

“THE MESSAGE OF THE MUSIC” SEMINAR

What is “the Message of the Music” all about? Does it matter what kind of music I listen to? If the words are good, should we be concerned about the music part? Friday evening’s message, “Music’s Role in Character Building” will examine this subject as the foundation for the weekend’s seminar.

Do you desire your children to make wise choices in life? Have you found any inspiring principles from God’s Word

to help avoid the pitfalls of wrong choices? Sabbath morning, the Sawyers will present “Teaching Standards and Developing Convictions” with practical help for training your family in every area of life, including the area of music.

We will rejoin in the afternoon for “Where Do We Draw the Line?” This message will give valuable tools and tests to help make your own decisions about music.

The Sabbath will close with inspiring uplifting music by the Sawyer family. Songs from the heart, for the family, for the home. In all the music

presented, we pray you will hear the song of Moses: “The LORD is my Strength and Song; and He is become my Salvation.” Exodus 15:2.



SCRIPTURE SONG EXPERIENCE

“Dear Derrol, Cindy and family, Just wanted to tell you that I really appreciated your idea of writing your own scripture songs to help in scripture memorization. I’ve had a special interest in scripture songs for my children to listen to, and have purchased several CDs of them, knowing that music is a wonderful way to put God’s word in their hearts. I had never thought of making it a hobby of writing them myself. I noticed that most of the songs

on the CDs do not include the references, just as you mentioned, which is too bad. When we write them ourselves, we can include the texts. How wonderful to not be limited to just what you can find out there. I started asking God to bless me with scripture songs for our family, and this week, He blessed me with them of them—which of course I have been teaching to our children. I am so thankful for His answered prayer. One of them felt like it almost

“fell into my head” while I was playing with my children outdoors. I continued to sing it over and over, hoping that I would not forget it. Of course, I did forget—you know how that happens! (I don’t have a way to make a voice recording yet.) For a whole day, I tried to remember it and could not. Feeling sad, I prayed that if that was a song God wanted me to keep, that He would bring it back to mind. Nothing happened that day, but as soon as my alarm

clock woke me up the next morning, it was right there in my mind—the very first thought! I wrote it down so I won’t forget again! I wanted to write and tell you because, if I don’t you won’t know the blessing that is coming into our lives as a result of the idea God has given you to share. May God bless your family and your ministry.”

—J, Pendleton, Oregon

MINISTRY NEEDS

We praise God from whom all blessings flow! He has placed upon the hearts of His people a willingness to help us in this ministry. We have been blessed with the multi-media projector we need in order to present our seminars. Thank you to each one who sends a love gift to us. What a privi

lege it is to be used by Him to get His truth out in every way we can find!

Our remaining needs are funding for building an inventory of books and materials, the making of the next CDs, and the ongoing financial needs of the ministry. Our

ministry is supported solely by donations and our CD and book sales.

If you believe in what Moses’ Song Ministries, Inc. is doing, please prayerfully consider helping us financially. All gifts are tax-deductible. Please keep us in your prayers. as you are in

your prayers, as you are in ours!



TESTIMONIALS

"I met you at the Lodi health meetings. I was so busy I didn't make any purchases. However, my sister-in-law, P, purchased all of your CDs, and my brother, G, was blessed by your music, especially the "Sabbath Song." My Mother passed away on [Friday] August 22nd at the age of 88, at sunset at the beginning of the Sabbath. She was ready. G (P's husband) has been ministered to by "The Sabbath Song" and that song was played after the Eulogy during a "moment of silence." The Scripture Songs played as people left and the one about [He that hath the Son hath Life] played as we all stood around her casket; it was very beautiful and moving. Thank you for your obedience to the Lord in producing these beautiful CD's." M— California

"Expressions of appreciation from members and visitors alike were told to me regarding your seminar. The sensitive and caring manner of your presentations were appreciated. I personally wish you and your family abundant success as you provide spiritual and informative information on the role of music for Christians." —In His Name and by His Power! Dan Knapp, Pendleton Senior Pastor

Thank you—Glory and praise be to God!

Musical Notes

When I was a new Christian my pastor gave me the following advice: When you listen to a sermon or read a book, pay close attention to the first part of the message, because that is where they lay the foundation. The remainder of the message will be built on that foundation. If the foundation is sound, then you may continue, and see "whether these things be so." If the foundation is weak, the chances of having a sound message are weak as well.

In our music seminars we spend an entire message on *the pivotal point* of the ongoing debate over Christian music: "Does music have the ability to affect your character?" Many Christians today say, "NO!" They believe the lyrics are the only thing that matters. They believe that the music itself has no ability to build or destroy your character. However, the foundation they use for this argument is very weak. They say that there is no such thing as an evil "note" or "rhythm." It is not the note, but rather the combination of notes that can either build or destroy character. Think about it... a letter is not evil, but when we combine letters, we need to be sure they are put together in a way that edifies. It is the same with musical notes.

We encourage all to study to understand the subject so that we can help our families and churches to "abhor that which is evil," and "cling to that which is good." Prayerfully consider inviting Moses' Song Ministries, Inc. to your area so we can share *the Message of the Music* with you!

Fall Schedule

October 4 Creston, BC. Call 250-428-3384 for details.

October 18 Eureka, Montana. Call 406-882-4891 for details.

October 24, 25 Colton, California. Call (909) 370-1311 for details.

October 31, November 1 St. Helena, CA. Call (707) 963-4461 for details.

November 8 Wasco, CA Call (661) 393-6378 for details.

November 12-16 Empowered Living Family Camp, Soquel, California.

November 22 Albany, Oregon evening vespers program. Call (541) 928-9555 or (503) 394-3563 for details.

December 3-7 Empowered Living Family Camp, High Springs, FL

Updates to our schedule will be posted on our website. Hope we will see you when we are in your area!

You may find us at

www.MosesSong.org.

Please share this website with your friends and loved ones!



Moses' Song Ministries, Inc.

AUTUMN NEWS

2003

THE MESSAGE OF THE MUSIC SEMINAR

BY CLIFF AND LORA HENDRICKSON

What is music's role in a Christian's life? Is music important? Is music amoral (not able to affect your character—not moral)? What makes something a "moral issue???" Our family just enjoyed an information- and music-filled weekend seminar by the Sawyer family, learning more about music. Now we are learning how to apply what we learned to our own choices. What a blessing!

Music is an important way for Christians to bring praise and glory to God. The Bible is filled with songs of praise to the Lord, for all His wonderful deeds. Jesus gave His all for me; I can praise His goodness in thanksgiving! He asks for my heart, my hands, my mind, my thoughts, my plans – and He blesses these gifts. But does He want *all* my choices, *all* of my music??

During the seminar, ancient, secular and Christian scholars and musicians were quoted, all agreeing that music makes a huge impact on our lives. It affects our moods, our thoughts, our attitudes, our actions. It

can be used to control others, to teach either good or undesirable values. It is an experience that involves all of our five senses, affecting us physiologically. It is a language by which we communicate as verily as we communicate with our spoken and non-verbal languages. What messages do I want to give and receive?

Music contains three essential elements (there are more, but we looked at these three): melody, harmony and rhythm. This music is the message. Lyrics (words) are optional. Sometimes lyrics are first written as poems and then set to music, but they are not the only message of the music. Sometimes we don't pay any attention to the words at all! Do I listen to music with unholy themes, with or without words? Would I want my child or spouse to repeat certain words or say them in the way in which they are communicated in the song?"

The "tune" of music is its melody, the line you sing. Harmony is the added notes that compliment and enrich the melody, adding beauty

and depth. "Harmony" is a lovely word for getting along, right? Does the music I listen to model the harmony I desire for my home and family? Does my home reflect the order and teamwork of the music I listen to?

Listen to the crickets in the evening, to a child's heart beat, to your own step as you walk on a noisy path. Life is full of rhythm, from the rise of the sun to the seasons of the year, repeating rhythms year after year. Is there anything wrong with rhythm? No, rhythm is good and necessary, in balance. But does the rhythm compete with natural rhythms, causing negative affects on the mind and body? Is rhythm the strongest "voice," drowning lyrics and harmonies? Does my music model God's desire for balance, for self-control in all things?

And what makes something a "moral issue?" Well, if music is an experience, and an experience creates thoughts and feelings, then music can help make up our character! Our character is a witness of whom we serve, who we are, where we are going. Am I desiring a closer walk with

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God?

As we consider our music choices, let us determine to "guard the avenues of the soul." Let our prayer be as David's: **"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer." Ps 19:14**

We highly recommend the Sawyer's beautiful music and *Message of the Music* seminar as an informative, helpful tool for the Christian walk!

*Cliff and Lora
Hendrickson
Pendleton, Oregon*