

FEATURE ARTICLE

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CPR For The Soul

Music rocks the souls of teens today just like it rocked me when I was their age – and probably you too, right?

Music rocks the souls of teens today just like it rocked me when I was their age – and probably you too, right? I loved my Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, and Poison cassettes. (Google “cassette” if you’ve never heard of this primitive portable music device played inside the predecessor of the modern MP3 player: the “ghetto blaster.”) I must confess, I still enjoy the ‘80’s hair bands, albeit with a much more mature spiritual filter. All the Christian songs I knew back in that “Electric Youth” era (hello Debbie Gibson!) were numbered and found in a text-book-looking hardback book placed in racks on the back of pews. That is, until a friend introduced me to Petra. Whoa! Petra means “rock”!

My life was forever changed. After all, as Larry Norman (and later, Geoff Moore and the Distance) sang, “Why should the devil have all the good music?” My cassette collection grew to include names like Steven Curtis Chapman, 4Him, and of course, more Petra. The collection morphed into CD’s, and even the beginnings of a digital collection. I will always want a CD to hold in my hand so I can read the liner notes and check my mullet in the shiny side. (Just kidding about the mullet.) Regardless of its form, music’s place is cemented into my being.

I need Christian music to feed my soul. I need to bang my head to “The Slam” with tobyMac every once and a while so I can feel the kind of “Alive” Skillet feels. Whether remembering why “I Still Believe” acoustic-style with Jeremy Camp, or “Speaking Louder Than Before” with electric guitars and a driving drum beat, Christian music draws me into the presence of God. It gives me fuel for the rigors of everyday life.

Kids too need music to feed their souls. They need to know that they are free to choose from the biggest variety of clean, high quality music that has ever existed. They need to understand that what they listen to affects them and their view of the world. This is where interlinc so aptly comes into play.

So, take what’s in your YLO box and plug it into your ministry. Pop that Video Loop in and watch the videos. When God stirs your heart with one of them, use it with your message – or use the study provided with the video. Let the music help bring the Scriptures to light like modern-day parables. Open those CD jewel cases, and listen for songs that tug at your heart. Then use them for an altar call or time of contemplation during your youth meeting. Put the lyrics together with PowerPoint slides, transparencies, or handouts for three or four songs from the CD’s and have your group sing along with the artists. You might be surprised how this could really catch on and enhance your meetings.

The youth room walls at my church are filled with interlinc posters. The newest Christian music blasts from the sound system. And, a group of students who did not sing together a few short years ago now worship together each week with artists like Chris Tomlin, Casting Crowns, Fee, and a plethora of others. (“Jefe, Do you know what a plethora is?”) In a sense, interlinc is like the EMT’s who come roaring up in their shiny ambulance with bright red lights, ready to provide the music that gives CPR to the soul. Thanks interlinc, because of you “we got portable sounds to lift us up, portable sounds to take us higher...”

