

I am going to begin a series about concert ministry, I did something like this back in 2020, but really feel stirred to teach & reteach you the various aspects of this worthy ministry.

Acts 13:47 NIV For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

I CONCERT MINISTRY HISTORY:

A- We have been doing concerts consistently for 53 years!

1. Pastor Wayman Mitchell came to Prescott in January of 1970, and in that same year we held our first concert at the Boys Club.

a. He was stirred to do this because he had heard about the “coffeehouses” in CA that were very useful for reaching unsaved youth... specifically hippies.

b. So he took some disciples with him to California, and witnessed first, hand young people singing about Jesus and preaching Jesus, and youth responding for salvation.

i. PWM said; This would work in Prescott. So they brought the idea back with them.

2. See, music was a big part of the late 60's & 70's... sex, drugs, rock & roll... it was all young people.

a. It was in August of 1969 that in upstate NY; Woodstock happened for the first time... there was an estimated 400,000

3. So using that vein of attraction a man by the name of Don Williams started the “coffeehouse” idea-

a. Quote: *“An outreach that began to connect with LA's hippies was the youth group run by Don Williams, the Ph.D-holding youth pastor at Hollywood Presbyterian Church. Introduced by a pregnant runaway girl to the various hippie “tribes” of Hollywood and intuiting the importance of music for the younger generation, Williams convinced his elders to bankroll the creation of a coffeehouse that would present Christianity to a youthful audience in a more relevant setting. The Salt Company coffeehouse opened in a building adjacent to the church in the summer of 1968 and regularly attracted a mix of 300-400 church youth, college kids, and street people every weekend. With a mix of in-house and area musicians whose styles ranged from Dylan-esque folk to hard rock, the Salt Company became not only a venue for the early LA-area “Jesus Music” scene, but a “how-to” example for what would become a burgeoning Christian coffeehouse phenomenon.”*

i. That is what PWM saw, and that is what he replicated

4. At the very first concert they saw 50 youth saved! And since then we have continued this outreach for 53 years!

a. What started in the Boys Club, moved to its own building on Granite Street, Goodwin Street, Sheldon Street, Ruth Street, the corner of Gurley and Montezuma, then 422 W Gurley.

b. It was called The Door, The Arena, The Underground, One80... and soon to Prescott Valley!

II PRIMARY PURPOSE:

A- So at its roots; this ministry's primary purpose is EVANGELISM.

1. It is a tool we use to attract sinners to come and hear about Jesus!

a. P.M. learned early on in reaching the unsaved (hippies) that church isn't a place they are always open to come to, but for a sinner, a concert is more acceptable.

i. Because people can have all kinds of different ideas that come to mind when they hear about church!

2. So what we need to keep in mind; in everything we do at ONE80 is think:

a. What will draw sinners? What will get someone unsaved into those doors? What will pull sinners in!

i. Out at a restaurant w/ wife... Lady complaining about One80... she said “They all spoke in tongues, you know that isn't biblical”... THAT IS NOT WHO I WANT TO COMING! That's a religious person!

b. What is relevant? If we want to reach sinners, then we have to appeal to them.

i. Edgar got saved at One80- Music was relevant, the message ministered to him... Matt Hepburn remembers hearing LRR the first time, and he said he was drawn in, it was captivating to him coming from the world... Neil Mitchell came to One80 first, it connected with him

3. See, Our focus needs to be sinners: **Acts 13:47 NIV** For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

a. Through Music/Drama/Video/Testimony/Plays/etc. the aim should be Evangelistic... *to bring salvation!*

b. Not to entertain/tell inside jokes/fill a calendar/be a rockstar... but to have an outward focus for the unsaved.

III VISION AND EXPECTATION

A- So if we know the Primary Purpose, then that will begin to change & shape our vision & expectation.

1. When the focus is Evangelism; That means we will contend for some specific things-

a. We will want to see sinners come in: Not funky religious churched people... I don't want to see that!

b. We will want to see sinners respond: Respond to the appeal of salvation through preaching.

i. If we aren't seeing that, then it's a problem!

c. We will want to see new converts lock in: Become part of the church, part of the weekend concert attendance

d. We will want to see new converts get involved: Join ministry... labor together with us!

2. As you begin to see it actually happen, it becomes your expectation... You won't settle for anything else!

3. This has to become yours... you have to take ownership... its not just a “step towards calling”

a. Its a meeting place with God... its a place of salvation for the sinner...

b. Is this yours? Have you seen this? Do you want to see this?