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**PROFILE**

Up until my senior year of high school, I honestly had no idea of what I wanted to do in my career after schooling. I had naturally deemed my area of study as Engineering, because many of my friends in high school were heading down that road. I was all set to graduate, along with six others, as Valedictorian of Bartlesville Public High School in a class of over 500 students when I felt a very specific pull at my heart from God to learn more about what it meant to lead worship. I still graduated a Valedictorian, but I would deny a full ride scholarship from the University of Oklahoma's Engineering program to attend Oklahoma Wesleyan University on a full tuition scholarship in the area of Church Music. Worship had always been something that I found myself coming back to in the happy, hard or trying times in my life, and was simply a natural part of my daily life as a believer. When I felt this call, I was able to get a hold of an acoustic guitar, but soon found out that no matter how hard I tried, I could not play. After I realized I was trying it all on my own, I gave all of my calling to God and my guitar playing and leading skills have been in constant growth since that summer after I graduated high school. The one word I use to describe my ministry is the Greek word *epithumea*: a strong and burning desire, or passion. It is this word passion that was used in the Old Testament to describe the barbaric pursuit of other gods, but I have sought to flip this corrupted, yet strong passion toward God and allow it to be used in exponentially greater ways. It is my goal to try to break the mold of cookie-cutter worship leaders who try to become just like the mainstream artists, and really seek to find the individual spirit of worship that a certain body of believers resonate with, and even to write music specifically catering to the individual church. I have a deep calling and passion to worship God and help be a vessel to allow others to worship and experience God to the fullest, and have been completely fulfilled in my various forms of service since I actively sought after serving in the area of worship through singing. Upon entering the Church Music tract, I had found that since music was the strong point of everything I was doing, I should shift to Pastoral Ministries to try to become fully rounded in all the areas of a full pastorate: preaching, evangelism, hermeneutics, and theology (just to name a few).

**EXPERIENCE****LANDSCAPER, SHAY'S LANDSCAPING AND NURSERY; BARTLESVILLE, OK — 2005-2007**

This was my first job as a 'landscape grunt' working under several foremen in a variety of outdoor landscape work. Sprinklers, ponds, waterfalls, flower beds, rock work, and flagstone patios are just a few of any number of tasks we did on a daily basis. I took off of work completely for school during the Fall of 2007, and in the winter of 2007 the Lead Foreman from Shay's at the time, Lance, split off and started his own landscape business. When I came back to work full-time from school, I went to work with Lance's company instead of Shay's.

**CHAPEL WORSHIP LEADER; OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY — FALL 2008-SPRING 2010**

Starting my freshman year, after a musical tryout, I was put in the spiritual leadership position, along with three to four other individuals, of being in charge of separate bands for leading and playing worship during bi-weekly chapel services during the college school week. We attended weekly meetings discussing what worked and what we needed to improve on, as well as individual goals for our band and the students we were leading in worship.

**MUSIC DIRECTOR OF "WITNESS" SUMMER MINISTRY TEAM; OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY — SUMMER 2008**

Witness was a summer ministry team put together on an annual basis by the Student Life Staff of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. It was designed as a ministry to tour amongst youth camps and churches west of the Mississippi River over the summer in a paid fashion. We had a five person group with individually designated roles. I was the youngest member and was in charge of getting together and fleshing out all things music and getting it all put together in practice before we went out. In this, I was the worship leader and frontman during all the music sets we played as a group. We toured for 6 weeks and did four youth camps, five churches, and one kids camp.

**LANDSCAPE FOREMAN, LANCE'S CLASSIC LANDSCAPING; BARTLESVILLE, OK — 2008-PRESENT**

I have worked under Lance since he was a foreman for Shay (as mentioned above). I was there in the beginning of Lance's business instead of continuing with Shay. I have since worked there full time during the summer and winter breaks, as well as when I didn't have too much during the school year. By experience, I earn the title of foreman for him, and there is one other main foreman with me as well. As was true for Shay's, we do any number of tasks involving landscape on a regular basis, which boils down to being outside 100% of the time and getting baked by the sun for 40+ hours per week.

#### **VICE PRESIDENT OF SPIRITUAL LIFE; OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY — FALL 2008-SPRING 2009**

For my Sophomore year at Oklahoma Wesleyan, I was asked to be an assistant for helping plan out and organize student-led, spiritually encouraging activities for the student body. We organized service projects, spiritual emphasis weeks, and mapped out activities for students to help them practically grow in their personal faith walks. Specifically, I was asked to put together video announcements, as well as schedule out and be in charge of what worship and speakers would look like for our weekly Student-Led service, *The Altar*.

#### **DIRECTOR/LEAD ORGANIZER, THE EXPERIENCE WORSHIP SERVICE; FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH — SPRING 2008-SPRING 2009**

During my sophomore year of college, I, along with a group of five others met to try to figure out if there was any way we could get a purely musical worship service to happen in the service offerings of First Wesleyan Church. Our goal was to hit the college-aged and above for anyone who wanted to attend a service that exclusively featured music and a few illustration videos, as a contemporary way of reaching out to those who wouldn't necessarily come to a Sunday morning service or want to listen to someone preach for half an hour. This would come to be labeled as *The Experience*. A friend and I planned each experience out and put a main theme on each one in terms of videos and songs, and I went out into the community to put a band together specifically for the event from other churches in the area, and we executed the services once per month for a little over a year. We not only played contemporary worship music, but we would have at least one secular interlude, or song opener for each service. We discontinued these services during the early summer months in 2009 due to low attendance as a result of summer vacation, and were unable to restart it the following fall due to not enough leadership in place to get everything planned out and advertised.

#### **WORSHIP/YOUTH BAND VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR, FIRST WESLEYAN CHURCH; BARTLESVILLE, OK — 2007-2010**

Starting in the summer before my freshman year of college, I was asked to help start and lead a youth band for the youth group at First Wesleyan Church. There was an absence of a worship and music leader, so I was given the task of finding and developing kids from our youth group into a band to lead worship regularly every Wednesday night. As we grew as a band over three years, we were able to play for several festivals in town, as well as moving to leading for the main contemporary service once per month on Sunday mornings in our second year as a band. A few members graduated during this stint, but we were able to find the missing pieces and again train them to be a part of the group and to take over for those that had moved on past high school. I not only was over all things music, I also organized, taught, and planned out everything concerning the music on a weekly basis. I also was able to focus a lot on stage design, lighting, videos, sound, and projection software for each week's service.

#### **EDUCATION**

Oklahoma Wesleyan University — Completed Bachelor of Science in Pastoral Ministries (with an emphasis in Music Ministry) August 2007 - December 2010.

#### **SKILLS**

Starting with the basics, I sing, organize, and lead the music with a guitar. I rotate between playing acoustic and electric depending on songs, and that is what I do at the most basic level. In my playing electric I can either sit back in the mix and play rhythm guitar, or play the solos and leads that are popular in a lot of the worship songs being released currently. I like to keep the band on a metronome, or "click", and in doing so I make and create from scratch my own loop tracks, or backing tracks, that float behind the band in the mix. Examples of tracking like this can be specifically exemplary in music by the David Crowder Band, Robbie Seay Band, and Steve Fee. With this I also make all of the tracking happen in a live setting as the song moves along while leading the music. I can get a group of musicians together and train them in roles in the music, as well as encouraging and allowing a flow of the Spirit in everything we do, allowing the focus to always be on the worship in whatever we are doing. I play a few other instruments as well including the bass, and keyboard/piano. I have a complete set of gear that I have purchased and use that includes several guitars, amps, keyboards, computers, pedals, and a large variety of cables used in connecting everything so it all comes out as designed from the sound system. My mom was a classically trained pianist and organist, so I was constantly around all things traditional and classical, but I have picked up everything I know and use for my current playing by ear and personal learning.

My music leading is in the area between contemporary and progressive. I stay very up to date with current releases, but I try to plan out services based on what the group to be ministered to identifies with. In my beginning years in church and on until I was eighteen, I attended full hymn and praise-chorus led services, so I would say I have a very well-rounded experience in a variety of music styles used in churches today. I was in the concert and marching band from sixth grade on to my junior year of high school when I was told to choose between that or basketball, and I elected basketball. I also sang in the children's and youth choirs for all my eligible years while attending First Wesleyan. This being said I always strive to incorporate traditional hymn-style choruses, presented in a full band, contemporary fashion most times, in what I am doing in an effort to maintain a little bit of the foundational worship that the church was originally identified with. It is definitely a desire of mine to continue to pursue new and fresh ways of using both secular song openers and worship music in a progressive way to try to reach even more people that are un-churched, but at the same time, I really try to maintain that foundational aspect that I think has found itself very easily lost in most 'contemporary' settings today.

I have also been trained by a professional Front-of-House Engineer to have a very keen ear and knowledge of anything and everything concerning a soundboard, amps, and everything else in the chain of a PA system that would be used for the environment of the music. In this, I have full confidence and knowledge for what could need adjusting or fixed in any part of the sound system and have a very good idea about what that would be good or even necessary to purchase, and what would not. I am experienced with both floor monitoring, as well as the new standard of in-ear monitoring, which is what I currently work with on a weekly basis. I have trained four to five separate people on the sound board in the way I have been trained and have seen them grow in their skills, not unlike another member of the band. With all the audio training comes my training in a large variety of technology. I am well-versed in all of the latest projection software that is on both Windows and Macintosh operating systems, and can work with and fluently operate on either platform. I have an entire library of still and looping video backgrounds that I carry with me on my computer and can manipulate them to fit any setting or style. Along these lines, I also am able to fully film and edit videos and export them for use as service announcements, promos, or just something for a segue in a service. I am very active on current social media like Twitter, Facebook, and Google Buzz, and am also involved with several online worship forums. On these forums I post questions, answer questions, collaborate with other members, and talk with people from all across the United States about the music and technology we use on a weekly basis in our different forms of service. I send out a lot of material that I have created that other people request to use in their services and am happy to share what I have successfully used during my own services to anyone who requests their use. I cannot stress enough that I can fluently work cross-platforms between Windows and Macintosh, but I might add that I personally have all Macintosh weaponry in my personal inventory.

#### **REFERRALS**

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