

SOUND ENGINEERING AND THE SOUND SYSTEM

The following sections highlight some fundamental areas that I believe a sound person should be aware of when mixing in a church setting. I trust that they will inspire you and encourage you to accomplish all the God has for you in this area. **Steve Smith**

THE FUNDAMENTALS:

WHAT IS A SOUND ENGINEER

A person that works the sound desk!!! BUT it is much more than that.....

- *Without them the Worship Team will not be heard.
- *They control what sound comes off the stage.
- *They are very much the link between the Worship Team and Congregation.
- *They are the last to be thanked but often the first to be criticised.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SOUND ENGINEER?

- *Someone who has a good understanding of music and what sounds good.
- *Has a teachable Spirit.
- *Has sensitivity to the Holy Spirit in Worship.
- *Is able to build a good working relationship with the Worship Team.

HOW DO YOU BECOME THE WORSHIP TEAMS FRIEND WHILE TRYING NOT TO UPSET THE CONGREGATION?

Some helpful hints for the Sound Person regarding the Worship Team.

- *Get to know the team members well.
- *Know the songs well. It leads to a better understanding of what the Worship Leader is trying to achieve.
- *Always try to assist the musicians and singers if they have a problem. ie: no fold back, wrong microphone set ups etc...
- *Be aware of problems before they arise and attempt to fix them before they get to a point where they affect the worship team.

Some helpful hints for the Sound Person regarding the Congregation.

- *When it comes to the congregation, they can be harder to please, because there are so many different views on how the sound should be.
- *Find out what the Pastor likes and use that as your guide.
- *Keep an eye out while you are mixing. Particularly in change of tempo songs and when something musically is building.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE IN PLACE FIRST?

- *The Sound Person needs to be right with God and eager to hear what God is saying to the church in worship.
- *The importance of having quality quiet times.
- *Be prepared spiritually and mentally before services.

SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

HOW DO YOU GET THE BEST SOUND OUT OF YOUR SOUND SYSTEM?

- *It is very important to get a good Front of House EQ. You need to spend a lot of time doing this.
- *EQ the Foldback Sends.
- *The Placement of microphones to Foldbacks, so as to avoid feedback.
- *Where to place the band to create a pleasant sound on stage. This is done as a Worship Team.
- *How the gear is best used: Mic's, D.I's, EQ's, EFX's, Desk Speakers.

TEACHING MATERIAL:

www.audioessentialsforchurchsound.com

(This is for training materials - Approximately \$40)

www.soundstore.co.nz

(This is for gear)

