**LEADING AN EFFECTIVE WORSHIP SESSION**

**Psalm 29:2; Psalm 95:1-2**

Singing is an integral part of Christian worship. It is an expression of our affection, attention and adoration to God. Biblical characters such as Miriam, Deborah, David, Paul, Silas, etc sang praises to God during moments of victory and affliction. Singing is (and should be) the fruit of our lips (Hebrews 13:15). **“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”.** It is important for workers, leaders and pastors to understand the role of worship in Christian ministry so that they can give appropriate guidance to the worship team. The members of the worship team should know the purpose and contents of Christian worship. This will enable them to lead it effectively.

**THE PURPOSE**

As a missionary church, effective worship is a very crucial part of our ministry. Worship should not only be melody but should have visible impact. **One**, worship should draw sinners to Jesus Christ. Every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord and Saviour (Philippians 2:10-11). **Two**, it should edify believers and strengthen their faith (Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19). **Three**, it should invite the presence of the Holy Ghost and bring breakthrough and revival (Acts 16:25-33). **Four**, worship should give victory in spiritual battles and physical challenges (Judges 7:18-25). **Five**, it should prepare the hearts of the congregation for the sermon. And **six**, it should glorify God. God will make us a name and praise on earth (Zephaniah 3:17,20).

**THE PRODUCT**

Christian worship is not entertainment. It is spiritual ministration. Therefore, it should have enough spiritual content to achieve the goal of transformation. It is a spiritual product that contains the everlasting gospel of salvation, power and victory. Worship leaders should be meticulous in choosing worship songs. The overriding principle is to pray and follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the choice of songs. Don’t pick a song with no enriching scriptural content because it is popular. Choose songs with a message. The world is gradually eroding the name of God and scriptural messages from songs, public documents, writings, movies, our daily lives, etc. The church should fight this trend vigorously. **“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”** (Ephesians 5:19).

Sources of songs include but are not limited to: self-composed songs, the Bible, the internet (YouTube, Christian websites, etc), CDs, DVDs, music books, hymns, etc. Singers should AVOID REPEATING SONGS! They should compose or learn new songs. The Bible has served as an inspiration for many song writers. In addition, the list of songs should be a medley of thanksgiving, adoration, supplication, dedication songs. Vernacular songs (Yoruba, Twi, Ibo, etc) should NOT be sung! We are a missionary church; our songs should be relevant to the culture of the city and country where we reside.

**THE PACKAGING**

Packaging is important to the selling of most products. It is the packaging that attracts or repels. We should not assume that everyone is spiritual or patient enough to focus and judge the content only. Our packaging comprises the following areas: **One**, singers should be righteous and filled with the Spirit. God disregards the songs of the unrighteous (Amos 5:23) **Two**, they should be well trained. This includes voice, instrumental and music rudiments training. The lead singer’s voice should be dominant. The other voices should support and blend that of the lead singer. **Three**, Singers should dress properly. Open chest, high heels, short skirts, curled hair, etc, are not consistent with vigilance and sobriety! **Four,** body language is very important. Singers should be cheerful, lively and smile. They should not be rowdy but should lead people to express themselves to God. The PA system controller should ensure that the singers’ voices do not deafen the congregation. **Five**, they should be contemporary in clapping. The songs should have the same rhythm. We can sing choruses as worship songs if we apply the correct rhythm. Beats from the keyboard or music playback from CDs or laptops can help to control the rhythm. The singers should be in sync with the keyboard and other instruments. Endeavour to use a suitable pitch. Avoid changing the pitch unless you are skilful enough to modulate. **Six**, the songs should be written with an appropriate software such asPowerPoint, SongPro and EasyWorship and projected. **Seven**, precision and pronunciation in singing are essential. In this way, **“... we will do all to the glory of God”** (1 Corinthians 10:31)