

# Information Guide

about hosting a

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hemantic

prayer song evening



***What people who have come to a Prayer Song Evening have said about it:***

*“I was deeply moved, at times almost to the point of tears. I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and a quiet reverence pervaded in the room. The songs challenged me to reflect on aspects of God and our relationship with him in a way that nothing else has in years.”*

*“There was a wonderfully serene atmosphere, and when Paul began singing I immediately felt the presence of God. The evening was a truly spiritual experience and something I will always remember.”*

*“I was going through a difficult time - at a crossroads in my life. One of the songs helped me to put my overwhelming plea into words, as I felt lost and discouraged. It helped me to turn to God for help while I journey over the rough terrain to better times.”*

*“I think it was the first Christian event I have been to that was well suited to an introvert like me.”*

*“Thank you for the gift of Sunday evening... was just what I needed to sit and soak and be sung over with God's love.”*

*“It was an absolute blessing to be in such a prayerful space; to sense the gentle presence of the Holy Spirit through the words sung and also physically doing a work in many.”*

*“Everyone I have talked to were full of praise for your fabulous evening. For myself the peace that came over me that evening was soothing and I had a feeling of calm for days after.”*

*“What a blessing to have experienced God in that way - I got to experience the evening as a visual journey listening to the songs and the questions you used to prompt me. Finding home at the end was particularly special.” [Psalm 23]*

It is hoped that this Information Guide will answer most of the preliminary questions that someone considering booking Hemantic to do a Prayer Song Evening at their place may have. To find out more or to make a booking please see the contact information on the back of this Guide.

## **Who/what is Hemantic?**

Hemantic is a globe-spanning Christian songwriting collaboration between Paul Carey and Jonny Snowball. Jonny lives in Guildford, England and Paul in Porirua, NZ.

## **How did Prayer Song Evenings come about?**

God showed Paul a dream or vision in early 2013 and "prayer song evening" was the best words he could come up with to describe what God showed him he was to do.

The thing that struck Paul most about what he was shown, was that people's lives were changed by taking part in a Prayer Song Evening. Now there is absolutely nothing that Hemantic can do to make anything like that happen. Only God has the power to change lives. All we can do is put our trust in him and give him all glory, honour and praise.

Based upon what Paul had been shown, the full Prayer Song Evening concept was then developed by doing trial runs in Paul's local church, but the plan from the start was to establish a format that could be easily taken on the road to be done in other churches or places with facilities to host a Prayer Song Evening.

## **What is a Prayer Song Evening?**

A Prayer Song Evening is not a gig or concert. It is not intended to bring glory to the performers, but rather to the God we serve. The purpose is not entertainment, although we do hope that people like our songs. Our aim is to help people to connect with God, perhaps in a way they may not have done before.

On the inside front cover of this Guide are some of the things that people who have come to a Prayer Song Evening have said about it. These testimonies describe most eloquently what a Prayer Song Evening is all about!

## **Who is a Prayer Song Evening for?**

Although anyone who wishes would be welcome to attend, the primary audience for a Prayer Song Evening would be people who are already Christians. A Prayer Song Evening is certainly not intended to be an evangelistic event. It is more about developing a person's faith and connection with God than about establishing it for the first time. Because of the type of music and the format, it may well be of more interest to a person of more mature years than it would be to a younger person.

## **What do you mean by a "prayer song"?**

What we call "prayer songs" are typically songs addressed to God that involve praise, thanksgiving, intercession, petition, or confession. They draw inspiration widely from the whole breadth of the Bible (and from mainstream Christian teaching and practice). All are based on scripture.

We have developed three themed Prayer Song Evenings, which each feature 10 songs:

- ***The Lord's Prayer***: an exploration of the meaning behind each phrase of the prayer
- ***Psalms 23***: a journey in and into the presence of God, following the sheep and shepherd metaphor, each song based on one phrase
- ***The 10 Commandments***: a personal response to the timeless challenge of each Commandment

We can also do a Custom Prayer Song Evening featuring 10 prayer songs on a variety of topics chosen to fit the circumstances of your parish/church/group.

## **What happens at a Prayer Song Evening?**

While people are arriving and for a few minutes after the stated start time, a “welcome” presentation is displayed on the projector screen while accompanying quiet music is played. This presentation incorporates explanations about what a Prayer Song Evening is (and is not) and is intended to set the scene for the evening and to help differentiate it from a gig or concert which people may typically have prior experience of.

The evening proper involves solo performance of songs using backing tracks, interspersed with periods of silent reflection (the periods of silence usually incorporate the brief reading of some words of scripture, or a brief guided reflection).

Although people attending are told they are welcome to just listen to the songs, they will also be able to try singing along if they wish, or alternatively to speak the words, either out loud or silently in their head - the words are projected on a screen.

## **What kind of “stage set” do you use?**

We use simple stage lighting to establish a small “stage” at ground level usually in one corner of the room. The “stage” incorporates a data projector and screen, microphones and amplifier. LED candles are used to enhance the reflective setting. All the required equipment is brought with us to the venue. See the front cover of this Guide for a photo of a typical “stage set”.

## **What kind of room arrangement do you use?**

Apart from the “stage set”, the rest of the room is left dark with chairs spread out around the room both in small crescent-shaped groups and singly (we have found that Prayer Song Evenings appeal to introverts and having some chairs set out singly gives implicit “permission” for such people to sit alone if they wish to). Note that a prayer song evening is not really intended to be a mass attendance event.

## **What would someone hosting a Prayer Song Evening need to provide?**

- A small- to medium-sized hall or a large room with an electricity supply and ideally with curtains/blinds to enable the space to be made dark (particularly during summertime).
- People to attend the evening! (we can help with advertising resources/posters/leaflets etc).

## **Would prayer ministry need to be provided ?**

If you have a prayer ministry team available, this might be helpful. However it is not an essential requirement.

## **What does it cost to host a Prayer Song Evening?**

There is no charge for a Prayer Song Evening, either to those hosting or those attending. Where the location is some distance away from Porirua/Wellington, a contribution from the host towards travel costs would be appreciated.

At Prayer Song Evenings an opportunity is provided for those attending to give koha. This is usually donated to dcm, a charity who do amazing work with homeless people in Wellington (see [www.dcm.org.nz](http://www.dcm.org.nz) for further details).



# How to contact Hemantic

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