endowment received by the gifted few, it is better understood to be a set of musical skills that people develop. Research has identified several factors that are powerful contributors to musical skill acquisition. Stay tuned to this column for more insight! What are your thoughts?

- Dwight



Music in the Church

The Seven Reflections on Music in the Church...

"What we can and must say quite confidently is that the church which does not sing is not the church."

1. Music is a gift of God and part of the created order.

From its inception, "when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy" (Job 38:7), to its consummation, when "every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them" will sing to the Lamb on the throne (Rev. 5:13), creation is musical. "All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres." Human music-making participates in the music of creation and reflects the order, beauty, and diversity of God's creation.

2. Of all the musical instruments that may be employed in the praise of God, the human voice has priority.

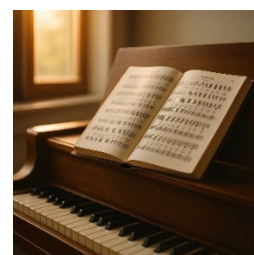
Other instruments are to be used primarily in the service of the singing of God's people. Reformed theologian Karl Barth points out that singing is not an option for the people of God; it is one of the essential ministries of the church:

"The Christian church sings. It is not a choral society. Its singing is not a concert. But from inner, material necessity it sings. Singing is the highest form of human expression.... What we can and must say quite confidently is that the church which does not sing is not the church. And where...it does not really sing but sighs and mumbles spasmodically, shamefacedly and with an ill grace, it can be at best only a troubled community which is not sure of its cause and of whose ministry and witness there can be no great expectation....The praise of God which finds its concrete culmination in the singing of the community is one of the indispensable forms of the ministry of the church."

3. Singing is a ministry that belongs to all the people of God.

The congregation is always the primary choir. The role of professional or volunteer choirs and musicians is to aid the whole people of God in their worship. While anthems or vocal and instrumental solos may be offered, they do not have to be. Congregational singing, however, is essential. While it is possible to be actively engaged in worship and in prayer while listening to an anthem or solo, a diet of worship which does not regularly include ample opportunity for all the members of the congregation to join in song will be impoverished worship, and the life of the church and the faith of its people will suffer.

Next month = ***The Last Four Reflections on Music in the Church...***



Fun Music Facts!

Contemporary Christian music (CCM) is a genre that originated in the late 1960s in the United States, initially called "Jesus music." It encompasses various styles, including pop, rock, hip-hop, and worship music, and focuses on themes related to the Christian faith, aiming to inspire and encourage listeners.

Overview of Contemporary Christian Music

Contemporary Christian music (CCM) is a genre that emerged in the late 1960s in the United States. Initially referred to as "Jesus music," it has evolved to include a wide range of musical styles and themes.

Key Characteristics

- **Origins:** Developed during the Jesus movement revival.
- **Themes:** Focuses on Christian faith, inspiration, encouragement, and worship.
- **Styles:** Includes pop, rock, hip-hop, electronic dance music, and worship music.

Popularity and Growth

CCM has become a significant part of the music industry, with a notable presence on various music charts.

Global Reach

- CCM has expanded beyond the United States and is recognized globally.
- The genre has seen substantial growth, with a reported increase of 30% in streaming on platforms like Spotify.

Cultural Impact

CCM plays a vital role in modern Christian media, aiming to inspire and strengthen the faith of listeners. It serves as a means of outreach, encouraging both believers and non-believers through its messages and themes.



Learning to Play Behind the Walls: Starting Where You Are

"You may be in a cell, but you are not stuck. Every chord you learn, every note you play—that's growth nobody can take from you."

Let's be real - learning an instrument on the inside isn't easy. There's noise. There's limited space. There's not always guidance. And depending on where you're at, even getting your hands on a guitar or keyboard can feel like a challenge in itself. But here's the truth: Just because it's hard doesn't mean it's not worth it. In fact, some of the most meaningful growth happens in the hardest places, like CRCC.

But Why Even Try?

You might be thinking, "What's the point?" Here's the point—music gives you:

- A way to process what's going on inside you
- A way to worship, even in a cell
- A skill that builds discipline and patience
- Something that is yours, no matter where you are



In **Psalm 33:3**, we're told:

"Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy."

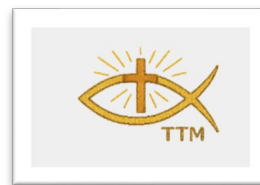
That doesn't say only if you've got a teacher... or only if you've got the best equipment. It says play—and do it with your whole heart.

Let's Talk About the Real Challenges - If you're at Coyote Ridge Correction Center, you already know the environment isn't built for this. Here are some real obstacles—and how to work through them:

1. Limited Access to Instruments

You might have to purchase your own guitar or keyboard through approved vendors. That takes time and money.

Don't despair! Start with what you can. Even if it takes a while, use that time to prepare - learn note names, study chord charts, or even practice finger placement on a table. There are chord charts floating around, ask a musician in the church band and check the library tables in the pod for books, or...ask a Yeti...





Learning to Play Behind the Walls: Starting Where You Are

Truth - Does a certain good-lookin' Yeti practice daily in prison? Hmm?



2. Noise and Distractions

Let's be honest—quiet time is rare. Encouragement! You don't need perfect silence to grow. Even 10–15 focused minutes a day adds up. Put in what you can, when you can.

3. No Teacher Around

Most of you won't have someone sitting next to you showing you what to do. This is where discipline grows. Learn one chord. Then another. Repeat it until your fingers remember. Progress might feel slow—but it's still progress.

4. Frustration and Wanting to Quit

Your fingers hurt (and they will for about 2 weeks!). The chords sound off. You feel stuck. That's part of the process. Nobody picks up an instrument and sounds good right away. Stick with it. Remember **Galatians 6:9**:

"Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Start Simple

You don't need to master everything at once. If you're starting on:

Guitar → Learn basic chords like G, C, D, and Em. Keyboard → Start with simple scales and basic chords (C major is a great place) Focus on: Repetition, Patience, and Consistency. Even 15 minutes a day is powerful over time.

More Than Music

This isn't just about learning songs. This is about:

Discipline when nobody's watching, peace in the middle of chaos, and worship in a place that doesn't always feel hopeful

You got this, Brothers! - Dwight

EYE ON IT

Staying in Scripture

John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 8:32 – "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"

Psalms 119:160 - "The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever."

Philippians 4:8 - "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

EAR ON IT

Song Picks

Casting Crowns – Voice of Truth

Jesus Culture - Rooftops

The Belonging Co – The Truth

Vertical Worship – The Rock Won't Move

Paul Wilbur – For Your Name is Holy

This Month's Q&A Musicology Tips

How to learn:

- Practice every day
- Talk to others who play, really, start here...more to follow!