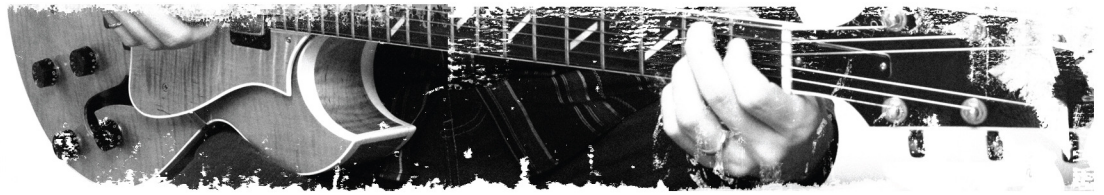


**GEOFF
DRESSER**



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

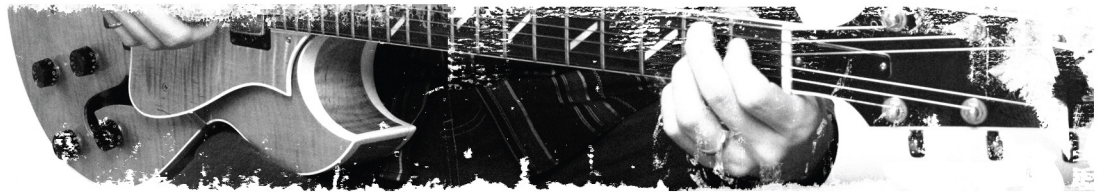
One of my favourite things to do is spending time encouraging God's people to worship Him. I have had the opportunity to serve many churches in this way, through music, seminars or coaching. Within this media kit, you will find out a little bit about me, my ministry, and the ways in which I might be able to serve you and your church. If you would like for me to come and work with your church— whether it's to play a concert, lead worship or work with your worship ministry I'd love to speak to you about. I can be reached at:

info@geoffdresser.com or at 613-836-6870.

I look forward to hearing from you and building His kingdom together.

God Bless,

Geoff Dresser
Worship Leader/Recording Artist



Official Bio

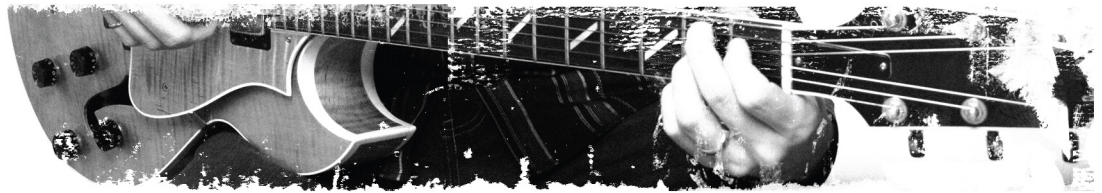
Geoff Dresser is passionate about leading people into a lifestyle of worship. He has passion for using his music to bring glory to God and to encourage and equip others to do the same. Geoff's debut recording "Jesus Only" is full of songs that express his heart for worship.

Geoff grew up in a very musical family with weekly trips to hear his parents perform in the Windsor Symphony. At the age of fourteen Geoff began playing the guitar and singing. He graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree in Electrical Engineering and for 10 years worked in high tech while performing music and ministry on the side. Geoff led the worship ministry at Cedarview Alliance Church in Ottawa as a volunteer and also performed around the city in various jazz groups. In 2003 to 2009 Geoff served in full time ministry as the Pastor of Worship and the Arts at Cedarview Alliance Church. During that time, Geoff led a thriving worship ministry at Cedarview, organized and taught at conferences for equipping worship leaders and performed and led worship extensively. He has also earned a Masters Degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. In 2008, Geoff released his debut recording entitled "Jesus Only".



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Geoff Resides in Ottawa with his wife Pearl and their three sons.



What others say about Geoff

"In my 25 years as Worship Director at Willow Creek Community Church, I had the constant opportunity to work with churches and worship leaders all over the world. One of the highlights of my travels has been the time I spent with Geoff. Geoff's passion to know God, his hunger to worship Him authentically, and his deep commitment to help other churches maximize their impact through the Arts has marked me and changed me. Geoff is a great song writer and producer, he's the real deal, and he is a strong leader whose life and work is making an amazing impact for the Kingdom of God!"

Joe Horness, Executive Director - Engaging the Heart Ministries, Michigan



I remember walking into the room and listening to Geoff sing this song before Avalon was to go on stage. The lyric grabbed me right away and kept me glued to every word of this amazing song. I am in great need of God's mercy and compassion in my life and this song helped remind me that God, graciously, gives it freely. Thanks Geoff for writing this beautiful song.

Greg Long, *Avalon* – After hearing Geoff perform his song "Remember Me" from the album "Jesus Only"

"Jesus Only has everything...rock, blues, jazz and of course, worship. Both radio and church friendly, this debut album from Geoff Dresser is a must have for any music lovers collection. I'm predicting we'll hear a lot more from this up and coming artist."

Ali Misener, Host - Family Radio CHRI, Ottawa

"Geoff has combined a heart for God with skilful musicianship to lead God's people in worship through original Christ-exalting songs."

Jody Cross, Worship Pastor - Harvest Bible Chapel, Barrie

"Geoff Dresser is one of the finest singer/songwriters in the church of Ottawa."

Brock Tozer, Program Director - Family Radio CHRI, Ottawa

"Geoff has been blessed with amazing talent and skill which make him a superb musician and an amazing team member. But it's his heart after God and humble spirit which make him a worship leader I want to follow."

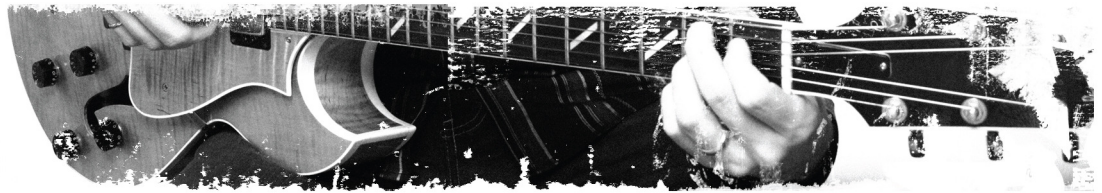
Steve Outhouse, Ministry Coordinator - City-Wide Worship & Prayer, Ottawa

"It has been a pleasure to work with Geoff not just because of his heart for excellence, but also because of his love for God and desire to connect with Him in worship. These two qualities are very much on display in Geoff's first solo album and therefore make it worth anybody's while to journey with him through it."

Paulo Mugarura, Worship Pastor - Woodvale Pentecostal, Ottawa

"Geoff has a unique ability to captivate his audience through story telling and song. The way he weaves them together makes for a wonderful worship experience and touches the hearts of both young and old."

Reverend Trevor Headrick, Youth Pastor - Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church, Arnprior



Jesus is Not My Boyfriend

by Geoff Dresser

This article was published in the Cedarview Chronicle, March 2008.

You're all I want. You're all I've ever needed."

"I'm desperate for You.

"Hold me close. Let your love surround me."

"My soul longs, even faints for you."

"Beautiful one, I adore. Beautiful one I love."

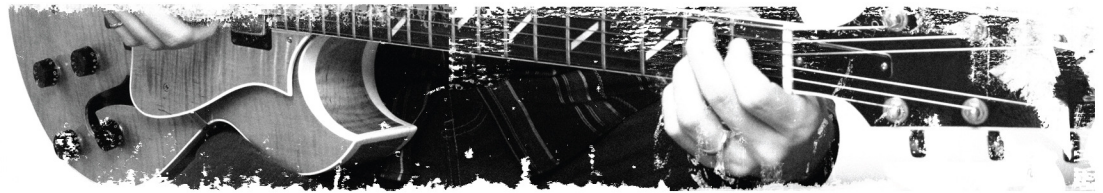
No, these aren't lyrics from the Top 40 love songs. These are lyrics from songs that we've sung as a congregation here at Cedarview. I could just as easily sing any of those lyrics to my wife as I could in a praise song to Jesus. Is there anything wrong with that?

I've been reading a lot about the use of romantic imagery in worship song lyrics. David Murrow's "Why Men Hate Going to Church" identifies romantic imagery in worship songs as a major turn-off for men (pardon the pun). A recent book entitled "The Message in the Music: Studying Contemporary Praise and Worship" devotes two chapters to this issue. This is an issue we must grapple within our own communities.

In Murrow's book he claims that men have a difficult time relating to Jesus with romantic imagery. For instance, men don't typically refer to each other as "beautiful." We live in a hyper-sexualized society. Much of the humour in pop-

culture is centered on sexual double-entendre. We are programmed to listen for them. Many wholesome words and expressions in our language have been rendered unusable because they have taken on a strong sexual connotation. This tendency to be wary of sexual connotation causes the red lights to go on for many men when they sing (or stand silently while their wives sing) many of our contemporary worship songs. Of course some men have no problem separating the romantic connotations from the sincere expressions of worship contained in these songs. For other men it is a major barrier to entering into the worship.

As a worship leader who wants to engage men in meaningful worship, what should I do? One option is to do away with all overtly romantic lyrics in worship songs. This "scorched earth" approach would solve the problem for some men, but it would also rob the church from some wonderful songs that allow many of us to voice our love and adoration for Christ. A



Jesus is Not My Boyfriend(cont.)

second approach would be to ignore the problem. One could argue that this barrier is the problem of some men and of our society. I suppose that is true, but I also think that ignoring the needs of a significant population of our church isn't what Christ had in mind for us as believers. I think that balance is the key. If we look at the Psalms we see a very wide variety of expressions of praise – some quite intimate and sensuous (for example, “as the deer pants for water, so my soul longs for you”). But these intimate utterances are placed among a wide variety of other expressions, including telling of God's salvific works, describing God's attributes, petitioning God to act, proclaiming truths about God, etc. The intimate and sensual lyrics in the Psalms seem to be the exception rather than the rule. When I'm looking for new songs for us to sing at my church I try to keep this balance in mind.

Are there any ill effects of overly romantic worship songs among women? In her chapter in “The Message in the Music”, Jenell Williams Paris writes about the effects of the western

romantic ideal that is often superimposed on our spirituality. This phenomenon is reinforced by an abundance of romantic imagery in modern worship music (I should note that romantic imagery is not merely a modern development. Over 200 years ago John Wesley penned “Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly”. Don't expect to sing that one on a Sunday morning any time soon). In this romantic view of our spirituality Jesus is cast as the leading man and we humans are cast as the leading lady. The leading man does all the work and the leading lady is very passive. She merely pines for the leading man to sweep her off her feet. This is hardly the kingdom-building partnership that Jesus calls us to. Another problem with this model is the romantic ideal of “riding off into the sunset together.” Christ does not sweep us off our feet and then take us away to live happily ever after. He comes into our life and empowers us to bring redemption to the broken and pain-filled world around us.