



OUR VISION FOR MINISTRY VISITS

OVERVIEW

Hymnicity is a publishing and equipping ministry dedicated to helping Christians grasp, experience, and express the person and work of Jesus through hymnody. One way that we seek to accomplish this mission is through personal ministry visits.

PURPOSE

When describing our work in general, we say that we *create*, we *share*, and we *serve*. Visits help us to do the second two items – sharing and serving.

Sharing

We each bring over twenty years of ministry experience either in the pulpit or at the music stand which gives us flexibility in how we share our hymns and our vision of hymns. We are at home doing such activities as:

- Leading a living room hymn-sing
- Giving a formal concert
- Teaching musician seminars
- Teaching or preaching

We seek to share not only our hymns but other historic or modern hymns that go beyond being a catchy tune to being formational.

Serving

Rather than simply seeking to “do our thing,” we desire to see every opportunity as a partnership. We strive to not only meet our goal of equipping through sharing, but also help each organization meet *their own goals*, which we will seek to discover in preparation for the visit. Some typical goals:

- Encouragement for weary music teams
- Personal ministry to one or more individuals who need it
- Evangelistic outreach through a concert or outdoor event
- Worship or singing renewal both through song leadership and preaching or teaching



CREDENTIALS

We list these mainly for the benefit of those who don't know us personally. First, we are credentialed for this ministry because we have been born again by the Holy Spirit through the gospel of Jesus and added to His church through baptism. We're happy to share our testimonies both privately and publicly. We are also rooted and grounded in our local (Southern Baptist) churches and have pastoral input into both our lives and ministries. Second, each of us has been ordained into pastoral ministry. And third, the following gifts or accomplishments are some of the reasons we sensed a call to this work in the first place; we are happy to provide videos or references upon request:

- Eric has been both a vocational senior and associate pastor and his duties have often involved planning and leading worship
- David has been a vocational worship pastor and music director
- Eric & David studied at the Southern Baptist Theological seminary
- Both have hymns published with a variety of publishing companies including Hope Publishing (the largest hymn publisher) and David has won several hymn contests. David has collaborated with dozens of writers over more than twenty-five years of songwriting for the church.
- Eric has many published writings including articles and one (published) book; David has written many devotionals and compiled several hymnals.
- David has the equivalent of an undergraduate music degree and can teach performance, theory, composition, or arranging; he is also a multi-instrumentalist, able to lead or teach piano, guitar, or saxophone.
- David has produced three albums of worship music (that he will admit to) and one instrumental piano hymns project (Hymns for the Weary). You can find them under the names "David L. Ward," "Reformed Praise," and "Thousand Tongues."
- David has led worship for local and national conferences, shared the stage as an instrumentalist for various artists and events, and put on many concerts either as a jazz performer or singer-songwriter.
- Both have taught seminars on church music and songwriting.



VALUES

Understanding Hymnicity's values will help you get a feel for what we might say or how we might act between events. We value...

- The centrality of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In our hymns, teaching, and personal ministry we seek to “make a bee-line for the cross” as C.H. Spurgeon put it. The person and work of Jesus, often summarized simply as “the cross,” is our most treasured possession – not our hymns. We often share the gospel through song lyrics and song introductions, but are also happy to give more formal gospel presentations.
- The priority and preciousness of the local church. We believe that the church – the people of God organized into local communities according to His Word – is the primary place through which evangelism and discipleship are to occur. Therefore, we seek to be a resource ministry that extends or enhances rather than supplants what churches are doing.
- Congregational, small group, and personal worship. We want to see worship in spirit and truth fostered, primarily through singing, in all spheres of life. We're not just interested in the big stage under the lights but also in the kitchen and the living room where hymns matter too.
- Songs that teach, transform, and inspire. We tend to use songs that are theologically and biblically dense. However, these distinctives can tend to bring an unhealthy emphasis on the mind to the exclusion of the heart (or on proclamation rather than praise) and also alienate those who do not have a high level of English or biblical literacy (children and non-native English speakers, for example). Thus, we will often use “simpler” songs in addition to hymns.
- The importance of song leaders and planners. We believe that those who choose songs for the church are vitally important and will seek to particularly honor, encourage, and equip them.
- The creative act. God's glory is inexhaustibly inexpressible; thus men and women should continue writing and singing new hymns. We teach and encourage hymn writing for every context from personal devotion to small group singing to worldwide publishing.



COSTS

We are a ministry, not a business; however, we are supporting ourselves and our families through this work. We want to be flexible enough to work with your community's budget and hope that those who can pay "well" might help subsidize those who can't. The following list is meant to help you understand the effort that goes into the various kinds of events we lead in order to help us arrive at a suggested cost:

- Planning and charting songs: 2-5h
- Preparing for and leading a rehearsal: 2h
- Planning a worship service: 1-2h
- Teaching or preaching: 3-5h
- Putting on a concert: 10+h (varies a lot depending on the scope)
- Typical time spent traveling: 16h

In addition to time, we have fixed costs of travel, meals, and accommodation. We are very happy to stay with, receive rides from, and be fed by members of your community and in fact prefer this, provided accommodations are clean, safe, and private.

SUGGESTED FEES

If you were to consider us as professionals, living and working in America (to gauge a cost of living and transportation, etc.) you might value our time at an hourly "rate" of at least \$30/hr. If *one* of us were to come give a concert, lead worship, and teach a couple of times, that amounts to about \$1,500 with travel expenses (but not travel time) included. Perhaps that can be a helpful benchmark or *guideline* for you as you seek to consider how to support us. If God is calling us to partner together, we are confident that he will provide a way for the work to be done, so please don't let finances be a hindrance.

NEXT STEPS

We'd love to consider visiting your church or ministry. Would you pray for clarity and wisdom about whether we might be able to share and serve among your community? Reach out to us through our website (the "Connect" link) to start or continue the conversation.