



WEEKLY CHRISTIAN FOCUS

Dearest friends and loved ones,
Warm Greetings.

My wife once told me I sound like a woman when I sing. It's true apparently. So this has not helped me in my singing to the Lord around others! But I shouldn't worry as that would just be pride. (wouldn't it?)

My Latin teacher when I was about 16 and our school went to the church to sing Christmas hymns/carols, he used to give me such 'dirty looks' because when I sang it just sound like I was having a real laugh! But to be truthful I was truly enjoying the carols and still love them all today!



If you get this edition in digital format, I would like to kick off with this short video clip below, one of the most inspiring things I have seen this year and which moved me to



tears! If you get this edition on paper you can still view it on YouTube by searching 'White Pastor goes to all black church and this happens'. Please start this edition with this testimony please! Laugh cry or shout or fall over for the Lord, do whatever the Holy Spirit moves you to do. Here is the link!

[White Pastor Goes to a Black Church and this Happens](#) [#jesus](#) [#christianinspiration](#) [#storytime](#) - [YouTube](#)

Reviewing the need to praise and sing!

It is extremely rare that WCF ever republishes an edition, but in this edition I have pulled together some of my writing and Bible verses from 3 previous editions waaay back, called 'Zillibums' 'God and football' and 'Modern 'worship' music may be harming us'.

Because singing and using your mouth and tongue to love Jesus is so vital and I am still so weak on it that I feel it's good for us to review this and pray for God to help us change radically.

Let's go!

Years ago, I attended an African assembly in London. I was already well used to the way they worship God. As an honoured guest I was taken near the front and sat with my guide for the evening service. The music was lively and vibrant and went on for a long time.

I tried my best as a rhythmically impaired white person to get the feel of the rhythm and enjoy the

message of the songs. Near me in the front by the aisle was a middle aged black lady. After some songs she came out into the aisle and prostrated herself on the floor occasionally sitting up with her hands raised and tears coming down her face.

She was trying I feel to express her love for God and praise Him or worship Him. She was not unique, in fact I have seen a few other people do the same or similar in various Afro-Caribbean congregations in the UK and elsewhere. I felt a real sense of admiration for her and also some sense that my own type of pride or personality would not permit me to rise to that level of liberation and become unhindered by the thoughts of my mind, nor the opinions of others and the devil. It was a beautiful experience I have never forgotten.

Conversely, and the point of this section, I have attended probably scores of White British worship sessions. They all have these similar shades of conformity:

They all sing songs about the personal love of God for them as an individual.

They all sing songs about the Lamb and the Cross. (Nothing wrong there).

They all sing songs about God is the Sovereign Lord and is Holy and knows what He is doing.

They all sing songs about everything is going to be ok with them and they are loved and comforted by the

Holy Spirit and God. And....well that is about it I honestly and humbly suggest.

There are no or very few songs about responsibility to God or being a disciple, who takes up his/her cross daily. There are almost no songs about sacrifice and the duties of a Christian soldier. There are no songs about the spiritual war and fighting the devil and the world of today.

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP MUSIC. (MODERN) IS SOME OF IT HARMING US?

- There are no songs I have heard about “coming out from among the world and being separate”.
- There are very few songs that tend to give the eternal vision of God’s power across generations, conquering all enemies before him.
- There are no songs about winning the entire world for Jesus Christ and our job to go into it. The songs I have heard seem to lay all the job directly at God’s feet.
- There are almost no songs about commitment and growth and desperation to know Almighty God.
- There are almost no songs about deep confession and repentance.
- There are very few songs based on scripture or just pure scripture, so that the actual Word of God is seldom put into music itself.

These are my observations over many years. Yet you will find many (non-traditional) churches in the UK absolutely thrilled and satisfied with their worship. With their one hand waving in the air, if they are brave or very dedicated.

Yet these types of songs I mention that are not there today, used to be there. And they used to be there for centuries. They were certainly there during the missionary endeavours

of part one of this book, but I am sure they in large part are not there today. This cumulative effect of the lack of this message through music definitely has an effect and will be very detrimental.

Our young people grow up without that knowledge of dedication, sacrifice, struggle and the requirements of our way of life. It’s wonderful to know God loves us and feel comforted and encouraged after a long week serving mammon in the UK, but the best way to know God and His Love I have found, is to know him in the storm, through the struggle and in the impossible situation where he came through and did the miracle at the eleventh hour, and if you read the book of Psalms which is really our handbook for worship, you will find the vast majority of that book is that type of



song! Praise the Lord.

Brother Yun is an exiled Chinese Christian house church leader, evangelist who faced severe persecution and imprisonment.

Here is a quote from brother Yun, often known as “The Heavenly Man”: “Some churches in the west might play louder music or appear energetic and joyful on the outside, but this does not necessarily mean they have the presence of Jesus in their hearts any more than the old Lutheran church (he attended before in Germany).”

I wish to ask all songwriters and all worship people everywhere to ask God for a better balance as a false balance truly is an abomination to the Lord. Start using either the old proven songs of blood and tears and victory or write your own.

And you won’t be able to write your own unless you have done it or gone through it yourself, and perhaps that’s why there are so few today.

There is a famine in the land, for hearing the word of the Lord and the right balance of Christian worship songs. So, I would say that (modern) Christian worship itself to some degree is harming the Christian in this land. Other lands do a lot better because they are not stupid enough to think they have arrived and are not so smug and self-satisfied with their “lovely” songs. I have found it immensely difficult to sit through songs in church in the UK and have regularly stepped out for a while, just so I could get my mind on the Lord!

The adults there like to sway back and forth to these lovely old hymns, men usually prefer to wear sloppy or casual jeans of some type for some reason, and put their hands in their pockets or otherwise cross their arms across their chest while singing to God and ‘worshipping’ Him.

A few people will close their eyes and wave their hands around in a gently swaying and rocking motion. (Not rock and roll that is!) Again, this was a bit difficult for me to absorb as I grew up as a Christian abroad in South America and then India where people seemed to ‘belt out’ the songs to Jesus with great vigour and gusto and there was a certain ‘buzz’ if you know what I mean? Have you had a chance to go to those places, Reverend in your travels?

Worshipping God and football!

Finally the other thing that came to my mind this week when reflecting on football; is that people are absolutely nuts about it, they are enthusiastic, they spend their money and quite a huge proportion of their wages for some people, just to go and watch a game and see their favourite players.

[Best crowd reactions after a goal](#)

[INCREDIBLE SCENES as HUGE crowds welcome Messi and Argentina team home after World Cup victory](#)

[Bing Videos](#)

Then they talk about it for hours afterwards with their mates or enemies also! They (the football

fans) shout, scream for joy or anger, sing songs at the top of their lungs.

The BIG QUESTIONS FOR ME ARE THESE: • DO PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS CHRIST EVER DO THE SAME IN A SPIRITUAL SENSE? • DO THEY EVER IN A CHURCH, EVEN ANY CHURCH YOU KNOW OF, 'SHOUT FOR JOY', • PRAISE GOD WITH ALL THEIR HEARTS, • STAND UP WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM • AND PROCLAIM IN THE MIDST OF THE CONGREGATION THAT THEY LOVE JESUS CHRIST? SPEND A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO INCREASE GOD'S KINGDOM? OBVIOUSLY THE ANSWER IS NO. AND WHY NOT? Let's look at these verses before continuing!

Ezra 3:12 But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy:

Ezra 3:13 So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (WOW!)

Psalm 5:11 But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them

ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Psalm 32:11 Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

Psalm 35:27 Let them shout for joy.

A closing prayer. Dear Father,

Thank you for giving your Son to die for us and to give us the gift of eternal life. Thank you for making me part of your Heavenly family.

Teach me to praise you with my whole heart and with all that is within me and to learn how to express love and thanks and Glory to you as my life continues. Help me to be whole-hearted and build a new way of praising You and becoming closer to you, like dear sister Abby in this video. I ask for your glory, in Jesus Name, Amen

I WANT TO BREAK FREE! Remember that famous song by was it a band called Queen and their front man Freddie Mercury. Have a listen later

[Queen — I Want To Break Free | Live Wembley 1986 \(Freddie Mercury\)](#)

Wow! let's have a look at this verse! Matthew 5: 20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of

heaven.

I would suggest a paraphrase of this great Bible verse to our wonderful readership and to apply earnestly to myself:

'except your powerful praises and rejoicing in God and Jesus Christ exceed the rejoicing of earthly football fans, you can in no way enter the Kingdom of God!' the Football (soccer) World Cup is beginning in football as we speak. what are you going to do about this?

3. Freddie Mercury and Queen were a famous music band in the UK and globally.

The main words of this stupendous song which resonated with global audiences from Brazil to Belgium and the UK to the USA were: ' I want to break free! God knows I want to break free!' This song was primarily a song about a male female relationship, but God used this song to reach millions with the desire I also felt as a teen, that I want to break free! I want to find the Truth and not be bound up in the devil's system. Break free today my precious brothers and sisters! get free in Jesus Christ. get out of the evil system, pray and praise and ask God to help you to be free. Jesus said: 'And you shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you FREE!' John 8:32

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