

Faith Bible Church

Glendale, AZ

Jeff Chariker, Pastor of Worship Arts

Champions in the Making

Worship Arts Handbook

Version 1.2 – Revised February 2007

A Note From Jeff...

Do you remember the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25? Three servants were given different amounts of their Master's money and told to go and do something with it while he was away. Remember how faithfulness and willingness to take action were rewarded and fear and inaction were rebuked? I want you to remember those things, but something else as well. The reward for their faithfulness was given to both the five-talent servant and the two-talent servant. The significant thing that I see is that the amount of talents wasn't as big a deal as the fact that in both cases, they invested all of what they were given. What I mean is that they were rewarded because they committed everything that they had.

I know that Faith Bible Church and I ask a lot of you who are involved in the Worship Arts Ministry. If someone were to ask me how much I ask for, my true answer is, "Everything you've got," for I believe that is what God asks of us. He doesn't just want us on Sunday and Wednesday or Thursday for a couple of hours... No, He wants us 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He wants all of our attention, all of our hearts, and all of our lives!

Now, before you feel that you can't possibly give everything you have to the ministry, hear me out. Each of us has a different set of circumstances going on right now. For some, life is smooth; for others, it is tough. Each of us has a different amount of time, energy, and emotion available to give. To tie this to the parable, each of us has a different amount of talents in our possession, but all of us have talents.

What I'm asking from everyone in the ministry are these two steps:

1. Decide if the Worship Arts ministry is truly your primary ministry calling. Then determine what you have to give and let me know in writing (use the registration form)
2. Then give 100% of what you have and do what you say you will.

Notice that by doing this, each will give a different amount determined by what is going on in their lives right now, but each will give their full effort to the Lord's work. This will allow me to plan for the future, because I'll know on whom I can plan, and it will save us a lot of frustration along the way. You will know that you are giving what you said you would give, and I will be able to encourage you to be faithful to what you have committed to doing without wondering who is going to show up!

I don't mean to sound harsh. I try to tell you often how much I appreciate all that you give to the ministry. You are asked to do much more than the average church attendee, and I am grateful and humbled by your commitment, but every so often I get surprised by a wave of inconsistency. It doesn't happen all the time, just every once in a while. Sometimes, it's just people showing up late! It's those occasional waves that I hope we can surf around this coming year!

We have great work before us. God demands and deserves our best effort. I personally commit these things to you:

1. I will do everything in my power to give you 100% of the talents that God has entrusted to me.
2. I will do my best to encourage you to give 100% also.
3. I will do everything in my power to be the type of leader that you will want to follow.
4. I will challenge you to be the best you can possible be.
5. I will care about you, your family, your hopes and dreams, and God's plan for your life.

On the cover of this handbook, it says, *Champions in the Making*. Here's what I mean. All of us are in a race to live out our lives for Christ. Some runners will drop out, some will stumble and fall, but our goal is to finish the race.

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24

My challenge to you is to take that one step further. Many may finish the race, just as many teams begin and finish a season, but only one becomes a champion. I encourage you to approach your commitment to Christ with the desire and effort to become not just someone who finished the race, but one who became a champion for Jesus. Let's all do our very best every time we have the opportunity. Let's all be true to what we say we will do:

"Simply let your 'yes' be 'yes', and your 'no' be 'no'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one." Matthew 5:37

Now, let's take the talents that we hold in our hand and turn them into something really spectacular for the Kingdom of God!

See you at the finish line!

Jeff

Philosophy of Worship Arts Ministry

The Worship Arts Ministry at Faith Bible Church is based on the principles of the church's teaching framework:

- **Abiding** in Christ
- **Bearing** Fruit
- **Care** for others

The Worship Arts ministry exhibits this philosophy of ministry by:

- **Exalting** God
- **Edifying** the Church, and
- **Evangelizing** the world.

We Exalt God:

- With lives that bring glory and honor to Him.
- By providing an example as we lead others in worship.
- By using our gifts and talents to offer expressions of adoration, praise and thanksgiving to Him

We Edify the Church Through Worship:

- By proclaiming God's Word and teaching one another.
- By encouraging one another.
- By caring for each other.

We Evangelize Through Worship That:

- Proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Is exemplified by hearts and lives that love Him.
- Demonstrates the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

QUALITY FOCUS

Technical Excellence

There are varying degrees of excellence. Our artistic expression should exhibit integrity within whatever style is being presented. Those who minister through the arts need to be recognized as gifted in these areas as well as having the desire to serve.

Validity

Our artistic expression should be appropriately suited to serve our ministry and worship objectives.

Appropriateness

There should be a direct correlation between the style of artistic expression and the message.

PERSONAL GUIDELINES

Commitment

The ongoing spiritual nature of our ministry requires a strong commitment to the people and the leadership of the church.

Spiritual Maturity

There is no substitute for having a heart for God that has been lived out consistently in one's life over time and a commitment to pressing on spiritually.

Artistic Talents

Basic artistic talents are a necessity in whatever field you may be involved. Our expressions and presentation should enhance our worship and outreach and not become a distraction.

Time Commitment

Rehearsal sessions and preparations are a necessity. Individual preparation at home may be required to effectively learn music or dramas. It is important that everyone recognize their commitment to each other as well as to God.

T.E.A.M.S.

***T*ransparency**

If we are not honest with one another it will be difficult to avoid the effects of misunderstandings that often result in hurt feelings.

***E*xcellence**

This extends to more than just the artistic aspect of ministry. Being on time, being spiritually prepared and being faithful to the group are just a few examples of what it means to be committed to excellence. Without this commitment, disunity often is the result. Unity is essential to our ministry and our faith.

***A*cceptance**

We need to accept each other unconditionally as Christ accepts us in order to effectively minister to God and others (Romans 15:7)

***M*inistry**

As leaders in worship, we are called to do more than just create art. We have the responsibility and privilege of leading people into a fresh encounter with God by providing a message and vehicle that is conducive to worship and ministry.

***S*ervant Attitude**

Jesus set an example as the ultimate servant (Mark 9:35). We need to pray that God will manifest this servant attitude within our lives.

Worship Team Qualifications

Following is a list of the qualifications that are necessary to be a part of our church's worship team.

1. Committed Member of this Church (and/or their children)

We are open to receiving special music from those who are not committed to this body of believers but the regular, ongoing and leadership nature of this ministry requires a strong commitment to the people and the leadership of this church.

2. Spiritual Maturity

As stated earlier, this is a leadership-type ministry and, hence, is ordinarily not a place for new or immature Christians.

3. Musical Expertise

The musicians and vocalists need to be skilled enough to follow a service which is "led by the Spirit of God." We don't want to limit what God will do simply because we can't handle it musically.

4. Time Commitment

Sunday morning preparation (personal, not as a team) and worship attendance are mandatory. Assistance with Sunday morning setup is also a requirement. In addition, there may be seminars, special retreats and more.

5. Support of Family

It is important that the individual's immediate family members are willing to accept the necessary time commitment and be a support to the individual.

6. Ability to Flow with the Team

Some people are very gifted musicians and/or vocalists, but for one reason or another (musical style, vocal range, etc...) they have trouble flowing with the team. These individuals are highly encouraged to share their musical gifts in other ways (home fellowship worship, musical specials, etc...) with the body.

Ultimately the Pastor of Worship Arts makes the final decision as to who is or is not a part of the worship team after carefully weighing input from the other members of the worship team and the church leadership.

Worship Team Guidelines

This list explains what is expected of people once they are a part of our church's worship team.

1. Probationary Period

Currently the probationary period has been waived due to our current lack of a facility. Typically, a probationary period of three months is in effect for new members where practices are attended.

2. Weekly Practice Sessions

All team members are required to attend Sunday morning practice sessions on the weeks they are scheduled from 8:45 to 9:45 am. Setup begins at 8:00 am. Prayer is an essential part of this ministry – in fact it will only strengthen the foundation. Rehearsal time includes prayer time.

3. Other Functions

Although the need has not yet arisen, worship team members will be expected to lead worship for seminars and other special retreats and meetings. (Family Camp, Men's Retreat, etc...)

4. Commitment to Being Spiritually Prepared to Minister

Our spiritual preparation has a direct effect on our effectiveness as a worship team. We need to come ready not only to sing and play music, but to worship the King and minister to His people.

5. Commitment to Musical Expertise

We need to work at our instrument and/or vocal ability to become the very best we can be. This means a great deal of individual practice (maybe even lessons) as well as playing with the team. Keep in mind that the team will only be as musically proficient as the individuals that make it up.

6. Commitment to growing spiritually

This too is as important on an individual basis as it is with the team. As a leadership ministry, we need to be committed to maturing in Jesus.

7. Commitment to "Flowing" with the Team

More than individual expertise, our musical goal needs to be the ability to "flow" with the team. We need to look at our team as not just a collection of separate musicians but as a single unit with a single purpose. Our heart attitude should not be to shine forth our own technical skill but to use that skill to enhance the team as a whole.

Drama Ministry Description

"Art can warm even a chilled and sunless soul to an exalted spiritual experience. Through art we occasionally receive - indistinctly, briefly - revelations the likes of which cannot be achieved by rational thought. It is like the small mirror of legend: You look into it but instead of yourself, you glimpse for a moment the inaccessible, a realm forever beyond reach. And your soul begins to ache."

Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, "The Nobel Lecture on Literature".

A. Purpose

The drama ministries exist to love and honor God by providing an environment where artists can grow, serve, and be accountable to God and each other; and by edifying the congregation with quality artistic expression consistent with our Christian world view.

B. Goal

Drama done well helps people bring their defenses down. Drama done well in church will also connect people to the message - the Word. Our goal is to do drama well: to break down barriers so people are more receptive to the message, to open an arena for artists to use their dramatic and comedic gifts in worship, and to glorify God. We also develop the skills of those who participate through instruction and presentation. The drama ministry can instruct, guide and persuade -- which are all methods of developing disciples. For those who participate, drama develops discipline of study and can serve to bring the worker into a closer relationship with God and His Word.

C. Opportunities

The Drama Ministry presents opportunities for;

Scripture readings

Drama scenes for service

Drama/music productions for seasonal events

Reader's Theatre

Group Readings

1. Actors

Actors are selected based on the skills they exhibit (from audition or prior dramas) to participate in dramas during Sunday worship or seasonal events.

Excellent memorization skills are needed to learn scripts on short notice.

Rehearsal times vary for each script but flexibility of scheduling is required for rehearsal scheduling. Time required for each script: approximately 10 hours plus memorization time (includes rehearsals and Sunday worship services)

2. Directors

Directors are also needed for scripts to help with stage direction, cues, blocking, character development, costuming, set and more. Directors need not be actors, but expertise or experience is a must.

Drama Ministry Qualifications

Following is a list of the qualifications that are necessary to be a part of our church's drama ministry.

1. Willingness

Any person willing to work under the guidance and direction of the ministry leader or drama director is welcome to be involved.

2. Spiritual Maturity

All participants must have a personal relationship with Christ and see the ministry as an avenue for service to His people. Ordinarily, this is not a place for new or immature Christians.

3. Team player

It is important that all who are involved understand their role as a team player. This means having a willingness to meet for rehearsals, to work on their own to perfect roles and readings and also to be flexible in their availability for all services and events. Rehearsals are scheduled for weekly responsibilities as well as for special productions.

4. Skill

Naturally some skill is required to be involved in a drama script; however, there are always varying degrees of skill. One need not be a master thespian to participate, but drama scripts are chosen based on an individual's skill level, the script's level of difficulty, the need for a specific character (age, gender, image) and the individual's understanding of the concept that is to be communicated.

Audio-Visual Ministry

"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17

Following is a list of the qualifications that are necessary to be a part of our church's audio-visual team.

A. Purpose

Our purpose is two-fold:

1. To support all facets of the Sunday Service as well as special programs. We believe we are successful when our work goes unnoticed, that is, when worshipers can focus on song and God's Word without any sound or visual equipment interruption.
2. To spread the gospel by providing quality audio tapes of weekly services and special programs to the public and to those who are incapable of attending. Our tapes are a vehicle for getting the Word outside of the walls of Faith Bible Church.

B. Visual Ministry Qualifications

1. Willingness

Any person willing to serve in a "behind the scenes" type ministry and be trained to work with Microsoft PowerPoint and Media Shout is welcomed to participate on a rotating basis.

2. Skill

Competency in the basic working commands of Window based software is a plus for anyone interested in serving in this ministry area; however, training is available. It is also beneficial for interested persons to have an awareness of the overall flow of the service and realize their role of assisting in the atmosphere of the worship service.

C. Audio Ministry Qualifications

1. Willingness

Any person willing to serve in a “behind the scenes” type ministry and be trained on the intricate workings of a sound system is welcomed to participate on a rotating basis.

2. Skill

The following skills are a necessity for those interested in serving in the audio ministry.

- a.** Ability to attend Sunday morning service.
- b.** Willingness to arrive at 8:00 am on Sunday morning.
- c.** Ability to “hear” with a musical ear.
- d.** Willingness to be trained. Training will occur during Sunday morning services and other specific times.
- e.** Understanding of the technical workings of audio systems. Much of this is taught when training on our equipment.
- f.** Ability to troubleshoot potential audio difficulties that may occur.

Are you being called to either of these ministering communities? We have the training needed to get you up and running and you'll always be working with a partner. Furthermore, the schedule is flexible which is ideal for changing and busy lives.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please remove this page, fill out and turn in.)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

My birth date is (month and day only!!) _____

I understand that my involvement in the Worship Arts Ministry implies my intention and commitment to regularly attend Worship Services.

I AM INVOLVED IN THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY AREAS:

_____ Adoration Choir

_____ Drama

_____ Worship Team/Band

_____ Technical (Sound, PowerPoint)

I SING: _____ Sop. _____ 2nd Sop. _____ Alto _____ Tenor _____ Bass

I PLAY THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENTS: _____

I AM ALSO INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING MINISTRY AREAS:

_____ Adoration Choir

_____ Drama

_____ Worship Team/Band

_____ Technical (Sound, PowerPoint)

_____ Media/Video Production

_____ Soloist

_____ Set Construction, Props

_____ Volunteer in the Worship Office

_____ Seasonal Choir (Easter, Christmas) _____ Other _____

FOR ALL:

_____ I believe that the Worship Arts ministry is my primary ministry calling and you can expect my best effort.

_____ I believe that the Worship Arts ministry is my secondary calling. My first ministry calling is _____.

Please list on the back of this form any known schedule conflicts that will keep you from participating on any given Sunday or special event. Thanks!

