



As Worship Directors for the CRB Youth Program, 18 year old **Cole Lovelace** and **Philip Noel** have the opportunity to use their gifts for the Glory of God. They lead worship at CRB youth services, performed at Christmas Eve and at the Concert for Jo'burg and play periodically in local bands.

I had the chance to sit down and speak with these two talented individuals about why they love music and why they LOVE God.

Native San Diegans, they attended school together through 8th grade and Cole brought Philip to CRB six years ago. Both grew up knowing Jesus, but attending 6th grade Forest Home Camp became a turning point. Jesus became real and they wanted him to be part of their day-to-day life.

For **Cole**, being a Christian afforded him great opportunities to meet people and go places. He got into music in 3rd grade and plays guitar and some drums. He took four years of guitar lessons from Mark Fulton (*CRB Band Director*), and says that Mark was instrumental in inspiring him and getting him involved in the youth program.

Philip has attended CRB for the past six years. He accepted Christ at Forest Home and says that receiving a Message Bible in 7th grade really opened up Jesus to him. Being a Christian has totally changed his life, making him want to get more involved in church and in music. He's been playing Bass Guitar for 4 years and also plays some drums. A huge inspiration to him was Mike Holguin (*CRB Band and director of the RB High Drum line*) and he really admires him.

When I asked them why they enjoyed leading worship, Cole said, "It's a combination of being on stage next to my friends and then hearing the audience say things like... Your music impacted me. Something happened when I was listening. I want my kids to want to come to church more." Philip says he loves it "when he sees people close their eyes and lift their hands as they feel the music."

They each mentioned having experiences in the Christian community where they've felt pushed away, rather than drawn towards Jesus, and both are passionate about wanting their music to reveal Jesus in a new way - a way that invites people to get to know him more.

Youth Pastor, Nate Tibbs, says, *"What a blessing both Cole & Philip have been to the youth ministry, here at CRB. Their love & commitment to serve Jesus with their musical talents has truly been a treat. God is obviously working in and through them."*

Philip and Cole do not take their gifts for granted - **they know that what they do, they do for God.** All the blessings they have received and all the talents they have been given, come directly from Him. They want to continue raising the bar, to not settle, to try harder and be better every day.