

Spotify is a music, podcast, and video streaming service that was officially launched on October 7, 2008. Making millions of songs available through any media device. As of the third quarter of 2020, Spotify had 144 million premium subscribers worldwide, up from 113 million in the corresponding quarter of 2019. *That's a large and growing community interested in Music-* For the last 40 plus years Prescott has utilized a concert ministry- We are going to continue our SM series on Concert Ministry. I want to look today at *Concert Ministry Rationale*

I. THE FOCUS OF CONCERT MINISTRY

A. First we need to understand how this ministry came about-

1. Back in 1970 (2) young couples had gotten saved, and began to tell PM that young people were very interested in music-
 - a. *I bet if we advertised a concert, young people would come.*
 - i. This was an entirely new idea, so PM waited on it.
 - b. PM later went to a revival down in Cottonwood AZ- another Pr was telling PM about Jesus people concerts in CA-
 - i. He took 2 disciples with him, and they saw young people excited for Jesus, playing music, worshipping God, some in the open air/others a coffee house setting.
 - ii. PM had never seen anything like this-
 2. So, upon returning to Prescott, as an experiment he rented the Boys Club/They passed out hand drawn flyers advertising a concert/3 guys played guitars (2 weren't even saved)
 - a. They had 500 visitors & over 70 saved!
 3. This set into motion what we see today across the world in our fellowship!

B. So, Its critical to understand that Concerts are all about SINNERS!

1. We create a venue to attract sinners: *See for many sinners, church has a negative connotation*
 - a. But for: *Music/Sketch Drama...* sure!
 - i. Its interesting, Its comfortable, and the Gospel can be presented.
2. Re-establishing this, the focus is sinners (*evangelism*)
 - a. If we lose the focus of sinners- We've lost the purpose of a concert!
 - b. ITS NOT TO ENTERTAIN THE CHURCH: *Its Boring/Unprofessional...* Well, its not for you!
 - i. Its not an insider club with our own language/or inside jokes- Its for sinners to hear the Gospel!
 - ii. PM wasn't really into any of the music- *Trust me, he'll let you know;* BUT hes into souls!
 3. This focus: Of Souls is the reason this ministry began, and its the reason this ministry continues.
 4. The 2020 Grammys happened in January: Data shows that this event drew 16.5 million viewers, the 2019 show drew 17.5 million viewers: That is a lot of people, watching hours of TV, focused on Music.
 - a. *This ministry definitely still has a draw in 2020-*

II. THE UNSEEN BENEFITS OF CONCERT MINISTRY

A. Involvement Factor:

1. A crucial factor for spiritual health is involvement in ministry.
 - a. V4-6 speak of diversities of Gifts/Ministries/Activities: All means of involvement for the work
 - b. So, Concert Ministry helps believers...
 - i Focus outside themselves: *Focusing on the lost*
 - ii. & it gives them a sense of Ownership: *I am helping this to happen/function*
 - c. Lastly, Personal Dominion is gained by personal involvement: **Deut 11:24** *Every place where you set your foot will be yours:* You become an active participant in your spiritual growth/development
2. The Prescott church has done this ministry for 45 plus years! With more than 100 people personally involved in *Bands/Drama/Lights/Video/refreshments/nursery/special events*
 - a. Some have committed to this over 30 years! *Scotty & Laura Flitcroft/Louie Paulino...*

B. Spiritual Temperature Factor:

1. We require those involved to embrace a higher spiritual standard-
 - a. This means they will abstain from certain things/not feed their flesh: *That does something in them, that bleeds into the church!*
 - b. There is connected with this a higher standard of commitment- *Than if you arent involved*
2. So, when a large segment of the congregation is actively doing this- It changes the entire spiritual temperature of the church-
 - a. This is something observable of P. Gary Rodneys/P. Mike Webbs churches: *They are into this ministry, and every new convert cant wait to become part of it!*
 - b. I saw this in SF & Roc... it was something for converts to aspire towards.

C. Development of Character

1. Involvement in ministry forces us to interact with people we dont like...
 - a. Its the sandpaper of salvation- *It brings character to light, so rough edges can be smoothed off.*
 - i. The common mistake with this- *People say I want to quit because...* NO! This is good.. for you!
 - ii. I personally learned some valuable lessons from concert ministry that I still use today!
 - b. Secondly, is that we learn to overturn our own *flesh/personal preferences* for a greater good!
2. Then Character is developed- Because this ministry requires work!
 - a. We Work to be Effective/Relevant/for New Material-

D. Development of Disciples

1. PM: *Discipleship is impartation of spirit/personal involvement in ministry/reality of a spiritual dimension- being able to see it work-* Concert Ministry facilitates that!

2. So, Disciples get regular practice in Preaching!

a. They learn what works & what doesn't work/ They get feedback & instruction

3. There is organizing skills- Things don't just happen- They must be organized.

4. Spiritual Edge Developed

a. *Sensitivity*: Maybe pull the altar call early- *conviction after a skit/video/song* or *b/c visitors here*

b. *Skip your prepared altar call*: There's a common thread through the night- UNPLANNED!

c. *You learn that we need God*: Things not happening/no anointing/low effectiveness.

d. THERE IS SOMETHING POWERFUL ABOUT HAVING TO HAMMER AWAY IN THE TRENCHES TO MAKE SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE-

i. This is a picture of pioneering- week after week through conflict/boredom/dry spells-

5. It's important to note: the concert ministry has always been run by disciples- NOT PASTORS!

a. *If a pastor runs it- disciples lose the learning experience*. A pastor oversees, but doesn't run

i. Term: Door Director- Concerts called *The Door* (A main disciple slotted for pastoring leads it)

ii. I ran every detail of Prescott's One80- SCARY- But I learned some lessons for Pastoring.

iii. New Converts Class- Run By disciples- *That is your pioneer baby! You contend for it!*

E. *lastly* Aspiration Factor

1. This ministry causes young people/new people to aspire for ministry (*Church kids & New Converts*)

a. It makes them want to learn instruments/become used by God

i. Instead of aspiring for what they see on TV/MOVIES/MUSIC

ii. In Roc. we had YOUTH! We cultivated young people to be involved... in drama/bands/lights.

b. I learned the instruments I know- Because of the Concert Ministry- *My parents don't play*

i. 4 of 6 of us were used in the concert ministry in Prescott

III. CONCERT MINISTRY & YOU

A. 1 Cor 12:4-6 *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

1. There is an incredible opportunity before every believer & disciple- You can have a part in this.

a. There is an avenue for your life to be used- To have expression in the local church- To be part of what God is doing.

b. **1 Peter 4:10** *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*