

Praise Songbook

Hello, friends, neighbors and other such persons. I'd like to talk to you about the Praise Songbook that I have compiled. There are two versions, a lyrics only book, and a book with lyrics and chords. This came about with the Corbin Emmaus community in mind primarily, but of course it can be used in other situations also (I use it at the Laurel County Jail). I am working on Powerpoint for the entire book.

My vision for this compilation is that it is not only expandable, but editable. Songs can be added (or taken away). Lyrics can be changed in the event of mistakes or missing sections. Page numbers are not used; everything is alphabetized.

Let's talk about the chord book. I am an instrumentalist. As such, I have been frustrated by chord charts I have encountered in the past. Some do not include enough chords to support the melody, or the chords are ones that clash with the melody. Some charts are in keys that are not singable. Some charts include too many chords (I'm convinced these are developed by keyboardists [I love you Bruce Martin and Tommy Radford] or "paper" musicians who know music theory but don't play much in real world situations). Some charts come in the form of arrangements that feature pages and pages and pages of music for one song because they wanted to change one chord in the last verse and the last chorus. I understand that's required so you can sell an arrangement of a song you didn't write.

So, I have developed chord charts that work on these principles:

The keys are singable for the widest range of people.

The chords include all of the important ones and discard the extras.

All of the songs can be played in the first (open) position on the guitar. This doesn't matter to keyboardists, but it sure does for guitar and basses. Also, this saves having to come up with separate charts for capos and standard pitch (for example, a song in the key of Bb is most easily played on the guitar in the G shape, capo on the third fret).

All of the songs fit on one page. No more page turning!

The songs included are ones which are beneficial for corporate musical worship. I did not include songs that are more performance oriented and would be hard for a congregation to sing.

I make mistakes. So, if you disagree on chords or keys I have included, please contact me. If the change needs to be made, I want to make them. I want us (whomever us turns

out to be) to be playing the same song, with the same (good) chords, and the same lyrics. If there is a song you would like to see included, please speak up.

I want people who may have felt intimidated at the thought of joining in because of having to play strictly by ear to feel mollified by this resource. I hope this book will end up being the standard for (at least) the Corbin Emmaus community. I hope this book will be a blessing in general.

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