

# A Time of Prayer: Inspire

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## How Hymnody can Support and Encourage our Discipleship by Paul Dumbrille

For as long as we can remember, people embarking on a journey, pilgrimage, or mission have been inspired by music. When Jesus sends people on ahead of him “like lambs into the midst of wolves”, one can imagine that they used music to inspire, comfort, energize, and inform them to “go out”. Music can also inspire those to whom they were sent.

Worshipping communities of every kind include music to provide a message, as well as make people comfortable and welcome. When the message of Jesus is offered, accompanying it with the form of music that the listeners are familiar with often opens listeners to receive what God offers.

In our churches, where many hymns and songs are sung and listened to, the theme of being “sent out” is contained in traditional hymns as well as in contemporary songs. An example of a traditional hymn about discipleship is [How Beauteous are Their Feet](#) (Common Praise #443). The first verse commends those who share their faith with others:

*How beauteous are their feet who stand on Zion's hill,  
Who bring salvation on their tongues and words of peace reveal!*

A more contemporary hymn on discipleship is [Sent Out in Jesus' Name](#). A translation of a traditional Cuban song, the hymn encourages us to take seriously our responsibilities as followers of Jesus to transform the world:

*Sing out in Jesus name, our hands are ready now  
to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.  
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love, of justice and of peace,  
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.  
O help us to obey, and carry out your will*

Reflect on the words of your favourite hymns. Do they comfort, encourage, reveal, teach, or inspire? What do they have to tell us about discipleship?