

# “THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN ... AND MUSICIANS!”

Alleluia! Conference

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*A discussion of worship planning tools and looking at how these tools can be a time saver (or time waster) for the Bivocational or smaller church musician.*

1. Prioritize
  - a. Daily / weekly responsibilities with job, church, family
  - b. Set aside a time for personal study and worship planning
  - c. Prepare in advance to allow for the unexpected
  
2. Look for tools
  - a. What has been working for you?
  - b. Check with other church musicians
  - c. Explore the Internet
  - d. Peruse this list:
    - i. New Baptist Hymnal Resources
      1. <http://www.lifewayworship.com>
      2. <http://celebrating-grace.com>
    - ii. Other popular Online planning options
      1. <http://www.jimfaull.com>
      2. <http://fqworship.com> (Chris Tomlin)
      3. <http://www.planningcenteronline.com>
      4. <http://www.worshipplanning.com>
      5. <http://www.worshipteam.com> (Don Moen)
      6. <http://www.worshipkitchen.com>
      7. <http://worshipdirector.org> (free)
    - iii. To project lyrics during worship
      1. PowerPoint <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/powerpoint>
      2. Easy Worship [www.easyworship.com](http://www.easyworship.com) \$399
      3. Media Shout [www.mediashout.com](http://www.mediashout.com) \$429
    - iv. Abide by current copyright laws
      1. <http://www.ccli.com>

- v. Other helpful sites to find resources, training and new music
    - 1. <http://www.praisecharts.com>
    - 2. <http://www.worshipleader.com>
    - 3. <http://www.songdiscovery.com>
    - 4. <http://www.theworshipcommunity.com>
    - 5. <http://www.worshiptoday.com>
    - 6. www.
    - 7. www.
3. Non-Musical Elements
- i. <http://www.biblegateway.com>
  - ii. <http://www.olivetree.com>
  - iii. <http://www.sermonspice.com>
  - iv. <http://www.worshiphousemedia.com>
  - v. www.
  - vi. www.
4. Some fun and helpful websites to Google! *(Some have been previewed, others not! YAYOR!)*
- a. [I Will Worship](#) - over 3000 songs
  - b. [ChristianGuitar.org](#) - Thousands of tabs
  - c. [Christian Sheet Music Lyrics](#) - over 6000 songs
  - d. [Worship Archive](#)
  - e. [Praise and Worship Lyrics and Chords](#)
  - f. [Praise Town](#) - "designed to equip worshipers with guitar chords to their favorite worship choruses and Christian songs"
  - g. [PWarchive.com](#)
  - h. [Cyber Hymnal](#) - over 6000 hymns, gospel, and public domain songs, MIDI files
  - i. [Choral Public Domain Library](#) - free sheet music, scores, texts, translations, composer info
  - j. [Earnest and Roline Ministries](#) - chords, videos, lessons, a lot here
  - k. [Josh's Christian Guitar Page](#)
  - l. [Delicate Fade](#)
  - m. [Worship Today](#) - store to download music
  - n. [T Rev's Tabs](#) - downloadable/offline tabs
  - o. [Split Infinity Worship](#) - public domain songs and hymns
  - p. [InHymn](#) - a few hymns as well as some original songs
  - q. [Cantorion](#) - free sheet music, Christmas carols
  - r. [Praise Charts](#) - download contemporary arrangements of popular worship songs
  - s. [Creative Worship](#) - Lots of songs (listen and charts) for purchase. Music \$2.50/song.
  - t. [Rockin' With The Cross](#) - guitar tabs, \$35/year
  - u. [SongFinder](#) - from Vineyard
  - v. [Sample audio files](#) - also from Vineyard
  - w. [CCM Lyric](#) - lots of popular lyrics, but no tabs

5. Analyze your style
  - a. How do you work best?
    - i. Computer
    - ii. Legal pad
    - iii. Books in hand or online
  - b. When do you do your best work?
    - i. Morning person
    - ii. Night owl
    - iii. Planning retreat
    - iv. Surroundings quiet or active?
6. Narrow your approach
  - a. Find your method
  - b. Have a plan
  - c. Choose a theme for worship
    - i. From your pastor's sermon
    - ii. From the adult Bible study curriculum
    - iii. From the church year
  - d. Commit to your plan
  - e. Include other people in the process
  - f. Remember to evaluate
7. STOP planning and plan! (Ahhh...there's the rub!)
  - a. When you find your tools, use them!
  - b. Set time limits for yourself
  - c. The Internet is unending, your time is not!
  - d. Focus , think through the details
  - e. Enough is enough!
8. Final Thoughts
  - a. Remember to be flexible
  - b. God calls you to do your best, not accomplish the impossible – without His help!!!!
  - c. Accept your limitations
  - d. Creativity does not have to be large
  - e. Look around for ideas, but adapt for YOUR congregation. One size does not fit all!
  - f. God has placed you where you are. Trust Him.

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[www.counterpointmusic.org](http://www.counterpointmusic.org)