

A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS ON THE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MUSIC TEAM IN A WORSHIP

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Abstract : The present study is conducted to explore the roles and functions of the worship music team as shown at the church of GPdI Karmel Tataaran II. This qualitative study uses primary and secondary data. The primary data are obtained through interview from the members of the church and the members of the music team of the church. The primary data are also collected through direct observation. On the other hand, the secondary data comes from the documentation of the previous relevant research and the digital sources from the internet. The obtained data are then analyzed using interactive data analysis which consists of the steps of data reduction, data display, and conclusion or verification. The findings show that the worship music team at the church of GPdI Karmel Tataaran II has a very important role in the worship experiences of the church members. The worship music team help the church members to have praying experiences full of happiness, to have a close relationship with the God, and to create a harmonic and happy atmosphere during the worship. The findings have important implications for the development of church worship and the enhancement of the music team's role in supporting worship objectives. Theoretically and practically, this research contributes to further understanding of the dynamics of music teams in Pentecostal churches.

Keywords : *Roles and Functions, Music Team, Worship Music Team.*

INTRODUCTION

The presence of religion as a marker of the development of human civilization has a close relationship with the art of music. Religious identity cannot be separated from everyday life, especially in the dimension of spirituality, which includes beliefs reflected in actions and the urge to carry out religious practices (Amirin, 2021).

In Christianity, music has a highly valued role, as reflected in the expression, "A Christian congregation is a singing congregation". This is based on the fact that in Christian worship, singing plays a dominant role. It is an integral element of church music and a key element in church liturgy. Singing is an integral part of liturgical practice in the church, where almost all Christian denominations use singing as an important element in their

liturgy (Tenner & DeToro, 2021). Beauty in music comes not only from human needs, but also from an awareness of sound and time. This awareness forms significant comparisons and differences in the creation of beautiful music. Music has a variety of functions in human life, including as a form of expression, entertainment, education, economic resources, industry, accompaniment, dance, ceremonial components, religious aspects, and others (Campbell, 2020).

Music plays a central role in Christian liturgy, even considered a musical event at an extreme level. This musical nature is a strength and specialty of the Christian liturgy, considered as an expression of the inner self manifested through pitched and rhythmic sounds, especially in the form of songs and chants. Music has the ability to influence feelings, creating calmness or

passion, gentleness or strength, rationality or strong emotion, depending on the arrangement of the musical elements. Music enriches the worship process by conveying messages more expressively than words alone (Fandi, 2022).

In Christian life, music plays an important role and is actively involved in every aspect of their worship, difficult to separate from the spiritual life. Music and singing are integral components of worship, with equal importance to prayer in the worship setting. Music is also considered a form of worship, where through sincere and loving songs of praise to God, God is glorified and worshiped (White, 2023). The role of music in Christian worship is very prominent, where prayers and praises are delivered with rhythms that can touch the heart. As a result, praying individuals experience a depth of appreciation in the expression of their prayers (Gasperz, 2021).

Music psychologically plays a significant role in the psychological dimension of a person, influencing mindset, intelligence in educational contexts, and contributing to health therapy. These roles in music psychology confirm that music has a strong impact on the psychological dimension of a person. When individuals participate in worship, the music used can help them understand the worship more deeply, especially if the character of the music matches the message or meaning conveyed in the songs (Ohn, 2022). From this explanation, it can be concluded that music plays a central role as a medium in Christian worship. The use of music in worship is not only as a tool, but as an integral part of the worship itself. Therefore, music and singing play a crucial role in shaping and developing the faith and life of Christians, both as a congregation and as members of the body of Christ.

Through music and song, the congregation can express brotherly love and unity among fellow believers. Thus,

music in Christian worship cannot be separated from the place of gathering, church architecture, art, language, movement, music, and dance, all of which play a role in conveying the overall message of worship (Hardjana, 2022). Furthermore, church music is an expression of the hearts of believers expressed through sounds that have harmonious tones and rhythms, especially through sung songs (Jazuli, 2021).

Music, as a high art and cultural product, uses sound as its basic material and has a melodic structure. The importance of music in church worship is closely related to its central role in various elements of worship, both through vocal and instrumental music. Martin Luther, a Protestant Church figure during the reformation period, emphasized that a good church is one that is active in singing praises (Kodijat, 2022).

A church that emphasizes the importance of singing is closely related to the development of the spiritual life, resources, organizational structure of the church, the mentality of expertise, and the exemplary integrity of the faithful. All these factors become the main focus for the church as an organization. Therefore, music becomes a supporting element of theology in educating the people, with the aim of guiding them to live their lives in accordance with the teachings of the church and the Bible. In an effort to spread the gospel, these messages are realized in the form of songs, making it easier for the congregation to understand the contents and messages of the Gospel

Keep in mind that the Bible itself contains a call to sing, indicating that singing has a didactic or teaching role in imparting the Word of Christ. Ephesians 5:19 records this command clearly, *"...and speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make melody to the Lord with all your heart."* This verse underscores the importance of singing as an expression of Christian faith centered on

praising God. Singing is not just a quiet activity in the lives of Christians; rather, it is a biblical command that encourages us to sing to God as a form of expression of praise (Martasudjita, 2022). The church, as a place of worship, plays a key role in the lives of Christians. In addition to being a place to praise and worship God, worship is also a place to receive teaching, comfort, and strengthen the bonds of brotherhood within the church community. The music team, as an important component in church worship, is responsible for the organization of spiritual music to create a solemn and satisfying worship atmosphere (Martasudjita, 2021).

In today's church era, the main focus in organizing worship services and special events is attention to the needs of each member of the congregation. When many congregants carry psychological burdens and hopes for faith refreshment, churches are faced with the demand to organize worship services that meet the needs of the congregation without sacrificing the basic Christian values contained in the Gospel. Today's church needs to continue to innovate to answer its call and duty, which is to fulfill the needs of its members. This can be achieved through the selection of themes that are relevant to the daily lives of the congregation, the delivery of interesting sermons, variations in worship, and the presentation of church music that is able to express the feelings and expressions of the congregation (Mawene, 2020).

One of the challenges often faced by churches today is the movement of congregation members from one church to another, where one of the reasons is their dissatisfaction with the experience of intimate fellowship with God through congregational singing and church music in worship. Thus, music plays a very vital role in the context of GPdI Karmel Tataaran II worship, especially through the use of musical accompaniment formats presented by the music team (band). The worship experience is not only limited to physical responses, such as expressions of

emotion through clapping, cheering, jumping, and the like, which may not be common in liturgical worship in other Protestant churches. Instead, despite the expressive nature of the body and voice, congregants can feel God's presence in worship (Edmund, 2021). Through atmospheric observations during worship and random interviews with various members of the congregation, including the pastor, church administrators, church music team, singers, backing vocals, and the general congregation, the author conducted in-depth research into the role of the music team in guiding, supporting, and enriching the worship process, from start to finish.

Based on the explanation above, this research aims at exploring the roles and functions of the worship music team as shown at the church of GPdI Karmel Tataaran II. This research is expected to contribute to further understanding of the dynamics of music teams in Pentecostal churches theoretically and practically.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method applied in this paper is a qualitative method, with the aim of explaining, understanding, and analyzing the phenomenon in depth. As the main instrument, researchers used data triangulation from various sources such as library documentation, photography, interviews, and field observations. Primary data was obtained through literature research and field research. The psychology of religion approach was used as a framework to analyze the role of psychology in the context of church music.

The research was conducted at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II Church Building and GPdI Karmel Tataaran II pastoral house. The main data sources involved words and actions, with primary data from in-depth interviews with various informants and participant observation. Secondary data was obtained from browsing related literature. Data collection techniques involved observation, interviews, and

documentation, with the use of data triangulation. Data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing or verification were conducted in an interactive data analysis. In addition, SWOT analysis was used to evaluate the internal and external factors that influence the existence of the music team in worship at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Kinds of Music

Based on the results of research on the existence of the music team in worship at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II, it can be concluded that music has a central role in enhancing the worship experience, enabling the active participation of people in worshipping God. Music not only creates a deep expression of worship, but also provides an intense spiritual dimension, creating a special atmosphere in worship. At GPdI Karmel Tataaran II, the music

Music plays a central role in Christian worship, not just as a decorative element or routine obligation, but as a profound means of building the spiritual life of the congregation. Its function goes beyond mere entertainment or art, aiming to bring the congregation into God's presence, create a solemn atmosphere, and prepare them for a deep spiritual experience.

In Indonesia, hymns play an important role in Christian worship and religious life. Various hymnals are used, such as Kidung Jemaat (KJ) and Pelengkap Kidung Jemaat (PKJ) in Protestant churches, Nyanyian Pujian (NP) in Pentecostal churches, the widely used Nyanyilah Kidung Baru (NKB), Kidung Pujian dan Syukur (KPS) in some Protestant and Catholic churches, and hymns from evangelical churches. Songbook selection may vary according to denomination and church tradition.

In GPdI Karmel, worship refers to the songbook "*Pujilah Tuhan*" which contains old GPdI hymns as well as modern songs from various spiritual bands. In addition, song references are also taken from common hymn books in Indonesia, such as

Kidung Jemaat, Pelengkap Kidung Jemaat, Nyanyian Pujian, and Nyanyilah Kidung Baru. On-screen projection of song lyrics is also often used to make it easier for the congregation to sing hymns.

The forms of Worship

The Pentecostal Church in Indonesia Karmel Tataaran II (GPdI Karmel) carries the teachings of the Trinity, believing in the active role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church and individuals. Worship in GPdI Karmel is based on the Bible, including elements such as prayer, praise, worship, and the reading of God's Word. Prayer in this church includes a variety of methods according to biblical teachings, and is considered a vital way to connect with God and strengthen faith. Praise at GPdI Karmel reflects a deep spiritual connection, involving hymns, modern musical instruments, intense body movements, and spontaneous prayers of praise. Worship in this church becomes a passionate expression of faith, encompassing hymns, strong physical expressions, intense prayer, and deep spiritual experiences.

The Word of God, referring to the teachings of the Bible, plays a central role in worship and teaching at GPdI Karmel. The church emphasizes the importance of teaching and applying biblical teachings in daily life, focusing on the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit, the glorification of Christ, and the principles of Christian living. In addition to worship services, GPdI Karmel encourages social services, such as visits to widows and orphans, as well as self-dedication to God as a holy life. This reflects the church's commitment to practicing faith in daily life and engaging in service to others.

Band at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II

A band refers to a group of musicians who play together to make music. Bands can consist of different types of musical instruments and vocalists, and they work together to create a complete piece of music. A church band is a group of

musicians who come together to lead a musical service during a church service or event. It is an essential component in many modern worship services, helping to create an atmosphere of meaningful and profound worship.

Here are some points that cover the concept of a band in GPdI Karmel Tataaran II:

1. Purpose of Worship. Bands in churches have the primary purpose of facilitating worship. They lead the congregation in singing hymns, creating an atmosphere that supports God's presence.
2. Band Members. Band members have vocalists, usually a lead singer or vocalist who leads the congregation in singing. As well as instrumentalists, including guitarists, bassists, drummers, keyboardists, and possibly other instruments depending on the complexity of the band.
3. Song Repertoire. Church bands have a repertoire of spiritual songs, including praise and worship that are vertical in nature, that is, songs addressed directly to God.
4. Alignment with the Worship Theme. The band's song selection and musical style are tailored to the theme and atmosphere of worship. This includes songs of celebration, songs of worship, and perhaps reflective songs.
5. Role in Worship. Bands help to create a deep and solemn worship atmosphere. They play an important role in guiding the congregation to soak in God's presence.
6. Evolution of Music Styles. The style of band music in a church may evolve over time. Many churches customize their music style to reflect the preferences and needs of the congregation.
7. Training and Preparation. Band members need to engage in rehearsal and preparation before the service. This includes understanding song arrangements, coordinating instrument playing, and ensuring vocal harmony.
8. Coordination with Worship Leader. The band works closely with the worship leader to create a flow of the music ministry that fits into the overall flow of the worship service.
9. Congregational Involvement. Bands invite the congregation to participate in worship. They create space for the congregation to respond through music.
10. Openness to the Holy Spirit. Many bands in the church seek the guidance and involvement of the Holy Spirit during music ministry. They are responsive to direction and changes that may occur during worship.
11. Use of Technology. Bands in the church often use technology, such as soundsystems, projectors, and recordings, to enhance the worship experience.
12. Inclusivity and Talent Nurturing. Churches often strive to include musical talent of various skill levels. Bands can be a place for individuals to develop and share their talents. Bands in the church play a crucial role in creating a meaningful worship environment. They are not only music providers, but also spiritual leaders who help the congregation connect with God through musical expression.

The Existence of Music Team in Worship

Music has an important role in enriching the worship experience and enabling people to be more actively involved in worshipping God. Music enables deep and meaningful expressions of worship, and allows the congregation to soak in God's presence more intensely. Music also creates a special atmosphere during worship, facilitating feelings of worship and gratitude. This is common to many churches and Christian traditions, and worship music has an important role in celebrating faith and connecting with God.

The existence of the music team in GPdI Karmel Tataaran II in worship, among others:

1. The Vital Role of the Music Team in Worship

The church music team at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II has an irreplaceable role in enriching and enhancing the worship experience of the congregation. By playing beautiful and harmonious music, the music team brings an atmosphere of joy and deep harmony into worship.

Based on an interview with the Coordinator of the GPdI Karmel Music Team named Parson Raromo, said that:

"Church music is very important, because through music it can help the congregation to enjoy God's presence and visitation."

Music in the church has a central role in supporting the congregation to enjoy God's presence and visitation. Through harmony and melody, music creates an atmosphere that allows the congregation to soak in God's spiritual presence and guidance.

2. The Positive Impact of Music in the Worship Experience

Musicians who play music with dedication and cohesiveness create an engaging and meaningful worship atmosphere. Music not only fills the space, but also makes worship more interesting, helps the congregation to focus more, and feel God's presence more tangibly. Music opens the door for the congregation to get closer to God in a unique way. Solemn melodies can be a powerful means to stimulate contemplation, prayer, and worship, strengthening the spiritual connection between the congregation and God. Music also has the power to unite congregants in corporate worship. As the congregation sings hymns together, strong spiritual bonds are formed, creating deep communal moments of fellowship.

The presence of the music team in the Carmelite church has a significant impact on Nurlianti, a member of the congregation, bringing joy and happiness to the worship experience. Although

worship can still take place without musical instruments, the presence of the music team provides an extra dimension that enlivens worship. The atmosphere created by the music creates a supportive foundation for deepening spiritual experience, creating togetherness, and stimulating joy that brings happiness to the congregation.

3. Music Team Coordination

Cohesive and harmonious coordination in the music team's playing helps to focus the congregation's attention on the worship service. Intense practice leads to good performance during worship, creating a deep spiritual experience. Before embarking on a music ministry, a prepared heart and thorough rehearsal are important cornerstones for the music team to provide a professional and meaningful service.

a. Deep Heart Readiness

Heart readiness includes sincerity and solemnity in giving praise and worship to God. Music team members need to seek inner peace and spiritual focus to be effective conduits for spiritual messages through music.

b. Spiritual Preparation through Prayer

Before practice and service, prayer is the first step in spiritual preparation. Through prayer, music team members seek God's guidance, invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit, and surrender themselves to be instruments that are suitable for His will. An interview with a member of the GPdI Karmel Tataaran II congregation, Heavenly, highlighted the importance of God's anointing for music team members in the context of church service. Heavenly emphasized that the spiritual anointing is a key element that distinguishes music ministry in the church from mere stage performances. For music team members, having the anointing means being God's blessed channel to guide the congregation into His presence.

By having the anointing, music team members can bring more than just beautiful music; they bring a deep spiritual

dimension to every rhythm and lyric. Their ministry is not just a visual performance, but a means of sinking into the hearts of the congregation, inviting them to feel God's presence more intimately.

c. Intense Practice and Discipline

Thorough and intense practice is the key to providing a professional music ministry. This includes memorizing songs, coordinating between team members, and ensuring every musical detail is up to the desired standard.

d. Effective Team Coordination

Music team coordination is a vital aspect of ensuring a successful music ministry. Quality rehearsals help create harmony and cohesion among the team members, so that when the service begins, they can work as an effective unit. The role of the Music Director (MD) in the music team of GPdI Karmel Tataaran II provides a clear picture of the structure and coordination within the church music ministry. The MD functions as the organizer of the musical arrangements, providing codes that detail the structure of the song, such as intro, verse entry, chorus, interlude, and outro. This information is conveyed by the Worship Leader (WL) to the MD and further channeled to the music team members.

However, the challenge faced by the music team is the impromptu orders or codes from the WL during worship. This demands high sensitivity and responsiveness from the music team members. Although there are already rehearsed concepts, flexibility and readiness to respond to changes that may occur during worship are key. In this context, it is important for music team members to be sensitive to any impromptu signals or codes that WL may give. This requires a high level of communication and coordination among music team members. The ability to adapt to changes while on stage is an invaluable skill.

e. Flexibility and Responsiveness to the Holy Spirit

While there is thorough preparation, flexibility is also important. Music team members need to be prepared to respond spontaneously to the Holy Spirit's direction during worship. The readiness of the heart to accept changes and directions while on stage is something that needs to be applied.

f. Awareness of Professionalism

Professionalism in music ministry involves an attitude of responsibility, openness to constructive feedback, and readiness to continuously improve the quality of service. Placing high standards in all aspects ensures that the music team makes the maximum contribution in worship.

4. The Importance of Musical Instruments in Church Development

Especially in a growing church like GPdI Karmel Tataaran 2, the presence of complete musical instruments is essential. Music becomes an integral part in building an interesting and meaningful worship atmosphere, motivating individuals to be more focused and earnest in worship.

Musicians in the church play a very important role in the context of modern church life. Their presence is not only an element of accompaniment, but also a driver of a rich and deep spiritual atmosphere. Without musicians, worship services tend to feel dry and lack depth. Music plays a key role in uniting the congregation, building an atmosphere of worship that triggers God's presence, and allowing each member to engage more intimately in worship.

5. Music Ministry as a Worship and Worship Activity

Preparations that include instrument preparation, song memorization, arrangements, and prayers show that music ministry is not just an activity, but a form of deep worship. In carrying out music ministry tasks, team members feel the joy of giving praise and worship to God.

As a musician in the church, this role is not a burden, but a gift given by God. The

trust to serve brings happiness because it contains gratitude for the opportunity that is not given to everyone. Being trusted to serve in the church also brings gratitude for being able to be directly involved in building the atmosphere of worship. It is not just a task, but rather an opportunity to give talents and skills to God and the congregation.

6. The Central Role of Musicians in Worship

Musicians have a central role in supporting and deepening the worship experience. While there are situations where music may not be used, musicians still have an important role in ensuring the smoothness and continuity of worship.

In church worship, musicians are not only accompanists, but also critical facilitators to bring the congregation into the presence of God. They create a supportive atmosphere, guide the congregation in contemplation and worship through spiritual songs, and convey spiritual messages through beautiful melodies. During praise and prayer services, musicians provide a supportive backdrop, allowing the congregation to more easily connect with God. They not only provide music, but also open up space for spiritual experiences, become instruments responsive to the will of the Holy Spirit, and support the worship leader and the proclamation of God's Word. Thus, the role of musicians in the church is not only to create musical beauty, but also to be a spiritual bridge that guides the congregation towards a deeper encounter with God in every worship service.

Based on the results of an interview with one of the members of the GPdI Karmel Tataaran II congregation named Murak, said:

"The presence of a music team in church services creates a comfortable atmosphere and plays an important role in the intensity of congregational involvement during worship. Although each congregation's response to worship may vary, the music team creates a supportive foundation and invites the congregation to penetrate the spiritual

experience more deeply".

7. Overall Improved Worship Experience

The presence of the altar team at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II, consisting of singers, worship leaders, and musicians, does form a harmonious unity in worship. Their collaboration complements each other, creating a rich and deep worship experience for the congregation. Singers with their voices, worship leaders with their spiritual leadership, and musicians with their beautiful melodies together create an atmosphere of worship that allows each congregation to feel God's presence tangibly. The existence of the altar team is not only a complementary element, but also an important pillar in building a meaningful worship atmosphere and providing opportunities for each congregation to engage with a real heart in worship. Thus, the absence of one of the elements in the altar team can create a void that can affect the overall dynamics of worship.

With all of this, the church music team of GPdI Karmel Tataaran II is key in bringing the congregation to a deeper, more meaningful and fulfilling worship experience.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that music has a central role in the worship experience, allowing people to be more actively involved in worshipping God. Music creates a deep expression of worship, provides an intense spiritual dimension, and creates a special atmosphere in worship. In GPdI Karmel Tataaran II, the music team plays a vital role in enriching the worship experience, creating an atmosphere of joy and harmony. Effective coordination, heart preparation, prayer, intense practice, and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit are the keys to running a music ministry with professionalism and meaning.

Music also has a positive impact on the worship experience, opening doors to draw

closer to God and uniting the congregation in corporate worship. Musicians, with their central role, not only provide music but also become facilitators who bring the congregation into God's presence. The presence of the music team creates a comfortable atmosphere and plays an important role in the intensity of congregational engagement during worship. Overall, the music team at GPdI Karmel Tataaran II church is key to enhancing the worship experience, creating a deep spiritual atmosphere, and bringing the congregation to a closer encounter with God.

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