

X.C.L.A.I.M.="Xcellent Choirs Lead And Inspire Music Ministries"

by Tom Eggleston

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Here's the choral version of the **X.C.L.A.I.M.** acrostic--

Xcellence - Strive for excellence in all your choral presentations. Excellent, first-rate choirs will attract quality people to your program.

Commitment, Caring - Choir members must understand that their commitment as worship leaders from Sunday to Sunday make a great impact. Perhaps a "covenant" of commitment could be presented to each choir member as they join the choir. Nothing goes farther than the care you give individual choir members. Make it a priority.

Lead, Listen and Learn - As director, don't be afraid to lead (with servanthood and humbleness). It's important to share your vision of the choir ministry. A part of that vision must include listening to the concerns and needs of your choir members. Learn from the people around you, from the books you read, from the music that inspires you.

Accountability, Answer the Hard Questions - I think it would behoove each choir director to have some trusted people in the church fellowship that could serve as an advisory/accountability group.

Here are 10 questions that could change your music ministry:

1. What is the best thing that happened in your ministry this past year?
2. What was the biggest leadership challenge(s) of your ministry this past year?
3. What do your music ministry members consider the value of this ministry?
4. Can you give any examples of the way your music ministry people have grown as a result of your leadership?
5. How are you developing and training the leaders and members for future growth?
(Especially children's and youth choir/creative arts ministries.)
6. What are the specific results (numbers) of your ministry?
7. How is your music & worship ministry making a difference in the Kingdom of God?
8. What impact are you making in your community and region?
9. What are the mission statements, goals, objectives of your music and worship ministry?
10. Do you have a specific growth plan (numerical and spiritual) for your music and worship ministries?

Interpersonal Relationships - There is nothing more important than the development of close, interpersonal relationships with choir members. Visit in their homes, minister to them in times of crises, send notes of your concern, counsel when asked, and don't forget their birthdays.

Ministry & Mission - Do your best to get your choir beyond the four walls of your church. Involve them in ministry and missions. Consider performing at these concert locations: Nursing homes, malls, special community events, seasonal events, choir mission trips, patriotic events (singing Star-Spangled Banner at ball games).

Tom Eggleston

Clinician / Composer / Christian Artist / Consultant

136 Stockland Rd., Irmo, SC 29063-9107

Email: teggleston@bellsouth.net

Phone: 803.732.0579 (home/office)

Website: www.egglesong.citymax.com

Anthem Website: <http://members.sibeliusmusic.com/tomeggleston>