



GOOD entertainment | CCMAGAZINE.COM AUGUST 2002 A SALEM COMMUNICATIONS PUBLICATION

THINK YOU KNOW **BEBO** NORMAN? THINK AGAIN.



SINGLES ADVICE FROM CAMERIN COURTNEY
NEW ARTIST **JEREMY CAMP** TRAGEDY TO TRUST **PLUS**

WIN A TRIP TO SEE **CREED** PG. 48

SOUTH AFRICA'S **THE BENJAMIN GATE**
LONDON'S CHRISTIAN MUSIC SCENE



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THE ENIGMATIC**BEBO NORMAN****COVER STORY****32 BEBO NORMAN** There's more to this Georgia boy than his onstage rambling. *BY TRACEY BUMPUS***FEATURES****38** With its home country, South Africa, under attack by the AIDS epidemic, **THE BENJAMIN GATE** is beginning to feel the weight of the disease. The band plans to infiltrate its mostly Christian audience with a very powerful tool: knowledge. *BY RICK WEBER***40** Author **CAMERIN COURTNEY** has found that life is about much more than finding "Mr. Right." *BY NATALIE NICHOLS GILLESPIE***42** Only a short time into his marriage, San Diego-based rocker **JEREMY CAMP** lost the love of his life to cancer. It was his wife's prayer that her battle would impact even one person. Little did Jeremy know that it was his life that would be changed the most. *BY LISA TEDDER***44** Vote in the **2002 CCM READERS' AWARDS**.**DEPARTMENTS****7** FROM THE EDITOR**8** YOUR FEEDBACK**12** FYI: NEWS**16** THE INSIDER**22** GET REAL**24** ONE TO WATCH: 38TH PARALLEL**26** ONE TO WATCH: ELIZABETH VIDOS**28** CONSIDER THIS**59** SYLLABUS**60** CITYSCAPE**61** ON TOUR**66** LAST GLANCE**IN REVIEW****47** MUSIC**52** BOOKS**54** GEAR**56** WEB

JESUS, JEREMY AND BEBO

IF JESUS HAD DECIDED TO COME TO EARTH IN 2002, WOULD YOU BE HIS FOLLOWER? Would you leave your job as an investment professional on Wall Street to follow Him? Would you desert your favorite pastime in order to tag along with your Savior? Would you abandon your family, your money or your overall quality of life to become a “disciple”? Would Jesus have even asked you to go along? I’m beginning to realize that another level of grace may be found in the very timing of Christ’s life and death on this Earth. Perhaps if Jesus had come today I would have been so skeptical, fearful or caught up in my own life that I would have denied Him.

Jesus’ time on Earth may have been more than 2,000 years ago, but His message has always been the same: “Follow Me.” Our commitment to this truth should never change. We have read about the heroic actions that men and women of faith have shown in the past, but I can’t help but question if I would be willing to deny everything I have in order to follow Jesus.

Although, isn’t that what He asks of me? There isn’t a difference between what Jesus requests of me and what He expected of Peter, James and John. It’s my understanding that He expects me to chase after Him today, just as He expected them to follow in complete abandonment then.

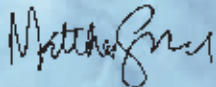
I confess that sometimes my life aimlessly refutes what 1 John 2:15 (NLT) so eloquently, yet adamantly demands: “Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you.” Jesus tells us in Matthew 19:29, “Everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property for my sake will receive a hundred times as much in return and will have eternal life.” The disciples left everything in order to follow Jesus. We are called do the same. Are you in?

This issue of CCM is special to me. Every story has pulled on my heartstrings in one way or another, and I can’t wait for you to experience it.

Last night Tracey Bumpus, CCM’s managing editor, and I had dinner at a Japanese steakhouse with San Diego-based singer/songwriter Jeremy Camp. We chatted about the spiritual, the insane and the political (not necessarily in that order) while watching our chef entertain us with his spatula tricks as he prepared our food. Jeremy is a young man with a fascinatingly tragic story that compels me to trust all the more in my Savior. He’s a man of God with a message that I am eager for you to hear. Read his story, embrace his music and allow God to move you into a heart of worship.

This month our cover story is on the somewhat mysterious Bebo Norman. Now I have to admit that it wasn’t my idea to put him on the cover. OK, I concede that I may be a wee bit jealous of the Georgia pretty boy. But I can see why his audience loves him. He’s passionate about his music and his love for Jesus, and he allows God to use him. That’s always enthralling to me not only as a journalist but also as his friend. Bebo’s interview with Tracey is honest, eye-opening and gutsy.

We hope you enjoy,



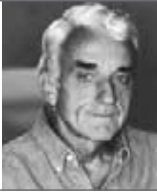
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BACKGROUND PHOTO OF BEBO NORMAN BY CHAD DRIVER

NEW FROM
BESTSELLING AUTHOR

BRENNAN
MANNING



“Brennan Manning has painted an extraordinarily vivid picture of the love of God.” —Crystal Lewis, Singer/Songwriter

BRENNAN MANNING
Author of *Ruthless Trust*

What Happens When
God’s Fierce Mercy
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THE WISDOM
of
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Praise for *The Ragamuffin Gospel*:

“*The Ragamuffin Gospel* transformed me. I will never be the same . . . Thank you, Brennan, for awakening the ragamuffin in all of us.”—Michael W. Smith, Singer/Songwriter.

“I found deep comfort in realizing that Jesus loves even me, a ragamuffin, just as I am . . . I came to this book hungry; I tasted and saw afresh that our God truly is good and that He is, after all, for us.”

—Michael Card, Singer/Songwriter

Now in paperback: *Ruthless Trust*



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YOUR FEEDBACK



IT WAS NOTHING PERSONAL...

Now being a good ol' boy from the Bluegrass state, I have always been a bit disappointed with what I perceived as your lack of coverage concerning the Ichthus Festival. Since your magazine demonstrated such great quality in other areas, I was willing to overlook the oversight and chalk it up to my own personal bias. Then I read the "Godapalooza" article in the June issue. How can you have an article on the history of Christian music festivals and not mention Ichthus? [It] predates Explo '72 by two years and is still going strong. Their stage has played host to artists from Larry Norman to Bebo Norman and PFR to P.O.D. They have powerful keynote speakers, great seminars and sharing communion with 20,000 plus on a quiet Kentucky hillside is an unforgettable experience. You've got to give credit where it is due. Ichthus is truly the grandfather of all Christian music festivals, and it has managed to stay

current and relevant to today's youth. Great job Ichthus, and minus this little flaw, great job CCM. I love the new format. Keep up the good work.

Joe Jenkins
Cumberland, KY

...WE JUST GOOFED!

On the story about the Christian music festivals, I was very surprised that Ichthus was never mentioned. Ichthus started in 1970 in Wilmore, Kentucky. So actually, it was the first Christian music festival, not the one in Texas two years later.

Phillip Pendleton
Lancaster, KY

Editor's note: Ichthus did, indeed, have three festivals under its belt before Explo '72 arrived on the scene. We regret this error and hope our neighbors to the north will forgive us! For more information on this festival go to ichthus.org.

FLUFF STUFF

I saw that you all at CCM were going to have a story on the history of Christian music festivals. I thought cool... reminisces with Larry Norman, Andraé Crouch, Love Song, Honeytree, Petra, Resurrection Band a la Glenn Kaiser, Daniel Amos and Mylon, but instead what do I see when I actually read the article? Nothing of any substance whatsoever, a complete lack of insight from those interviewed.

Ooh, big insight: Creation moved from Muddy Run to

Agape Farm, wow! Like every festival attendee over the last 20 years didn't know that. What a revelation in the pages of your magazine. I am so disappointed—enough of these silly, lame articles giving but a brief overview of what should be in-depth reporting being done by a magazine of your reputation.

Bryan G. Robinson
Downingtown, PA

Editor's note: Sorry we hit a sour note with you on this article. Our purpose was to give our younger readers a history lesson, obviously not needed by people like yourself who were there.

KUDOS

About three years ago, I decided to allow my subscription to CCM Magazine expire. I was a long-time subscriber, and I was frustrated with the lack of spiritual depth in the magazine, the interviews and the artists. A year ago, I decided to pick it up again.

The new format of the magazine is wonderful. Past changes to the style and format were purely an attempt to stay current. With the recent changes, the magazine has done more than stay current; it has jumped to a new level of publication excellence. You are on a different playing field altogether now. Good job.

More than that, I wanted to thank you for your depth and transparency. The June editorial ["Free Indeed"] resonated with my soul, as I am sure it did with many of the readers. [Matthew Turner's] willingness to talk about [his] struggle with sin shows that [he is] a truly passionate follower of Christ.

Preston Bowman
Olathe, KS

THANKS FOR THE HONESTY

Mr. Turner, as one who normally doesn't read the editorials of



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most magazines, I feel I must share with you how much I enjoy the "From the Editor" section of CCM every month.

Thank you so much for being so open as you share your trials, struggles, convictions and things you are learning in your walk. Thank you also for the standard you have set for CCM. I appreciate that it not only clues people in on the Christian music world, but that it has depth to it. It's a good feeling to have that I can put this magazine on my coffee table and a nonbeliever can come into my home and pick it up and find the gospel message presented in some way in this magazine.

Sandrine McCurdy
via e-mail

[Managing] Editor's note: All right, enough love for Matt. He's going to be impossible to work with now!

DON'T MESS WITH GOD'S WORD

I wholeheartedly agree with Rick Edward's article regarding the new TNIV translation of the Bible ["Not Mincing Words," June 2002]. To purposely change God's Word to be "culturally relevant" or politically correct is wrong and dangerous. As Edwards alludes, we should translate according to the oldest and most reliable manuscripts we have. To change what God intended to

be in His Word (without any relevant basis, such as finding older, more reliable texts) is basically saying that we know better than God how to state what He wanted to say. That is a very "slippery slope" indeed.

Todd Elliott
Traverse City, MI

NOT GOING BACK

I totally loved the article "Different Now" in the June issue ["Story Behind the Song"]. Lisa Kimmy (Out of Eden) is on the right track by choosing songs that express how you are different when you become a Christian. Our past worldly friends have to realize that we're not going to go back to our old ways, but that we're going to try and do the godly things that help our walk with Christ! I find myself listening to a lot of the lyrics on their new album because all of their songs portray a powerful message.

Michelle Mosqueda
Las Vegas, NV

STRYPER FAN

I just wanted to say thank you for remembering Stryper and their music in your June issue ["Time Machine"], however briefly. It suddenly seems that everywhere I turn, someone is talking about them! What they accomplished for God with their music is no small feat, and they continue to be more than relevant today.

Anya Klaassen
Anoka, MN

Editor's note: We're glad you liked the Stryper piece... and we're VERY glad Christian bands don't dress like that anymore!

We welcome your comments. Address letters to Feedback, CCM Magazine, 104 Woodmont Blvd., Ste. 300, Nashville, TN 37205; fax 615/385-4112. attn: Feedback; or e-mail feedback@ccmmagazine.com. Always include your full name, address and phone number. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

CCM MAGAZINE volume 25 issue 2

The mission of CCM Magazine is to move readers toward a closer walk with Jesus Christ. CCM celebrates the message of God through the ministry and impact of today's finest Christian artists using Scripture as our interpretive lens.

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Subscriptions/Customer Service
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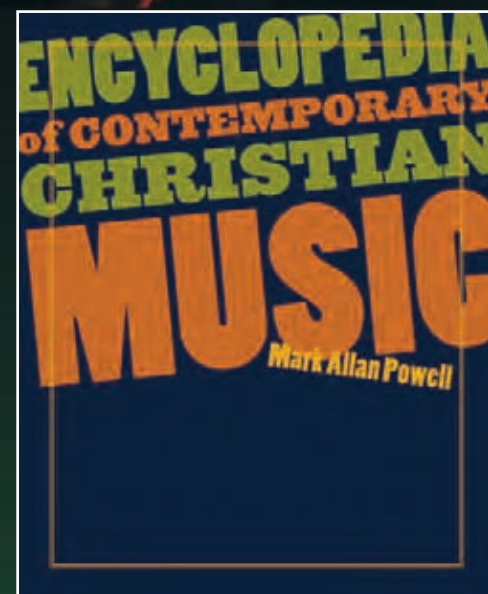
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THEY'RE ALL HERE...



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- Artists' biographies
- Complete discographies
- Album reviews

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NEWS

New encyclopedia chronicles 30 years of Christian music

CHRISTIAN music a to z

Opinions vary on book's credibility

Have you ever wondered what happened to your favorite band of days gone by? Or what Pat Boone was thinking when he made his heavy metal debut in 1997? Or what Moby says about Christianity?

Seven years ago, Mark Allan Powell, theologian and professor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, set out with the dubious task of compiling an encyclopedia that includes most every contemporary Christian artist since the genre's inception 30 years ago, something he hopes he has accomplished with the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music* (Hendrickson) (see review on page 52).

While Powell has dabbled in the Christian and general-market music industries as a freelance writer for such publications as *Christianity Today*, he admits that he is not necessarily a Christian music industry insider. "My reputation is not as someone who knows about music so much as it is someone who can do research on topics in religion and culture," Powell said. "And, in an odd sort of way, [I

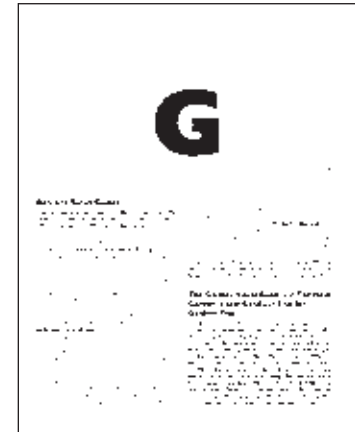
think] that is what gives this book legitimacy. It's not a work that is being produced inside the Christian music camp."

Powell spent seven years researching and writing artist entries for the encyclopedia. Research involved comparing his findings from at least 32 publications, including *HM Magazine*, *Release* and even *CCM Magazine*, then resolving discrepancies by contacting record labels and artists.

The researcher's scope mandated that he create entries for every artist that had ever been mentioned in "key" music publications for a grand total of 1,900 entries. Powell said that he also included mainstream artists that either gained Christian media exposure or at least claim to be Christians, even if the artist has publicly stated that he or she is not a "Christian artist." For each artist listed, the book includes a biography with critical analysis of their work, a discography and a personnel/band member list. When applicable, the listings also include awards, charted radio singles and artist Web sites.

"I want to demonstrate the importance of contemporary Christian music for understanding popular culture," he said. "I don't think anyone can really understand the history of rock music without knowing about this part of it."

While the book has garnered endorsements from former CCM Editor



POWELL

Thom Granger and other industry insiders, some are questioning the book's credibility. "While the work is being represented as an 'encyclopedia' and a reference work, from the amount of copy I've seen, I believe it contains a lot of opinion and editorializing that, in some instances, takes too much liberty to be a credible historical reference work for future generations," one industry leader, who wished to remain anonymous, told CCM. "I'm certainly not comfortable with some of the content being archived in perpetuity and being presented to future generations as an accurate record [of Christian music's past or present]."

The soft cover *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music* and companion CD-ROM will be available in Christian bookstores (for \$29.95) and in public libraries this month.

MARCIA BARTENHAGEN

"I want to demonstrate the importance of contemporary Christian music for understanding popular culture. I don't think anyone can really understand the history of rock music without knowing about this part of it."

MARK ALLAN POWELL, AUTHOR

FACTOIDS

TRIVIAL PURSUIT

The *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music* contains many little-known facts about artists. Here are some of the author's favorites.

- The late Gene Eugene (Adam Again, Lost Dogs) played the part of young Darren Stevens on an episode of "Bewitched."
- Contemporary gospel singer Oleta Adams was "discovered" by the members of Tears for Fears when they saw her singing at a Hyatt lounge.
- Andy Robbins, of Christian hard rock group Holy Soldier, was baptized as a child in Pat Boone's swimming pool.
- Lincoln Brewster played lead guitar and helped write songs for the solo project *For the Love of Strange Medicine* by former Journey frontman Steve Perry. Brewster also participated in Perry's tour of the same name.
- Before Bob Carlisle was known for "Butterfly Kisses," he was a session singer for Poison.
- David and the Giants drummer Keith Thibodeaux demonstrated his talent as a child star on "I Love Lucy" and "The Andy Griffith Show."
- Michael Tait of dc talk auditioned for a spot in the Gaither Vocal Band but lost out to Mark Lowry. **M.B.**



HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME

The United States' largest Christian music station KLTY "Celebrates Freedom"

Sun, song and celebration filled the humid Dallas air as Salem Communications-owned KLTY-FM ushered in the July 4th holiday at South Fork Ranch with its 12th annual "Celebrate Freedom" Christian music festival. Today's hottest artists, including Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Paul Colman Trio, Out of Eden and Bebo Norman, among others, entertained the 170,000-plus crowd throughout the day and into the evening, which culminated with a spectacular fireworks display.

In honor of our sister company's big day, CCM took part in the festivities in a very patriotic way, tapping KLTY weekend DJ Kat Ferguson for a special CCM/"Celebrate Freedom" pictorial scavenger hunt. Her goal? To capture the festival essence with photos. And to make the task a bit

more interesting, Kat went in complete celebratory costume.

Moonlighting as a photographer, *The CCM Update* Editor Lizza Connor followed Kat on her quest. The results are below, so see what you missed and try to catch it next year, and kudos to Kat who earned her own well-deserved freedom at the day's conclusion!

1) Miss Liberty with a thirsty festival attendee at the Ranch **2)** "I wanna soak up the sun...." **3)** Rows of blue—festival staple **4)** Miss Liberty attempts a pull-up at the Army booth. **5)** The Statue sneaks into Bebo's set... did someone say "Soy Bomber"? **6)** Miss Liberty takes a lunch break with festival sponsors. **7)** Ridin' the bull.... **8)** Festival goes attempt the human pyramid, which toppled seconds later. **9)** "O say can you see...." **LIZZA CONNOR**

POPNEWS BY CHRISTA FARRIS



AMONG THORNS WITH "CAREER WEEK" CREW

THE RE-EDUCATION OF AMONG THORNS

GROUP TALKS BIZ WITH ELEMENTARY SET

Yes, it's almost that time again—time for pencils, books and teachers' dirty looks. But for **Among Thorns**, going back to school didn't involve any homework this time around. The group participated in "Career Week" to give the kids at Rock Springs Elementary School in Lavergne, Tenn., the skinny on the ins and outs of the music business. When the band isn't enlightening the younger set, the guys are putting the finishing touches on their latest release, hitting shelves Sept. 10.



LEE (SEATED AT RIGHT) SIGNS ON WITH CARLISLE AND COMPANY

EMERGING SUPERGROUP

LEE JOINS CARLISLE'S LABEL

Joining the company of numerous artists starting their own labels, **Bob Carlisle**, along with two business partners, recently founded Christian Records. Carlisle's first signee to the label is former NewSong member **Russ Lee**, who is currently working on an October follow-up to his first solo project, *Words in Time*.

WATCH OUT ALICIA KEYS

NEWCOMER KRystal HARRIS IS POPPING UP EVERYWHERE

With her funky fashion sense and flair for decidedly urban pop sounds, it might be easy to mistake **Krystal Harris** for Alicia Keys' little sister. But the 20-year-old singer, who boldly showcased her vocal chops earlier this year at the American Music Awards, the 2002 Dove Awards and even during our interview, is leaving a mark of distinction wherever she goes. Harris is the first artist signed to the **Backstreet Boys'** new label where her song graced the gold-certified *The Princess Diaries* soundtrack, and the wheels are in motion for a solo album. But the acting bug has also apparently bitten Harris. You can catch her in the Disney production *The Country Bears*, which is currently in theaters, and Harris is also slated to hit the small screen as "Diggy" in Fox's fall drama "Save the Last Dance." Look for the show to air in October or November, and, in the meantime, check out krystalthesupergirl.com for more details.



HARRIS

A ROYAL TOUR OF DUTY

VINCENT MOVES FROM POP TO THE PALACE

From the "Where Are They Now?" file: remember **Tony Vincent**'s catchy little mid-'90s dance ditty, "Out of My Hands?" While he's not making much in the way of dance pop these days, we've got the scoop on Tony's recent whereabouts. On most days, you'll find Vincent on the theater scene portraying the likes of Simon Zealotes in "Jesus Christ Superstar." But recently, Vincent had the opportunity to share the stage with some pretty royal company for "Party at the Palace," which honored **Queen Elizabeth**. Vincent performed "Bohemian Rhapsody" alongside **Queen**, but said "possibly the most amazing part of the night" was when all the performers joined **Paul McCartney** onstage for The Beatles' classics "Hey Jude" and "All You Need Is Love."



ALL TOGETHER SUPERHEROES

CALIFORNIA BAND BRINGS NEW CHARACTER TO COMICS

Unless you've been living in a cave all summer, you already know Spider-Man has reigned as king of the superheroes. But Spidey won't be the only noteworthy comic book character if **All Together Separate** has anything to say about it. Giving the webbed one a run for his money, the band is set to become comic book characters themselves in a new series developed by Quest Comics that should be on shelves this month. While they won't be saving anyone by leaping across tall buildings, the band's animated alter-egos will assist in feeding the poor, rescuing children from a burning church and doing what they do best—performing music.



ROCKING THE UNIVERSE

UNIVERSAL STUDIOS HOSTS LARGEST CHRISTIAN CONCERT IN ITS HISTORY

Would you like some **Five Iron Frenzy** with your **Men In Black Alien Attack**? Next month 17 of the hottest names in Christian rock and pop will converge upon Universal Studios Florida for the largest event of its kind in the park's history. **Third Day, Jars of Clay, Toby Mac, Relient K, Jennifer Knapp, The OC Supertones, Newsboys** and **By the Tree** will be joined by pop acts like **Rebecca St. James** and **Out of Eden** and speakers including **Ron Luce** and **Jay**

Strack for the two-day event Sept. 6 and 7. For more information visit RockTheUniverse.com.



STAND COMES FULL CIRCLE

CLASH OF SYMBOLS FRONTMAN RETURNS

Before there was an **MxPx**, there was **The Altar Boys**. That seminal early Christian punk-rock/power-pop band truly ushered in the era of relevant Christian alternative music in a big way. With bands like the aforementioned **MxPx** as well as **The Huntingtons**, and many more singing the praises of the Orange County quartet and a few rare recent live appearances in California and at the Cornerstone Festival, their legend has only grown. Now, with his first release since a 1995 project by his post-Altar Boys band **Clash of Symbols**, front boy **Mike Stand** recently unveiled his most thoughtful, challenging and all around impressive work yet. **Full Circle**, originally begun with the late **Gene Eugene** in 1999, features a cast of no fewer than 14 supporting musicians and is being released by Galaxy 21 Music. For more information visit galaxy21music.com.



12 STONES

Letting it all Hang Out

12 STONES WON'T COMPROMISE MESSAGE

With a sound somewhere between **Lifeshouse** and their label-mates **Creed**, the New Orleans-based modern rock band **12 Stones** is turning heads with their confident debut album and their outspoken faith. In a recent interview with Webrock.net, frontman **Paul McCoy** directly addressed the challenge of representing his faith in the mainstream rock scene. "Whether you hide your faith or show your faith, there are going to be people who disagree with your stand. A lot of people disagree with Creed for not showing their faith as much, I guess, and there are going to be people who don't like that fact that we show ours as much as we do. We figure if we are not going to be able to please everybody, then we might as well stick with what we know." The band is now back on the road with **Creed**, finishing the "Weathered" tour that was delayed due to a car accident that injured **Creed's** front man **Scott Stapp**.



(L-R) **RAY BOLTZ, MITCH McVICKER (FRONT), LOIS VEENSTRA, RACHEL CURET (BACK) OF SPINDUST RECORDS**

SPINDUST SIGNS 2ND ARTIST

Folk-rockers **Mitch McVicker** has signed with **Ray Boltz's** **Spindust Records** after a five-year independent career

since the passing of his mentor and musical partner **Rich Mullins**. **McVicker**, who co-wrote the 1999 Dove Award-winning Song of the Year "My Deliverer" with **Mullins**, has honed his craft through non-stop touring and continual recording. His **Spindust** debut, *Without Looking Down*, is being produced by former **Ragamuffin Band** and **This Train** member **Mark Robertson** and is due for release this September through **Word Distribution**. "Mitch has an incredibly unique sound and has an amazing gift for songwriting," **Boltz** enthuses. "We are honored to have him join our label." **Spindust's** other band, the Dove nominated **G.S. Megaphone**, is currently working on the follow-up to their acclaimed debut as well.

URBANNEWS BY TIM A. SMITH



4TH AVENUE JONES'

4TH AVENUE DEBUT

MTV/BET CATCH THE JONES' SPIRIT

After months and months of waiting, the debut project from much-buzzed-about hip-hop band **4th Avenue Jones'** has arrived. *No Plan B's* (Look Alive/Interscope) first single, "Move On," has already been in rotation on MTV and BET.

ROCKSOUL CD AND TOUR KICK OFF —FOR REAL THIS TIME

At long last, GNet Music and RockSoul Entertainment have announced the launch of the multi-artist CD, *RockSoul: Vol 1*, from noted producer **Lee Jerkins**. You may recall reading in an earlier issue of *CCM* that the project was slated for a March release. However, at the last minute the album was held in hopes of securing a broader distribution network (a.k.a. GNet). Both the CD and the supporting "Gospelooza" tour will debut before the youth division at this year's Gospel Music Workshop Convention, which will convene in Detroit this month. "[Gospelooza] is a celebration of all the Lord has done for the urban gospel and hip-hop culture," says Jerkins. Artists featured on the CD and tour include **The Cross Movement, Monique Walker, Corey Red, Precise** and **Michelle Bonilla**. The tour is scheduled to visit more than 30 historically black colleges and universities this fall during which GNet Pictures will film and produce the *Rock Soul Live* DVD, which will include performance footage and backstage interviews, among other surprises.



ROCK

DOCTOR WOODY

ROCK AWARDED DEGREE, TAKES PROMISE KEEPERS TO SCHOOL

Former Dru Hill member **Woody Rock**, who recently released his debut gospel project, *Soul Music* (Gospo Centric), was presented an honorary Doctorate of sacred music from Eastern Theological Seminary in Virginia. During the services, Rock also sang a tribute to his deceased mother, who inspired him to pursue gospel music. On another note, Rock, who mentors a young man in his hometown of Baltimore, Md., has taped a video for Promise Keepers, which focuses on the importance of mentoring. The video will be presented at Promise Keepers events around the country this summer.

NEW GROUP RECALLS EARLY SHADES OF TAKE 6

7th Element, consisting of brothers **Curt, Darren, Garth** and **Kevin Greene** and long-time friends **David**

"Dee" Glover and **Marc Dwyer**, has released its debut project, *Volume One*, on AAMG, the label headed up by award-winning gospel jazz duo **Allen & Allen**. Often drawing comparisons to **Take 6**, due to their tight harmonies, two of the group's members were previously signed to Capitol and Sony/Epic Records, but got out of their deals because they wanted to primarily sing gospel music. Prior to signing with Sony/Epic, they even had a personal audition with former Sony head honcho **Tommy Mottola!**



REUBEN

JOHNNY ROCKS THE HOUSE!

HOMETOWN MIXIN'

Over 400 fans turned out recently at the Virgin Mega Store in Columbus, Ohio, to check out the launch of **John Reuben's** sophomore project, *Hindsight* (Gotee). Along with spending over an hour signing CDs (he sold more than 300 of the latest at the event) for hundreds of his diehard fans, Reuben performed a 25-minute set.



JACKSON

JACKSON'S JOURNEY

ACTOR TALKS FREELY ABOUT GOD, HOLLYWOOD AND JIM CAVIEZEL

He's worked on everything from "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" to "Ally McBeal," but this month actor **Richard Lee Jackson** is on the big screen with Jim Caviezel in the feel-good sports movie *Madison*. "Working on *Madison* was awesome. Jim Caviezel is a great guy. I hadn't seen any of his movies when we met, and when I was talking to him I just remember thinking, 'this guy is really down to earth.'" Jackson goes even further saying, "God is really with Jim Caviezel. We should lift him up in prayer."

Jackson has also had plenty of experience living out his faith in Hollywood, but doesn't feel like he has any more obstacles to overcome than anyone else. "The biggest challenge as a follower of Jesus is the same in Hollywood as

anywhere—discouragement, fear and the feeling of 'Am I worthy, Lord?' What I have found more than anything here is, the Lord loves this town. He loves the people, He loves art, He loves telling stories. God is here, and I am honored to be here with Him."

THE LONGEST YARD

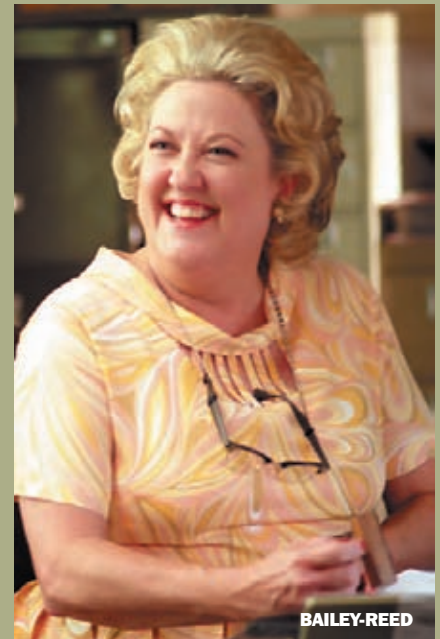
HOMETOWN COMES TO HOME VIDEO/DVD

How long does it take to finish one football game? For producer **Dallas Jenkins**, it took over two months! Due to some of the film footage being accidentally exposed to nuclear radiation during shipping, not once but twice, Jenkins was forced to re-shoot some of the football scenes in his movie *Hometown Legend* (released by Warner Bros. this month on video) three different times. After shooting the scenes in October, Jenkins had to try again six days later because the original, overexposed film "glowed." When the second reel of film was also ruined, Jenkins finally rounded up the actors and over 100 extras in January to shoot the fictional Athens City Crusaders yet again. This time, the actors' performances glowed, but thankfully the film footage did not.

THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

THE GOSPEL TURNS UP EVERYWHERE

Sometimes you find the gospel in the strangest places, like in Miramax's latest foreign import, *Italian for Beginners*, scheduled to be out on video this month. The story centers around a pastor who moves to a small town in Denmark and takes an Italian language class. He befriends the young lovelorn students he meets there, and the next thing you know, they are off on a life-changing spiritual pilgrimage to Rome. You'll laugh, you'll cry and your friends will think you're smart because you dared to rent a movie with subtitles.



BAILEY-REED

Plenty of 'Grace'

BIG HAIR AND BIG LAUGHS ON ABC FAMILY

Character actress **Bonnie Bailey-Reed** has answers to all of life's deepest questions like: Is that really her own hair? As "Shirley" on the acclaimed ABC Family Channel sitcom "State of Grace," the actor laughs, "People always ask me that. It's not a wig. That's my hair teased within an inch of its life."

Though she was only scheduled to play the part of Shirley for four episodes, Bailey-Reed has just completed taping her second season on the hit series. But that's not really a surprise. Playing the faithful but funny secretary to the family business isn't really much of a stretch for the actress. "I can totally be myself in this part and just be true to my past. I was a girl in the South in the '60s, so I can identify with the storylines and the things 'Hannah' and 'Grace' go through."

What is the secret to Bonnie's "overnight" success? "It's God's promise of unconditional love and protection that makes my life in this crazy business bearable. The only way to persevere is through complete trust in the Lord's answers to the 'whys' and not earthly answers to them." You have the rest of this month to watch Bonnie—and her hair—in new episodes of "State of Grace" every Monday.

message board

making a difference



PHOTO: MICHAEL ROSENFELD

REACHING OUT TO THOSE WITH AIDS

STUDENTS SPEND TIME WITH AIDS PATIENTS

After a full week of classes, a few all-nighters spent studying and endless social interaction, Saturday mornings are really the only chance college students get to sleep in. Then there's Ryan Wemyss, a sophomore art major at Wheaton College in suburban Illinois, who gets up on Saturday mornings even earlier than he does for classes to make a difference in the surrounding Chicago community. Along with a bus load of fellow classmates, Wemyss heads to the city to the Cook County Hospital to show that Christians do, indeed, take an active role in extending love toward those suffering from AIDS.

"When we go to the hospital, we're not going there to evangelize to patients, but we're going there to spend time with them, form relationships with them and listen to what they have to say," says Wemyss of his college's Compassion for People With AIDS outreach program. "We don't want to put a sense of judgment onto the situation. We just want to listen, care and love on them, and [we] are open to discussing matters of faith whenever they come up."

Sometimes walking down the long hallways of the AIDS ward can be a chilling experience as patients literally hang on for dear life. Quite often, students are impacted just as much as those they encourage with their visits.

"It's certainly eye-opening for the students," notes Danté Upshaw, assistant director for Wheaton College's Office of Christian Outreach. "They often come out of a visiting session deeply moved by a patient's strength and courage. Some students may have thought they had a hard week, but they come back to campus touched by someone who's in the midst of battling a terminal illness."

Upshaw has heard countless examples of students renewed after participating in a Saturday session, while many patients have expressed their gratitude that people took time out of their schedules to encourage and meet with them.

The positive feedback the Office of Christian Outreach has received thus far from patients and hospital staff has proven the organization's fruitfulness, even though students will be the first to admit they feel somewhat inadequate when it comes to handling the weight of the situation.

"I find it to be a bit awkward sometimes because I'm just a college student who can't possibly imagine exactly what it's like to be in their shoes struggling with AIDS," Wemyss says. "I try to get over that with a lot of prayer specifically directed at those we meet, and I simply let each of them know that I'll always be there for them." **ANDY ARGYRAKIS**

For another perspective on the AIDS crisis see "Weight of the World" on page 36.

For information on how you can help those with AIDS, check out ccmmagazine.com.

CCM Magazine asked readers, "How are you working to make a difference at your school?"

When I first came to Middle Tennessee State University, Christian music did not have much of an outlet on campus. When I got an opportunity to attend one of the rare Christian Music Society meetings, I saw the plethora of opportunities the students could have for spreading the gospel on our campus through Christian music. I contacted a friend of mine that had told me about CMS and asked him if he would help me get this student organization moving. Since then, we have put on a Christian music festival.... We are currently working on another festival and hope to expose many of our Christian and non-Christian students to the wide variety of excellent Christian music.

—Rachael Harris, Murfreesboro, TN

I couldn't say [whether] I am really changing anything, but I am living my life out loud, in a way. I have been more empathetic since this weekend's "Acquire the Fire" [event]. At school I have helped a few people, and you have no idea how that feels. I really feel like something spectacular is going to happen.

—Jacob McGowen, New Castle, CO

As a student at a Big Ten university, I felt alone in the crowd.... I had few friends who were Christians. So, in order to surround myself with positive things, I listened to Christian music non-stop. The music began to stick with people, and I eventually heard it in their dorm rooms. Although it is a small difference that I am making..., I also believe that music is powerful. So who knows what this Christian music can do to them!

—Alexis Soelster, Tipp City, OH

Look for your chance to respond to the **Message Board** question each month in CCM's electronic Christian music newsletter. To sign up to receive the newsletter, go to ccmmagazine.com.



**a conversation
with Kevin Max** BY LIZZA CONNOR

Recently you've had some time off from dc talk. What's that been like? It's been a roller coaster ride. I expected [my solo album] *Stereotype Be* (ForeFront) to do more in the Christian music industry. I had all these delusions of grandeur that I was going to expose this wonderful art piece, and it just didn't happen like I thought it would.... And I needed some personal time. *Stereotype Be* took every ounce of strength out of me and left me in some relationships that I had put on the back burner, one being my relationship with the Lord.

Have you recharged? I'm still going through some changes, but I've learned a lot this year.... I'm hanging with the knowledge that my family life and my relationship with God are more important than dominating the world as the brand new thing.

Don't you have a new album in the works? Yes, I'm stepping outside of my comfort zone, so I think it's going to be a more accessible project. I think "pop culture" people have had a hard time putting their arms around my lyrics in the past, and I'm kind of angry with that because I like lyrics that make you dig under the surface.

When you spoke with CCM in May 2001, you talked about your desire to shed the "bad boy" image. Have you? Where I have changed... is I'm not trying to prove I can push the boundary. Now if I push it, it has meaning behind it. I want to get behind things that are politically incorrect, to be a part of issues that really matter.

Max is currently wrapping up his second book of poetry, Slip of the Ink (Blind Thief), due out this fall, and writing for his sophomore solo album, slated to release next year.

band file checking in with our rising stars

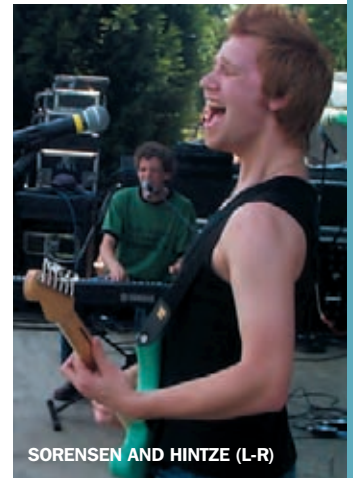
GUITAR PLAYER FOUND

UR PLAYS ITS FIRST BIG GIG AS A FULL BAND

The search is finally over for Unsearchable Riches. After months of handing out fliers and auditioning potential guitar players, the band has found its man. Unsearchable Riches and Garret Hintze have been considering each other since Hintze auditioned in January. "I got along with the guys really well. It was like we were old high school buddies. The band's music was a big draw for me. We have the same influences and vision to serve God. I've listened to piano-driven music all my life, and it's neat to see how that has prepared me to be a part of UR," Hintze said. He auditioned for the band after coming across a flier lead singer/pianist Jeremy Sorensen handed out at a dc talk concert in Northern Virginia. "I didn't feel led to join right away, probably because I had so many other things going on. I wanted to make sure that when I said 'yes' I could make a 100 percent commitment. I wanted to

make sure I had the support of the people around me."

Hintze joined the band in May, just in time to practice for Unsearchable Riches' first performance as a band under the ForeFront label. The guys had only two weeks to prepare for its June 1 gig at Six Flags America in Largo, Md., where they opened for FFH and Audio Adrenaline. They played three original songs that will probably be on the album. The guys felt their first performance went well. "We were nervous while practicing, but had fun performing," Sorensen said. Unsearchable Riches received a lot of support from Audio Adrenaline. Mark Stewart encouraged them after they performed. And the four members of Unsearchable Riches joined Ben Cissell, Tyler Burkum and some of the



SORENSEN AND HINTZE (L-R)

PHOTO: GORDON NELSON

Audio Adrenaline road crew on the tour bus afterward to get career advice and talk about performing.

Between the new guitar player and the kick-off of its summer performances, UR is more eager than ever to practice. The guys have several shows booked this month. They also plan to record their demo CD with Hintze in mid-July. Feeling confident about its songs and sound, the band is almost ready to take this show on the road.

CHERYL JOHNSTON

quote this COMPILED BY DANIEL EAGAN

"The only sin God cannot pardon is the sin of rejecting Him forever."

BILLY GRAHAM, billygraham.com

"Drinking beer is easy. Trashing your hotel room is easy. But being a Christian, that's a tough call. That's rebellion."

ALICE COOPER, rockrebel.com

"In the mid '80s, when I became a Scientologist, it was very helpful. There are things in it that really helped me with my life... to alleviate stress and a lot of fears."

TOM CRUISE, eonline.com

"We are personally and profoundly afflicted by the sins of some of our brothers who have

betrayed the grace of ordination in succumbing even to the most grievous forms of the *mysterium iniquitatis* (the mystery of evil) at work in the world."

THE POPE'S RESPONSE TO THE SEXUAL ABUSE CRISIS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH,

beliefnet.com

Send suggestions for Quote This to quotes@ccmcom.com. Please include the source of the quote.

38th PARALLEL

RAP CORE ROCKERS INSPIRED BY BROADWAY HITS

BAND 411 Shane Moe (guitar), Mark Jennings (vocals), Jeff Barton (bass), Nathan Rippke (vocals) and Aaron Nordyke (drums) all hail from their current home base of Ames, Iowa. The band's name makes reference to the demilitarized zone that lies between North and South Korea. "Just as those countries have experienced war, so every day we are in the middle of conflicting beliefs about what's real and true," says Moe.

NEW ALBUM 38th Parallel's Tony McAnany-produced full-length debut, *Turn the Tides* (Squint), released last month. The disc boasts hard-edged melodic rock, rap-inflected grooves and smart lyrics. "The best description of our music is somewhere between Linkin Park and Incubus," says Jennings.

INFLUENCES The guys acknowledge Project 86 and P.O.D. as artists who have moved them, but insist theatrical musicals like "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" have inspired them as well. "Most of us were involved in theater and drama in high school," Nordyke explains.

BACKSTORY Nordyke, Jennings and Barton formed a band while in high school. Eventually Rippke and Moe came along, and the group began playing in local clubs, then cut a demo. After receiving considerable airplay on a Des Moines, Iowa, rock station, the band caught the attention of an executive at Word (Squint's parent company) and soon after signed with Squint.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT? Says Jennings, "We deal with issues that many bands in our genre haven't tackled before, such as religious doubt, the problem of evil and AIDS."

ON THE ROAD Recently off Skillet's nationwide "Alien Youth" tour, the band is playing several late-summer festivals and other spot dates.

GOAL "For those who don't have a relationship with God, we want to make Him look attractive and use our music to draw them to Him," says Moe. "We also want to motivate believers to get out there and help us move the mindset of youth toward Christ." **DAVID McCREARY**



Moe, Jennings, Nordyke, Rippke and Barton (l-r)

ELIZABETH VIDOS

BRINGING RHYTHM AND LIGHT TO A VENUE NEAR YOU



PHOTO: COAST CAMERA STUDIO

D.O.B. Aug. 25, 1974

HOMETOWN Morgan City, Louisiana

CURRENT DIGS “[I’m] homeless. I’ve been on the road since college.”

JOB DESCRIPTION With “STOMP”—a live performance using brooms, garbage can lids, etc., in a concert of dance and percussion—since January 1999

INFLUENCES “Every time the drums would go by in the Mardi Gras parades, I’d be inspired. I started drumming in sixth grade.”

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE College marching band, University of Louisiana of Monroe. “At a leadership camp for youth,” she says, “we rigged up ropes and pots and pans, and I did a percussion act swinging from the balcony.”

BACKSTORY “Everything changed when I saw ‘STOMP’ on HBO my last year of college. Then I traveled to Mobile, [Ala.,] to see it live. I asked how many people auditioned for a spot and was told ‘about a thousand,’ so I put it out of my mind. But when [my] campers told me I had to, I called and left my name and number on an answering machine.

“I spent a couple of months at home that summer. I kept asking God, ‘Please show me why I’m here!’ About 11 one night, I found my dad lying on the floor; he’d just had a stroke. God told me, ‘I just needed you there for that one moment.’ Two weeks later ‘STOMP’ called. The way that it all worked out shows God’s fingerprints all over my life.”

ON THE ROAD Taking a hiatus to be the percussionist on the fall Bebo Norman tour, Vidos plans to return to “STOMP” in the Spring of 2003.

GOALS “I don’t want to sleep through life. My faith keeps me aware of what’s happening around me. And it makes me ask myself questions like, ‘Are you being a servant today?’ Little things—like putting away the extra brooms.”

LESSONS LEARNED “It’s hard to keep up relationships when you never stay in one place. But I’ve never lost God. I listen to Caedmon’s Call a lot. One song says, “Cause I’m losing everyone/But I know I can’t lose You.” **LIS TROUTEN**

Readers with additional questions for Vidos can e-mail her at stompgirl373@msn.com.



PHOTO: IAN O'LEARY

LISTENING TO ROCK 'N' ROLL **SHAKE IT UP, BABY**

I BELIEVE IN ROCK 'N' ROLL. ROCK 'N' ROLL CAN'T SAVE YOUR SOUL, BUT IT CAN SHAKE IT UP A BIT AND THAT ISN'T A BAD THING.

Some people think rock 'n' roll is all about sex, drugs and rebellion. Some of it is. Actually, rock 'n' roll is all about whatever the person who creates it wants it to be about. It could be about sex and drugs. But it could also be about someone you love, or it could be about loneliness, or it could be about aspirations to succeed, or it could be about someone who keeps her face in a jar by the door (for all you Beatles fans). It could even be about God.

There is a rebellion that is anarchy—rebellion for the sake of rebellion—and there is a rebellion that seeks to establish the truth to a generation that has lost sight of it. Rock 'n' roll, when it is at its best, defines truth. This is what Christians can affirm about rock 'n' roll. We can do this because we believe, as the scriptures teach, that those who earnestly seek the truth will find God, and the truth about His Son, Jesus. As Christians, we need to be better at finding and affirming the questions of true seekers in any generation.

Actually, there are things about rock 'n' roll and the gospel that are very compatible. What we call contemporary Christian music owes its origins to this compatibility. The radical, confronting nature of Jesus Christ found an expression in the early 1970s through the music of the “Jesus movement.” Contemporary Christian music started with a

passion. Jesus people were trying to shake people up and make them think about truth, sin and the need for forgiveness.

When you think about it, John the Baptist and Jesus did the same thing for people of their day. They made people think; they asked lots of questions. They shook things up wherever they went. John the Baptist and Jesus were both controversial and confrontational. They said derogatory things to political and religious leaders. They broke the petty rules. They rained on their parade. Sounds a little like rock 'n' roll to me.

Statements of need, desire and dissatisfaction are common to rock 'n' roll and are things we as Christians can embrace, because God has made all of us with a primary hunger in our souls. The Apostle Paul noted that “God did this so that [we] would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27).

Sometimes we are so eager to give the world the answers we already have that we forget to listen to their questions. When Christians don't allow questions, we become irrelevant. We start giving answers to questions no one is asking. It is rude to speak before you listen and not enough Christians are listening to their culture. Too many are just trying to dish out answers without any dialogue. It's as if we are holding our ears screaming our message at the world and wondering why people aren't listening to us.

Rock 'n' roll is a way of listening. It is a way some people get their feelings out—bad

feelings as well as good ones. Some rock 'n' roll is about despair, hostility, isolation and suicide. Some people blame rock 'n' roll for feeding these attitudes to young people, but these themes would not be popular if the attitudes were not already prevalent. Rock 'n' roll doesn't create attitudes; it expresses them. It might throw fuel on the fire, but the fire was already burning. Broken homes, abandonment, lack of love and intimidation are the breeding ground for much of rock music. That's why we should be listening to it.

Some people point to a character like Marilyn Manson to show how bad rock 'n' roll is. Many people don't realize that Brian Warner (his real name) spent his formative years in a Christian school. He learned about rock 'n' roll from seminars he had to attend that dredged up all the worst elements of rock in order to show kids how bad it is. I've often wondered what would have happened if that Christian school had encouraged Brian to “connect” with rock 'n' roll instead. I wonder if Marilyn Manson would even exist today if someone had allowed rock 'n' roll to shake up his soul. Probably they left him alone because he was so weird. That's too bad.

I wonder who we are ignoring today.

John Fischer is an author, speaker and musician (John@fischtank.com, www.fischtank.com). For booking information, contact Sheryl Giesbrecht at 661/325-6967 (SherylGiesbrecht@aol.com).

the real bebo norman

There's more to this
Georgia boy than
his onstage
rambling.
by tracey bumpus

I admit, I expected to see at least one dirty sock lying around somewhere in Bebo Norman's Nashville, Tenn., home. After all, he's a typical bachelor, right? Bachelor, yes. But as I found out in the day I spent with him, this rugged outdoorsman is anything but typical.

Norman's apartment was not only neat beyond belief (except for the kayak in the breakfast nook), it was also well decorated. Bebo excitedly gave me the grand tour of his place, stopping frequently to explain who the various friends and relatives peering out of the really cool picture frames were. With a tasteful display of candles burning in the living room, this 29-year-old could seriously be a new spokesperson for Pier 1 or Pottery Barn.

And did I mention he cooks? The smell of homemade cinnamon rolls deliciously filled the kitchen. Well, OK, they came out of a can; but it's the thought that counts. And despite the fact that he normally does decaf coffee ("If I drink caffeine now without any food, I will *fully* get a headache and get the shakes," he explained), he was a gracious host and provided me with the fully leaded variety to which I'm addicted.

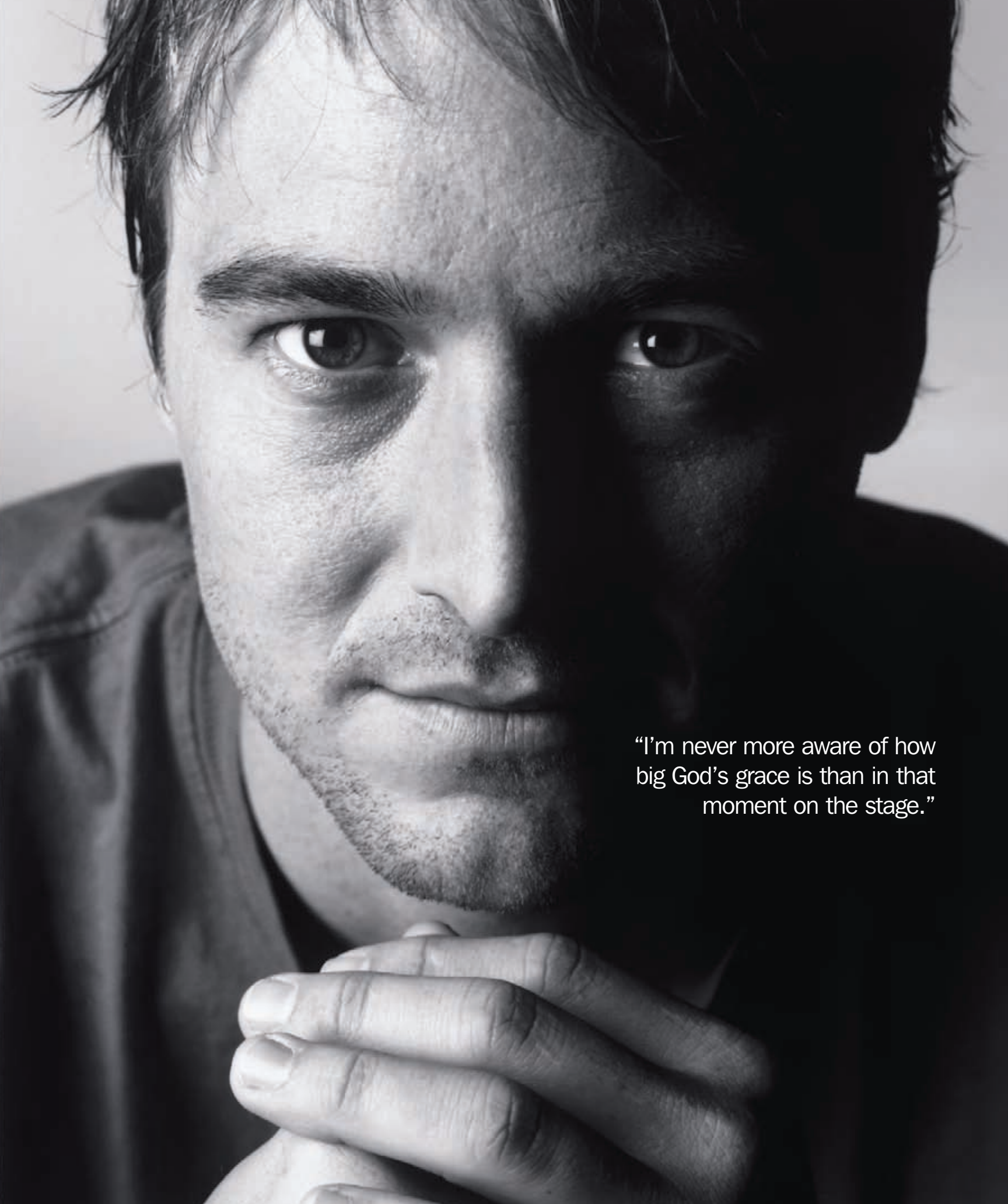
As his friends Micah Ottosen (manager) and Kirk Dahlgren (road manager) drank coffee and fielded phone calls in another room, Bebo and I settled onto his couch and discussed my quest to get to know the "real" Bebo Norman, beyond what you see on stage or even after a show.

For starters, the Columbus, Ga., native prefers vanilla to chocolate, Krystal over White Castle, Letterman to Leno, mountains to the beach and Monopoly over Trivial Pursuit. With that earth-shattering information out of the way, we were able to move on to bigger and better things.

on his depravity

"I think the biggest struggle in my life is really understanding God's love for me. Not just knowing it in my head but legitimately living by it," says Norman, pulling apart his cinnamon roll.

People often ask him if he's tempted to get a big head from being on stage every night and hearing people clap and tell him how great a job he did. But Norman says he knows himself way too well to think too much of himself.



“I’m never more aware of how big God’s grace is than in that moment on the stage.”

bebo on righteousness

“...I don’t want to be righteous because I feel bad about being bad. I want to be righteous because I understand what grace is, and grace is driving me toward righteousness—not guilt.”

“God uses the things that I struggle with in a pretty huge way to remind me of my depravity and of my need for the grace that He offers,” says Norman. “On stage, I feel more aware of who I am and how fallen I can be. I’m never more aware of how big God’s grace is than in that moment on the stage. So the tension ends up being this beautiful dance because we don’t understand grace unless we understand [our] depravity.”

But how does the knowledge of that grace play out in Norman’s everyday life?

“It paints *everything* in my life into a different color,” says Norman very matter-of-factly. “All of a sudden I don’t want to be righteous because I feel bad about being bad. I want to be righteous because I understand what grace is, and grace is driving me toward righteousness—not guilt.”

on his fans

For the uninitiated, Bebo Norman has unintentionally become the posterboy for singleness. With his boyish good looks and “aww-shucks” charm, women flock to him. I’m not exaggerating. I had several opportunities to run into him during this year’s Gospel Music Week, although I didn’t really get to talk to him. I would have had to break

through the wall of girls that constantly surrounded the poor guy. I asked him if this kind of attention was ever weird for him.

“Oh definitely,” Norman quickly replies with a grin. “Women will literally put themselves on the line in two seconds. They will set themselves up by saying, ‘Hey, can we go have coffee?’ or they’ll give me a letter that says, ‘I really feel like we could have some significant relationship,’ or something.”

While it might be easy for him to get “the big ego” over such attention, Norman seems to be able to keep a healthy perspective. “Their longing has so much less to do with me and so much more to do with their hearts and their need to see that God ultimately wants to fill that [space].”

Norman concedes that anytime you have a performer-to-audience relationship—whether it’s a mainstream or Christian artist—the possibility exists for infatuations to develop based on unrealistic perceptions. His voice drops as he turns serious, “We have really great common ground in the music that I write and that they may listen to and in the God that we believe in, but it’s no deeper than that,” Norman says in response.

THIRD TIME AROUND

Bebo Norman’s third album, *Myself When I Am Real*, releases Sept. 10 on Essential Records. While *Big Blue Sky* found Norman in more of a pop mode than the acoustic feel of *Ten Thousand Days*, *Myself When I Am Real* takes a more middle-of-the-road approach between the two, with a simpler sound both lyrically and musically.

“I really don’t think I’ve ever been as comfortable in a group of songs as I am in this group because I feel like it’s the most accurate representation of how I view myself and how I view God and the new understanding, I think, of how God’s using me,” says Norman of *Myself*.

“Falling Down” is a character song about somebody who represents any one of us—whether a believer or not—and the God-shaped vacuum we all carry. “*I don’t know You/But I love You anyway/I can’t see You/But I hope You’re here to stay/I don’t know You/But I need You here with me/Cause I’m fallin’ down, fallin’ down.*”

“People just get stuck in a place where they don’t know what they’re looking for, but they’re looking for something,” says Norman of “Falling Down.” “I think the song is about the moment where this character realizes—maybe for the first time—that she doesn’t really understand who God is, but she realizes that space inside of her is in the shape of God.” **T.B.**

Hear more of Bebo’s new music as he headlines a fall tour, kicking off Sept. 8 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. For more information, go to ccmmagazine.com.





CYBER BEBO

If you're ever in need of entertainment, go to the message board of Bebo's Web site (bebonorman.com). While there is some serious, uplifting content to be found, I just had to laugh at some of the threads. So does Bebo ever check out the postings?

"I don't get to go on there as much as I want to. I take a lot of it with a grain of salt. I love the folks on there—I think they're hilarious. But there are times when I've just been like, 'How do you know that about me? And, more importantly, *why* do you know that about me?' The funniest thing is my friends that go on there and disguise themselves. They start 90 percent of the rumors." **T.B.**

Add the spiritual aspect into the mix and sometimes that "connection" a fan feels to a performer can be exaggerated, leading a person to feel that he or she has connected with the artist in a more intimate way than is realistic or even healthy to imagine.

"We've had quite a few girls write letters saying that they think they're supposed to marry me—that they felt that God had told them that," shares Norman with a laugh. "My point is, either they're wrong or God is condoning polygamy, and I'm supposed to marry 25 women!"

While for years he desired to be a people-pleaser, Norman admits that in the last two years he has had to learn the lesson of drawing boundaries. While not an easy lesson to learn, he has found it to be a necessary one.

"When people would come up and ask me for something, I didn't want to make them feel bad, so I would sugarcoat everything. If somebody came up and said, 'Hey do you think we could hang out?' I'd say, 'Oh absolutely, you know sometime when we get back in town...' blah, blah, blah, knowing full well that the chances were that I wouldn't be able to," confesses Norman.

"The thing that I started to realize was that in trying to make people feel better, ultimately I was lying to them," he says. "Honesty is incredibly difficult sometimes, but I really believe there is no substitute for honesty in any relationship.

"If they ask me for my e-mail now, it's easy for me to say, 'You know, I can't give that to you, not because I don't like you, but because when I'm not playing shows, I have a group of people around me that I want to pour every bit of my relational energy into. And to be quite honest with you, I don't really have the energy to pour into all the people I get to see at shows outside of that show environment.'"

on his friendships

His circle of friends is something Norman has learned not to take for granted. "Probably a couple of years ago, this transition happened where I started realizing that I was desperately in need of relationships that were more than just five minutes," he recalls.

"But for three years, all I had were five-minute relationships. And so I would come home and be so relationally exhausted because I wanted to pour everything into every five-minute conversation I had with people after a show. I didn't reserve anything for the people who were the closest to me.

"I spent three years driving around by myself in a car, spending 99.9 percent of my time with strangers, and so when I moved back to Columbus, [Ga.], it was really grounding to come off the road and take two weeks to get normal again, and then it would just be my nieces and nephews throwing up on me.

"That [transition] to me was pretty huge because it made me realize that there's a beautiful place for those temporal relationships, but I have to keep a portion of myself for the intimate relationships in my life."

One of those closest to Norman is his producer, Ed Cash (Caedmon's Call, Kathy Mattea). "I get to be me, and that's huge," sums up Cash on what he gets out of a friendship with Bebo.

That sense of not having to perform is important to Norman, as well. "The best relationships I have in my life are the ones where that [performance mentality] is completely gone," says Norman. "It's not that we have to try to make it gone, it's just that there's such a level of comfort and normalcy in being with somebody that I can feel like I'm being myself because there's no pressure outside of just existing with those people."

"We've had quite a few girls write letters saying that they think they're supposed to marry me—that they felt that God had told them that. ...Either they're wrong or God is condoning polygamy, and I'm supposed to marry 25 women!"

**bebo on
groupies**



**bebo on
balancing life
and work**

“For three years, all I had were five-minute relationships. And so I would come home and be so relationally exhausted because I wanted to pour everything into every five-minute conversation I had with people after a show. I didn’t reserve anything for the people who were the closest to me.”

Norman and Cash very obviously share this ease with each other (see sidebar, “Just Between Friends”). As we sat in Cash’s home studio, the two friends swapped barbs about who was the better Sony PlayStation player and joked about the fact that—despite Norman’s promise to “wait for her”—Cash’s oldest child, Francis, 4, still plans to marry her daddy instead.

“If you meet [Bebo] at a show, you’ll think he’s your best friend [because] he’s so incredibly personable and all that stuff. But then if you step a little closer to him, you’ll realize that he’s way too deep and mysterious, and you don’t know who he is at all,” says Cash with the insight only a close friend could offer. “But then when you *really* get close to him, you’ll realize that the person you thought you really met at the show is really who he really is, but you don’t get to know that

until way on down the line.”

Over cups of decaf (they *made* me switch), Norman shared his philosophy for the friendships he enjoys most.

“Really, it came after just looking at Jesus. I’m certainly not equating myself, but our lives looked pretty similar in terms of the fact that He wasn’t ever home—He didn’t really have a home. He was gone all the time, He spoke to masses of people and spent a lot of time in crowds,” says Norman.

“But the majority of His time was with a handful of men that He surrounded Himself with and a handful of very close friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus. If that’s a model, then that has to be my model.” **ccm**

For exclusive photos and interview “extras” go to ccmmagazine.com.

JUST BETWEEN FRIENDS

Friends as close as Bebo Norman and Ed Cash should not be interviewed together. I found this out as they picked on and sniped at each other like two overgrown puppies. It was all in good fun, however, and we decided to share a few snippets with you. **T.B.**

Tracey: Ed, tell me. What is Bebo Norman *really* like?

Ed: OK, I’m not going to be silly, I’m going to be honest....

Bebo: No, I want you to be silly! I don’t like the honest part.

Ed: Ok, I’m gonna get really deep... he’s gonna be mad at me, but....

Bebo: He won’t get deep. He’ll get pseudo deep. He’ll get deep like he thinks he’s getting deep, but it’s really not so deep.

Tracey: What do you get out of a friendship with Bebo, Ed?

Bebo: He gets basically every bit of wisdom that he has in his life.

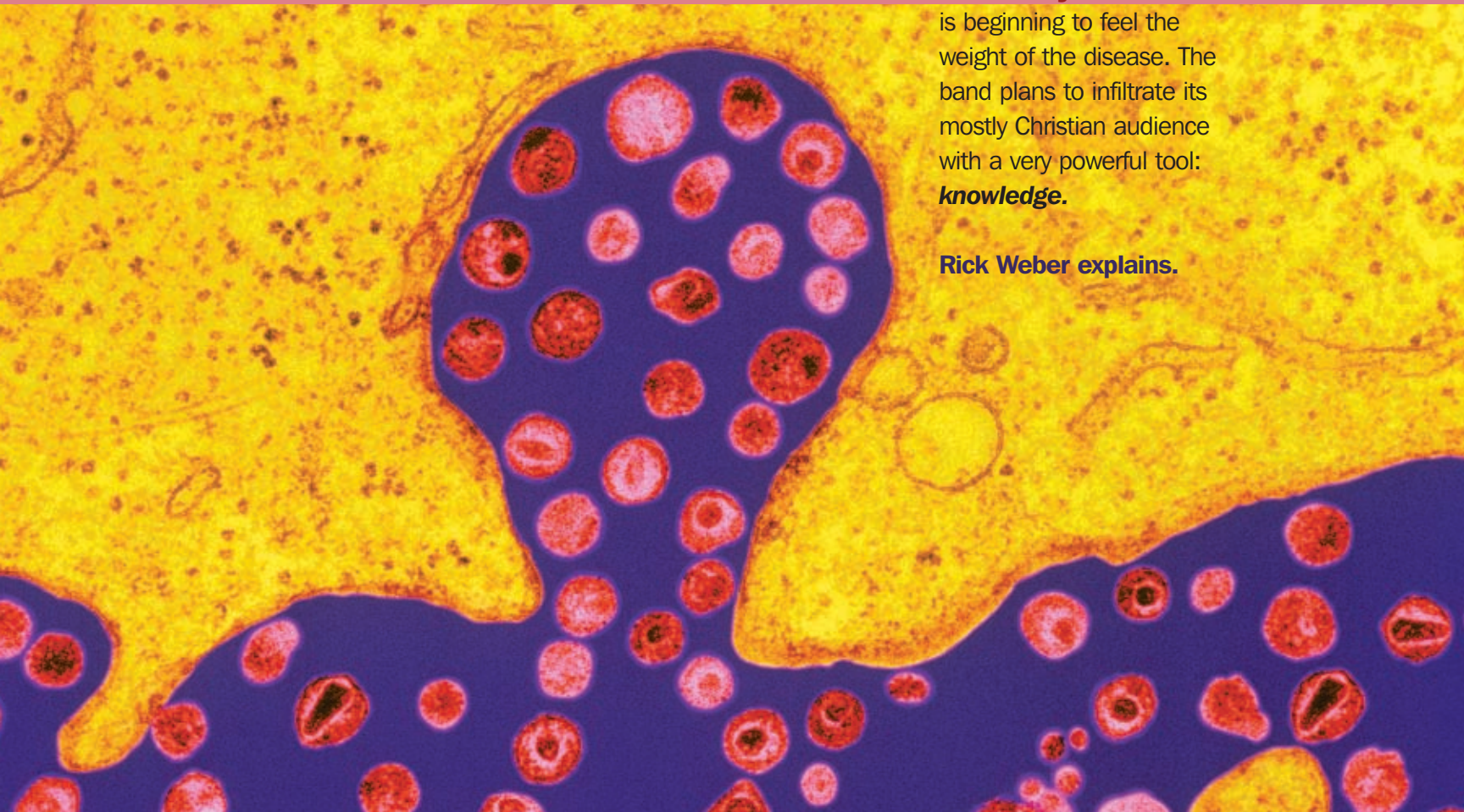
Ed: Which is why I’m kind of an idiot.

weight of the world

With its home country, South Africa, under attack by the AIDS epidemic, **The Benjamin Gate**

is beginning to feel the weight of the disease. The band plans to infiltrate its mostly Christian audience with a very powerful tool: **knowledge.**

Rick Weber explains.



TEM of T-lymphocyte producing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) magnified 19,000 times

THE BAND DROVE ALL NIGHT TO REACH HOUSTON FROM NASHVILLE,

16 hours in all. Then the members sat for four hours in the parking lot of the hotel before being able to crash in their rooms. At this point, minor details are lost on them.

"I don't know what day it is," says Adrienne Liesching, lead vocalist of The Benjamin Gate. "I think it could be Wednesday."

When she learns it's actually Thursday, she just shakes her head, then runs a hand through her orange hair, accentuating the spikes. They know this feeling well, having put more than 125,000 miles on the band's dependable but quivering Ford B-10 van in the past year.

The band is minutes from taking the stage at Lazer Rage in the Houston suburb of Stafford, and even its members will admit that they don't yet necessarily resemble a band that refers to its shows as "extreme worship" and its sound as "battle music." But they also know that a radical transformation is imminent.

"Even when the emotional thing kicks in and you're going, 'I miss my family, and I'm tired of the road,' it's cool because you always know you're alive," Liesching says. "It's not only about me. It's like, 'What can God do with us tonight?' It's like, 'OK, God, here's my little bit. Use it.' And He does. He always does."

They rip through a nine-song set of soaring sonic flourishes from their first album, *Untitled*, and the recently released *Contact* (ForeFront),

with Liesching bouncing all over the stage, guitarist Mac Pautz (wearing a pair of Oakley Overthetop sunglasses that certainly befit the "battle music" image) nearly hemorrhaging in body contortions and bassist Costa Balamatsias pogoing in his black "skilt," a combination skirt and kilt.

IN THE TIME THEY SPEND ON STAGE, APPROXIMATELY 225 AFRICANS WILL DIE OF AIDS. The insidious disease is nothing new. It has ravaged Africa for two decades. But the members of The Benjamin Gate are feeling a profound sense of urgency: Their homeland, South Africa, now has more HIV-positive individuals than any country in the world (an estimated 4.8 million). The jolting numbers: By 2008, an estimated 500,000 in South Africa will die of AIDS each year, the average life expectancy will plunge from 60 to 40 and 1.6 million children will have been orphaned by AIDS.

The images of suffering are seared into the band's consciousness. The members have seen the billboard showing a dog with its nose pointed toward the sky, howling as best as it can with a muzzle, while the prone body of an AIDS victim lies beneath, flanked by these words: "Break the silence." They are horrified by the vicious cycle created by the belief of many black African males that having sex with a virgin—even a baby or

a child—can cure them of AIDS. They have heard of infected babies being thrown into dumpsters. The band has looked into the eyes of babies delivered and abandoned by AIDS-infected mothers, or by women who have since died.

Drummer Nick Volstedt visited Grootteschuur Hospital in Cape Town and saw an entire ward of AIDS babies and came away forever changed. "They never had a chance," he says. "It freaked me out. There were hundreds. Until then, it wasn't really real. They have no future. And they're smiling, just happy that you're coming around."

If that didn't bring it home for them, then an article by Recah Theodosiou, wife of band manager Marc "Thux" Theodosiou, did. Writing for *East Cape Weekend*, she described how the hospitals in Port Elizabeth, the band's hometown, were sending AIDS babies back to their surviving relatives because they didn't have the facilities to care for them. "It affects us hugely," Pautz says. "We're thinking, 'This is our home.'"

The band members' first question: "How did this happen?" quickly gives way to another one: "What can we do?"

The band has seen the government fail. It doesn't help when your president, Thabo Mbeki, publicly questions the link between the HIV virus and AIDS and downplays the extent to which the disease has spread. It doesn't help when he rejects attempts to make funds available for life-prolonging anti-HIV drugs, or when the government says no to a \$100 million donation from Bristol-Myers Squibb Corporation because the project's doctors would be trained in the United States instead of Africa.

THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT WILL REQUIRE WORLDWIDE POWER.

And The Benjamin Gate believes it has found the vehicle: the DATA agency. You might have heard of one of the founding partners: U2's Bono.

DATA is an acronym for Debt, AIDS, Trade in Africa. It is a burgeoning non-profit organization that is trying to raise awareness about the crisis of unpayable debt that is burdening Africa, the critical need for more and better foreign development assistance, especially to fight AIDS, and trade rules that are marginalizing the world's poorest continent.

"It's something that we as a band can see is a very powerful medium, and they're moving forward at a fast rate," Thux says. "I think for the first time, we're saying, 'OK, this could actually really work.' A lot of attempts in the past have been well-initiated and well-thought-out, but when they actually get to Africa and see the literal state of it and how seriously overwhelming it is, it's sort of, 'OK, we need to rethink this and come back with a much bigger and more powerful plan.'"

The Benjamin Gate received four Dove Award nominations this year and consistently turns in concert performances that transcend its accomplished albums. But that is not enough. Not for a band with social conscience. They are going to wholeheartedly back DATA. They don't yet know how this will take shape, but it will be far more than an AIDS awareness table at its shows.

"We want people to look at the band and go, 'Hey, this band is actually involved with something that's bigger than just themselves, or bigger than its career or just the music as a whole.' We really want to make a difference," Thux says. "We can't actually help AIDS sufferers. The only way we can help as a band is to make people aware of the situation. We're hoping that somewhere along the line, the powers-that-be will recognize it and provide the money. The band is saying, 'We'll stand up and tell people about it.'"

WHERE DOES THE PASSION COME FROM? It's roots. The band members grew up in the caldron of apartheid, on a continent ravaged by famine, civil war and political corruption. Balamatsias believes that South Africans have to "rely on God in a more intense and close way because at the end of the day, that's the only thing that's going to save you."

When the band signed with ForeFront and moved to Nashville in 1999, that passion intensified. Giving up families and security, The Benjamin Gate was able to crystallize the vision of what kind of a band they wanted to be.

"We're driven by something that will not run empty," Balamatsias says. "God's gifted us with some sort of musical talent and somewhere along the line made it clear to us that that's what we have to do. We'll play as hard as we can, and we'll play everywhere until God closes the door..."

"God will be there," Liesching says.

"He will give us strength and make sure we're passionate about what we're doing, just pouring the Spirit out into us," Balamatsias adds.

"You have to decide, 'What are you going to do in life?'" Pautz says. "You've got to do something. There comes a point where God nudges you, pushes you. You have to use the gift you've got. That's how we formed and it always seems to keep us together." **ccm**

For information on how you can help those with AIDS, check out ccmmagazine.com


VOLSTEDT, POISAT, LIESCHING, PAUTZ AND BALAMATSIAS (L-R).



**"YOU HAVE TO
DECIDE, 'WHAT
ARE YOU GOING
TO DO IN LIFE?'
YOU'VE GOT TO
DO SOMETHING."**

MAC PAUTZ

table for one, please



Author Camerin Courtney has found that life is about much more than finding “Mr. Right.”

by natalie nichols gillespie

“Of course, there are down times, but on many days I think I wouldn’t trade this for anything.”

Camarin Courtney answers the phone and almost immediately apologizes for the noise in the background.

“It’s just Mr. Right,” she says.

Mr. Right? Oh no. There goes my interview on being single.

Courtney, associate editor of *Today’s Christian Woman* magazine and author of the new book *Table for One: A Savvy Girl’s Guide to Singleness* (Baker), laughs and assures me that the only fellow in her life right now is her pet parakeet. You guessed it, “Mr. Right.”

We begin to talk about life, love, dreams and singleness. See, Courtney never meant

to become an “expert” on being single. It’s just that, at 31, after eight years at *TCW*, most of the co-workers around her had gotten married, leaving her in sweatpants checking out “chick flicks” to watch with a Lean Cuisine and ice cream (not necessarily in that order) on many Saturday nights. So the singleness mantle was passed down to her

unwittingly. But you know what she’s discovered along the way? Being single—having the remote and the bathroom to yourself—can be a blast.

“Of course there are down times, but on many days I think I wouldn’t trade this for anything,” Courtney says. “It is so fun to be able to just pick up and go on a vacation, have girls’ nights out without

any guilt, invest in ministry, try new things."

Courtney grew up with one sister and two parents in the suburbs outside of Kansas City, Kansas. Mom was a teacher at her school, and Dad taught, too. A self-described "wallflower" throughout much of high school, Courtney says she didn't really have to face the pressures of balancing being a Christian and being single until college.

Since then she has dated short-term, dated long-term and not dated at all during different periods of her singleness. But it is only in recent years that she has refined the art (well, OK, she's still in the process) of getting the most out of the single life. She makes every effort to ensure that all areas of her life are fun and fulfilling.

After living for years in dorms or with female roommates, Courtney took the plunge last year and moved by herself into a vintage-y apartment over a storefront in the revamped downtown of Chicago-suburb Glen Ellyn.

"There are all these little shops, restaurants and Starbucks within walking distance," Courtney says. "And the train goes through Main Street."

Living alone proves a blessing—and a challenge.

Courtney guards against feelings of singleness self-pity by keeping in close touch with her "family of friends," remaining active in church ministry and taking time out for trips, hobbies and plenty of girls' nights out.

"One of the hardest things about being single is definitely that loneliness factor that we all have," Courtney says. "If I am not proactive at making weekend plans, I could spend the whole weekend in my pajamas, and nobody would know. It's that whole thing that Bridget Jones faced [in the hit book and movie *Bridget Jones' Diary*]: 'Oh my gosh, I am so in this world alone.'"

Courtney combats the loneliness factor by reaching out to friends who are good at sympathizing, great at cheerleading, gifted with words of encouragement. She also keeps a thanksgiving journal of all the good things that happen each day and gives the control of her singleness over to God in prayer repeatedly.

"I think there is this underlying fear that all single people feel of 'What if there isn't a husband (or wife) in my future? What if this desire deep in my heart to be in a relationship, to be in a God-

"If the only thing I can think of that I want to do is get married, then, wow, I've made life too narrow. There is this whole palette of colors in life that I am not even painting with."

honoring marriage is never fulfilled? Being single would be a party if you knew that in five years on this date, you were going to meet Mr. Joe Perfect. It's the fear that this singleness is going to be a permanent thing that makes us afraid to embrace it."

In looking back on her teen and 20-something years, Courtney says she wishes she had concentrated less on "the whole guy thing" and realized that life is a lot more than your marital or "couplehood" status.

"If the only thing I can think of that I want to do is get married, then, wow, I've made life too narrow. There is this whole palette of colors in life that I am not even painting with."

Once Courtney realized that life was more than men, it opened the door for her to concentrate on her talents, skills and gifts.

"Now is the time to learn a foreign language, see the world,

develop a ministry. If you are busy and engaged in life, there is less time to feel lonely, less of a chance that you'll fall into temptation. And to be honest, I think you are just more attractive when you are doing something that you love."

Courtney says the key to being satisfied with singleness is to remember that it is only one aspect of your life.

"By giving Him my singleness, He has united one of my greatest loves—writing—and the thing I struggle with the most—singleness—and combined them into this sort of ministry that sheds light so that people know they are not alone. That has been such a blessing. God has such a great sense of humor. He picks; we do. He opens the doors; we go through them. If I had denied Him my singleness, I would have been denied this opportunity to serve Him." **ccm**

savvy single suggestions

Give your singleness to God. When we give up the control, it frees us to be the best we can be: to pursue a happy and fulfilled life, regardless of our marital status.

Make a "Have, Be and Do" list, a list of positive things that you already have, things that you want to be and things that you want to do. With the written list in hand, you can see how rich and full your life already is—or could be—and get started on hobbies, skills, trips or missions you've always dreamed of trying.

Start a Thanksgiving Journal and add to it

daily. No, not the holiday, just a spiral notebook or blank journal where you can jot down three to five things that you are thankful for that day.

Grab a Bible and a good concordance and start writing down and studying verses with the word "love" in them. "If we see what His love looks like, it might keep us from settling for the cheap Hollywood version," Courtney says. "God does meet our need for relationship with a perfect love."

Guard your thoughts. Pay attention to what is going on in your head, and give yourself a stern talking-to when you head down the path of

negativity over your single lot. Courtney remembers being on a flight when there was an announcement congratulating the three honeymooning couples on board. Instead of getting bogged in the downward spiral of self-pity, believing the "something-must-be-wrong-with-me" myth, the "I'm-never-going-to-get-married" routine, Courtney reminded herself that "nevers" are rarely true and that statistics show only a small percent of the population never gets married. "You have to say the things to yourself that you would say to a best friend," Courtney says. **N.N.G.**



Only a short time into his marriage, San Diego-based rocker **Jeremy Camp** lost the love of his life to cancer. It was his wife's prayer that her battle would impact even one person. Little did Jeremy know that it was his life that would be changed the most. BY LISA TEDDER

a faith to remember

SHE HAD ALWAYS BEEN A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, with long, brown hair and striking, auburn eyes. She was the kind of girl who'd surprise you with her kindness and her genuine interest in people. Perhaps her beauty would have been less striking to an outsider after her hair succumbed to chemotherapy and her strength waned because of the tumor that was overtaking her body. Probably not. The most beautiful thing about her was the joy glowing in her face, and that remained unchanged to the end.

24-YEAR-OLD JEREMY CAMP REMEMBERS VIVIDLY HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE WAS, even weakened by cancer. He can't speak of his thoughts without tears, but his words are clear. She had come home from the hospital and lying on the couch in the living room, she asked him to get his guitar. On the verge of death, she wanted to do what she had always loved the most in life: sing worship to God and tell Him how much she loved Him.

Even for a worship leader, it was difficult to sing and thank God as his 21-year-old wife—married only a few months before (see photo above)—lay dying of cancer. But Melissa chose the song for him; "For You Are Good" was one of her favorites. She loved songs that enabled her to speak to God, like this chorus did: "For You are good," it ran. "You are good to me." In the

middle of such a paradox, Jeremy looked up to watch her, and he was stunned to see the joy pouring out of her face. She literally seemed to be glowing. Although so weak that she could barely lift her hands, somehow she managed to raise them toward heaven. "In the midst of trials," Jeremy remembers—even the trial of approaching death, "she knew that God was worthy to be praised."

He remembers the first time he saw Melissa with that kind of joy shining in her face. It was the day he first met her, when he was leading worship at a Bible study she attended. "I looked up," Jeremy says, "and saw her raising her hands up so high to the Lord. You could tell that she was worshiping Him with her whole heart—she was just glowing. Her face that day is an image that's still with me."

Jeremy Camp didn't know it then, but he fell in love that day.

HE DIDN'T FULLY REALIZE HOW MUCH HE CARED FOR HER, however, until after doctors discovered a tumor in Melissa's stomach the size of a volleyball. The day Jeremy first saw her after learning that she had cancer, he was amazed again by the strength of her joy and her faith. "I don't know if I could have had that kind of joy if I had been in her situation," he confesses. "But she was beaming. God's love, and her love for Him, were

“When there’s something that you want and believe in so much—trusting that God will do it—and for some reason He chooses not to give it to you, that’s when you walk by faith. You decide to still trust that God knows what He’s doing.”

just shining.” As she spoke with him of her excitement over opportunities to encourage nurses and doctors and talk to them about Christ, he was even more overwhelmed by her courage. “If I were to die from this,” she told him, “and the testimony of my death would bring even one person to Christ, it would be worth it.”

IT WAS WHILE DRIVING HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL that Jeremy knew he’d fallen in love. As he prayed desperately for her healing, he felt how unequal he was to the task of loving a girl who was probably going to die. But the conclusion of his prayer surprised him even as he said it, and he felt that it was God’s words to him, instead of the other way around. “If she tells me she loves me,” he prayed, “then I’ll marry her.”

A week later, Melissa told him exactly that. “Even if you don’t love me and never do,” she said, “I love you.” Jeremy was again so overcome that it took him a week to answer, “I love you, too.” But from that moment on they enjoyed a reprieve together, even as she lost her hair to chemotherapy during their six-month engagement. “We were so happy,” Jeremy remembers, smiling. “We knew God was in control, and we loved each other so much that nothing else mattered.” The chemotherapy seemed successful, and their wedding and honeymoon saw Melissa enjoy returning health and activity.

THE REMISSION, HOWEVER, WAS SHORT-LIVED. They had barely returned from their honeymoon before pain in Melissa’s stomach took them back to the hospital and the doctor’s devastating words: “She has weeks or months left to live.”

God’s power is sovereign, but His ways are inscrutable. “I know God can do miracles,” Jeremy still believes. “I know He does do miracles.” But for Melissa, the miracle they were praying for never happened. She came out of unconsciousness just long enough to wrap her arms around her husband one last time before she died on Feb. 5, 2001. In the moments after she died—the most painful moments of his life—Jeremy began to understand the secret that had always given her so much joy.

“I fell to the floor just sobbing,” he remembers. “I was so confused; I

didn’t understand anything. But in that moment, God spoke to my heart. He said, ‘I want you to stand up and worship Me right now.’ So I stood up, even though I didn’t feel like worshiping at all, and God said, ‘I will be with you through this. I want you to know that I am worthy to be praised.’” In that moment, Jeremy began to understand a whole new meaning of walking by faith. “When there’s something that you want and believe in so much—trusting that God will do it—and for some reason He chooses not to give it to you,” he says, “that’s when you walk by faith. You decide to still trust that God knows what He’s doing.”

Over time, as he continued to grieve, Jeremy realized more and more how much he needed to worship God even in the midst of loss. “It’s one thing when God does something amazing, and then you praise Him,” Jeremy believes. “It’s another when you’re in a very dark time—when you see no hope—and you still rejoice and praise God. Because no matter what, He is worthy.”

ONLY A FEW WEEKS AFTER MELISSA’S DEATH, Jeremy wrote his first song, “I Still Believe.” It became his declaration of the goodness of God. “I still believe in Your faithfulness,” he sang. “I still believe in Your truth/I still believe in Your Holy Word/Even when I cannot see, I still believe.” Only a month later, he began performing and leading worship again. “Go right now,” God told him, “right away, start encouraging people.” And so he did. Doors began opening for him professionally in ways he could never have expected, and soon he had signed a record contract with Tooth & Nail Records. His first label release is due out on Sept. 24, to be followed by a worship album in December or early spring.

But as grateful as Jeremy is for these opportunities, the music will always be secondary to the message he wants to share. “God has entrusted me with this testimony,” he believes, “Music for me is just an outlet of the ministry God has given me. Music is not my life; Christ is my life.” His hope is that Melissa’s words would continue to be fulfilled: “For every person who’s brought to Christ because of this testimony, it’s worth it.” **ccm**

Look for an exclusive interview with Jeremy Camp at ccmmagazine.com.

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CCM panel gives Groves' new album a thumbs up

Making comparisons ranging from a Bare Naked Ladies' jammin' intro to the melodic crooning of Sarah McLachlan, the reviewers from *CCM Magazine's* nascent CD review session surprised themselves—and us—at how much they liked Groves' new album, despite their ages and usual musical preferences. Although only half said they would purchase the album, our panel, consisting of three guys (Robyn, 20, Ryan, 14, and James, 15) and three girls (Lauren, 17, Mary, 16, and Morgan, 14) all agreed that although they weren't sure at first how much they'd relate, by the album's close they'd grown to enjoy many of Groves' tunes.

Overall, the group was highly complimentary of Groves' lyrical content, appreciating the way she used nontraditional images and metaphors to explain spiritual concepts. So, will they be the first in line to buy the album or sitting in the front row of Groves' next concert? Maybe not, but for these debut reviewers, the album was *All Right Here*.

STEPHANIE OTTOSEN

No questions asked, it's *All Right Here*.



SARA GROVES
All Right Here INO

Groves' sophomore project is spectacular.

On her sophomore album, Sara Groves proves she can pull her weight as a songwriter, offering a collection of straightforward songs about love, relationships and growth expertly articulated with simple, clean musicianship and tasteful production.

The album is a step up from Groves' 2001 national debut, *Conversations*, reflecting a more subtle approach in her

File under:
Folk/Country
Sounds like:
Emmy Lou Harris, Bebo Norman,
Gillian Welch

GRADE: A

songwriting. While her writing style is still more didactic and conversational than poetic and metaphorical, the 13 songs on *All Right Here* are less overtly spiritual in lyric and lack the overused spiritual clichés found on her first project.

The title track is brilliant with its bouncy guitar hooks, toe-tapping percussion, repetitive chorus line and catchy rhymes.

"Fly" is a lilting pop piano ballad reminiscent of songs on Sarah McLachlan's *Surfacing*, and considering the song's spare piano arrangement and the delicate falsetto that Groves often slips into, I'd venture to say that McLachlan is an influence.

"Tornado," a tune about people who are constantly turning others' lives upside down, is a roots-tinged departure from the rest of the album. While more Gillian Welch than McLachlan, the uptempo tune may appeal to country music fans more so than Christian radio, and listen for the rockin' dobro played by legendary instrumentalist Phil Madeira.

The song I keep playing over and over is the Groves/Sabin-penned "Maybe There's a Loving God." While it may never resonate well with radio programmers, as it lacks the obligatory catchy chorus/soaring bridge hit radio combo, the melancholy melody and honest lyrics articulate one's innate longing for spiritual significance and an inkling that "Maybe I was made this way/To think and to reason and to question and to pray/And I have never prayed a lot/But maybe there is a God." I'm still hitting repeat. **LIZZA CONNOR**



VARIOUS

Girls of Grace Word

Beautifully graceful

"Girls of Grace" is the name of an upcoming teen girls conference hosted by the members of Point of Grace. The *Girls of Grace* album is a multi-artist project that gathers some of the leading women in Christian music to create a light pop worship album to coincide with the conference.

The album is reminiscent of Amy Grant and friends' 1993 project *Songs from*

File under:
Pop/Praise & Worship
Sounds like:
Songs from the Loft, Point of Grace

GRADE: B+

the Loft with youth choir and largely acoustic driven melodies. The album features a few worship hits with minimal deviation from the familiar choruses, such as the slightly R&B "Every Move I Make" voiced by Out of Eden and "You Are My All In All" by Nichole Nordeman. New songs are styled for corporate worship and should be easy for the girls to learn.

While the album doesn't do anything new per se, it accomplishes what it sets out to do, giving the teens that attend the *Girls of Grace* conference a soundtrack to the event. **MARCIA BARTENHAGEN**



ALLENTOWN

Allentown Tall People Music

Independent worship dream

With most praise and worship-oriented music, it is simple enough to be sung again and again on Sunday mornings, and the verses surrounding them are often equally simplistic with their unadulterated adoration to God. And when it's all said and done, there's nothing wrong with that because worship isn't really about the music anyway.

File under:
Pop/Praise & Worship
Sounds like:
Out of the Grey, Vineyard worship CDs

GRADE: B+

But when an artist manages to weave new life into lyrics in the praise & worship genre, it's just that much better for the listener. Rather than merely presenting its take on tried and true favorites like "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever" or "Shout to the Lord," husband/wife duo Allentown flexes its songwriting muscles with plaintively poetic expressions of praise.

With a musical style reminiscent of the quieter guitar sounds of Vineyard recordings, Jonathan and Allison Allen use their adept voices to breathe new life into contemplative worship. While it would be nice to see a little more musical variation from track to track, Allentown's self-titled effort manages to avoid cliché songwriting and is ultimately satisfying. With continued musical growth, this independent act is definitely one worth checking out in the future. **CHRISTA FARRIS**

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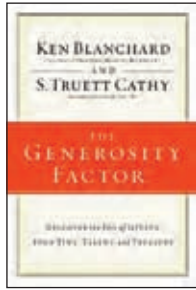
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THE GENEROSITY FACTOR
Ken Blanchard and S. Truett Cathy Zondervan

GRADE: C-

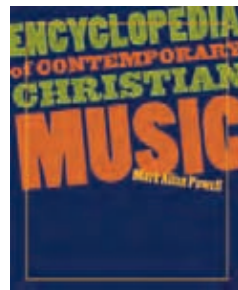
Blanchard's and Cathy's story follows an egocentric investment broker, unoriginally named "Broker," through his evolution from success to significance.

Inspired by a story in his daily paper of a wealthy auto-plant "Executive" who invests outside his own interests, namely in other people, the disbelieving Broker decides he must meet the man in person to believe his tale; thus the journey in generosity begins.

Seventeen brief chapters track Broker's enlightenment as he flies to the Colorado-based exec's home to follow him on his daily grind of giving—to his employees, his foster children, his wife, etc. While I won't give away the conclusion, you can imagine the change that comes about. It's a typical morality tale sprinkled with few surprises but lots of heart, nonetheless.

The fictitious account is a noble attempt to champion the virtues of giving, but it's also a thinly veiled celebration of the author Cathy's own story. In reality, "Executive" mirrors fast-food mogul, Chick-fil-A founder Cathy, whose own life reflects the principles articulated in *The Generosity Factor*.

Readers may do well to apply such life lessons sketched here, but *The Generosity Factor* is written in such overly-simplified style and is so full of clichés that it may fall short of inspiring the affluent audience that needs to hear the lessons most. **LIZZA CONNOR**



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC
Mark Allan Powell Hendrickson

GRADE: C

Designed to serve as "a definitive reference work," the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music* does a thorough job (with the exception of a few factual errors here and there) of providing information about the artists from the early days of the "Jesus Movement" to the present.

As a point of reference, this volume generally accomplishes its purpose. However, what could be a great resource ends up only being good when author Powell throws his editorial two cents into the mix. Saying that Michael W. Smith is "generally considered to be the prettiest singer in Christian music" or that Nichole Nordeman's "movie star good looks were seldom exploited in promotion" is not only unnecessary but severely damages the author's credibility in the process. Another troublesome factor is Powell's tendency to blast media outlets (yes, even CCM was among those mentioned) that may not have agreed with his perception of a particular album. Rather than letting readers develop an opinion for themselves, Powell seems dead-set on expressing his—which isn't really credible in a resource like this. **CHRISTA FARRIS**

"Holding on to Hope gives biblical insight on how to react to life's miseries... offers comfort and advice on how to submit to God's will and not ask 'Why?' but 'For what purpose?'"
SEE EDITOR'S PICK



THE WISDOM OF TENDERNESS
Brennan Manning

HarperSanFrancisco

GRADE: A

Simple language and a direct approach is the mode for this author's intellectually and emotionally stimulating book on the tenderness and mercy the Father offers His children.

One of the beauties of this book is the way Manning personally demonstrates the mercy of Christ and the wisdom of living in tenderness through his own failures. His openness and honesty about his own shortcomings endear him to the reader and serve to magnify the teachings he wants to convey.

The only possible "downfall" of this book would be that it can't—or at least shouldn't—be read in multiple sittings. The few but lengthy chapters and fluidity of thought lend themselves to no more than two, maximum three, sittings. However, its minimal page count (158) makes this an attainable goal.

But don't let its length fool you: this book is meant to be taken in quickly but processed slowly.

Teaching on the tenderness of God and how it transforms lives from the inside out is a seldom understood or correctly taught principle that Manning deftly and simply reveals.

In the end, Manning leaves the reader overwhelmed with a sense of human inadequacy but overjoyed at the grace and tenderness offered that ultimately forgives and changes lives, communities and cultures. **STEPHANIE OTTOSEN**



HABITS OF THE HIGH-TECH HEART
Quentin J. Schultz Baker

GRADE: B+

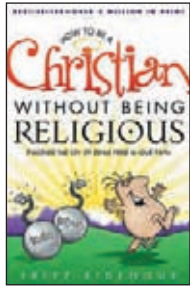
It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that cyberspace has dramatically changed the way we do everything. Ordinary processes like purchasing a plane ticket are now more proficient, and almost anything a person could ever want is available with a click of a mouse.

But are these changes always in the best interest of a Christian's quest for a life with meaning and virtue? This is the question that author Quentin J. Schultz attempts to answer in *Habits of the High-tech Heart*.

While it would be easy to dismiss Schultz as just another codger who believes "everything was better in the old days," he quickly points out that he isn't opposed to—and even embraces—current technology. Rather than proverbially throwing out the baby with the bathwater, Schultz poses a challenge to Christians to "reshape their understanding of digital technology" and to "live by habits of heart in the information age."

Whether addressing the lack of personal connection that can occur when too much time is invested in front of the computer screen, or the compromised integrity that can result from creating false identities on message boards and in chatrooms, Schultz always manages to strike a balance. Rather than attempting to hammer a point home, he's simply waving a warning flag that could provide for some interesting discussion later.

CHRISTA FARRIS



HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN WITHOUT BEING RELIGIOUS
Fritz Ridenour Regal/Gospel Light
GRADE: C+

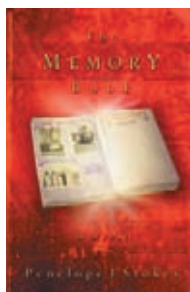
With a vastly popular previous edition that sold over four million copies, author Fritz Ridenour seeks to update his classic study of the Book of Romans. While the title suggests that Ridenour is offering an “un-religious” approach, that’s clearly

not the case. Ridenour uses the Apostle Paul’s arguments to the Christians of Rome to emphasize that Christianity is a relationship to God that transcends joyless rules and rituals.

Ridenour challenges both novices and long-time believers to give into this vital connection to God and not reduce Christian principles to the comfort and convenience of a religion. For Ridenour, Christianity is not merely about being religious, it’s about that extra—that something more.

Updated with modern stories and everyday experiences, *How to Be a Christian* succeeds at many levels, yet its unwillingness to use gender inclusive language suggests it has not fully come to terms with a modern readership that might be put off by this failure. If you’re going to address folk with spiritual curiosity in this culture, like Paul at Mars Hill, respect their language and symbols. Paul’s epistle is a powerful lesson of how God reaches beyond human boundaries. Ridenour’s insights are most helpful when they point to this truth.

BRIAN QUINCY NEWCOMB



THE MEMORY BOOK
Penelope J. Stokes W Publishing
GRADE: B+

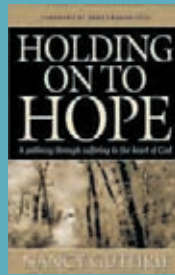
Phoebe Lange, by all outward appearances, has everything a young woman could want. She has just completed a Master’s degree, her boyfriend has asked her to marry him and she has loving friends. As for family,

Phoebe has only her elderly grandmother who raised her after the death of her mother when Phoebe was 5.

Though Phoebe appears happy, inside she struggles with mounting doubts and unnamable fears. A trip home to visit her ailing grandmother lures Phoebe into the world of her namesake, deceased great-aunt Phoebe. Through the pages of an old memory book and a lost diary, Phoebe enters the 1920s world of her aunt in search of answers to her family’s long-held violent past. Through a dream, Phoebe relives the last week of Aunt Phoebe’s life and courageously attempts to change its violent outcome. In doing so, Phoebe learns to face the fears that shroud her own present-day life.

MICHELE HOWE

editor’s pick



HOLDING ON TO HOPE
Nancy Guthrie Tyndale
GRADE: A

Through her heartbreaking story of loss, author Nancy Guthrie shares how she learned to cope with profound grief and gained strength to experience a more intimate relationship with Christ. Her book applies to all types of loss, reaching out to everyone.

Guthrie gives the account of her tragic loss of baby Hope to Zellweger Syndrome, an incurable metabolic disorder. Since there is no treatment for this rare genetic disease, the Guthrie family lost Hope in less than six months.

Enduring the loss of a child was excruciating for Guthrie, but more agony was ahead. Even after taking precautionary measures to prevent another pregnancy, Guthrie learned she was to have another baby, a son, also with Zellweger Syndrome.

Guthrie openly reveals her response to her bereavement and points the reader to study how Job, a man of great faith, responded when he was stricken by numerous tragedies. Guthrie encourages the reader to look for God in suffering and realize that He has a purpose even in times of pain. Like Job, we should allow our suffering to shape us and transform our character into the likeness of Christ.

Holding on to Hope gives biblical insight on how to react to life’s miseries. This book offers comfort and advice on how to submit to God’s will and not ask “Why?” but “For what purpose?” Guthrie’s story will surely lead others to God in the midst of despair.

DAWN PHARRIS

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NEW KEYBORDS THAT ROAR

FROM C TO SHINING C

ROLAND FANTOM

Gone is the familiar Roland orange LCD display and black casing. In their place are a large, blue information screen wrapped by a pewter cabinet. But the real news is the sound produced by the XV-Series generator and the streamlined user interface. Roland has a winner here, with its digital output and advanced sequencer making the deal even sweeter. At 76 keys long, the Fantom strikes a keen balance between a lightweight five-octave synth and a cumbersome 88-note controller. Already a sales success, the Fantom is proving to be anything but an apparition.

\$2,295 rolandus.com

YAMAHA P120

Hammer action is the ability of a keyboard to replicate the movement of a piano key against the string. The problem with the technique has been a hard on/off response that leaves no room for subtlety. To resolve the problem, Yamaha has created a graded hammer action that covers every pressure from *pianissimo* to *triple forte*. As one of the first portables to carry this new technology, the P120 grants the player real piano feel in an easily transported enclosure. Additional features include excellent string, organ and bass tones that are faithfully reproduced by the internal speaker system. For rehearsal, the P120's built-in two-track sequencer allows difficult parts to be recorded and played back in real time. It seems Yamaha excels at everything it does, and the P120 is no exception.

\$1,499 yamaha.com



GENERALMUSIC SK880

Intelligent arranger keyboards have a poor image among pro players because their throughput equals their input, or, as geeks say, garbage in, garbage out. Bad music is not the fault of the instrument, and the SK880 proves the point. Given competent data ingredients, this keyboard can whip up a satisfying entrée in seconds. Starting with drums and a bassline, the SK880's rhythm chops get the groove going, while the brass stabs and backing tracks fill out the song with ease. The player need only choose a reasonable melody and the SK880 will handle the rest. Generalmusic will soon release a number of stylized Christian music arrangements, morphing the unit into a true instrument of praise.

\$2,495 generalmusic.com



KAWAI CN380

For years, keyboard manufacturers have tried to replicate the touch and feel of an acoustic piano. Instead of weights or springs, Kawai has gone to the original source and developed a method that works like a real piano. The result is excellent attack and rebound action that any pianist will find comforting in the transition from acoustic to electronic tone generation. The CN380 also has enough tonal horsepower and the requisite beautiful cabinet needed to replace a real piano. As an added bonus, the logical layout and simple controls cement the deal for anyone looking for the right combination to unlock the mystery of creativity.

\$2,395 kawaius.com



ULTIMATE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Ultimate Support is in the "failure isn't an option" business of keeping gear off the floor. From the original tubular aluminum innovation that forms the basis of the company's tripod speaker stands to the groundbreaking triangular Apex keyboard stand, Ultimate has always been undergirding the leading edge of technology. In place of standard round base mic stands, they developed a horseshoe shape that allows six stands to be stacked using only the footprint of one. Plastic breaks easily—carbon fiber does not. This is the reasoning behind Ultimate's exclusive use of strengthened connection pieces in their stands and the rationale behind the lifetime guarantee they place on each product. As the recognized leader in equipment support, Ultimate Support has made the task of holding things up much easier and certain.

\$270 ultimatesupport.com



INTERNET IZZY'S ADVENTURES IN CYBERSPACE EXPLORING YOUR VIRTUAL WORLD

IZZY'S INBOX

Marking the end of sweltering summer heat (unless you're like me and happen to reside in the South where the temperatures don't drop until October), it's almost time to start thinking about headin' back to the classroom. So for the college kids who check out *CCM Magazine*, this link is for you. If you're feeling a little apprehensive on how you'll survive all those classes while still managing to enjoy some fun, the Web sites here provide some excellent tips: google.com/search?hl=en&q=college+survival+tips.

And for all those lovers of Christian music, don't worry, I haven't forgotten you. This month's Internet adventures led me on an exciting expedition into the world of unofficial fan sites. Here are a few highlights:

For the gaggle of girls who still can't get enough of Plus One, there's an entire universe devoted to the guys at: plusoneplanet.cjb.net.

For all those little-known facts you've always wanted to know... this is the place.

Prefer bands on the louder side of the musical spectrum? Taking a look at P.O.D.'s tribute page at thesouthtown.com or MxPx's punk rock fan site at mxpxnet.virtualave.net will certainly provide surfing satisfaction.

If you have an extraordinarily superior and completely out-of-this-world Web site dedicated to your favorite artists, be sure to let me know about it. izzy@ccmcom.com is my address—just in case you forgot.

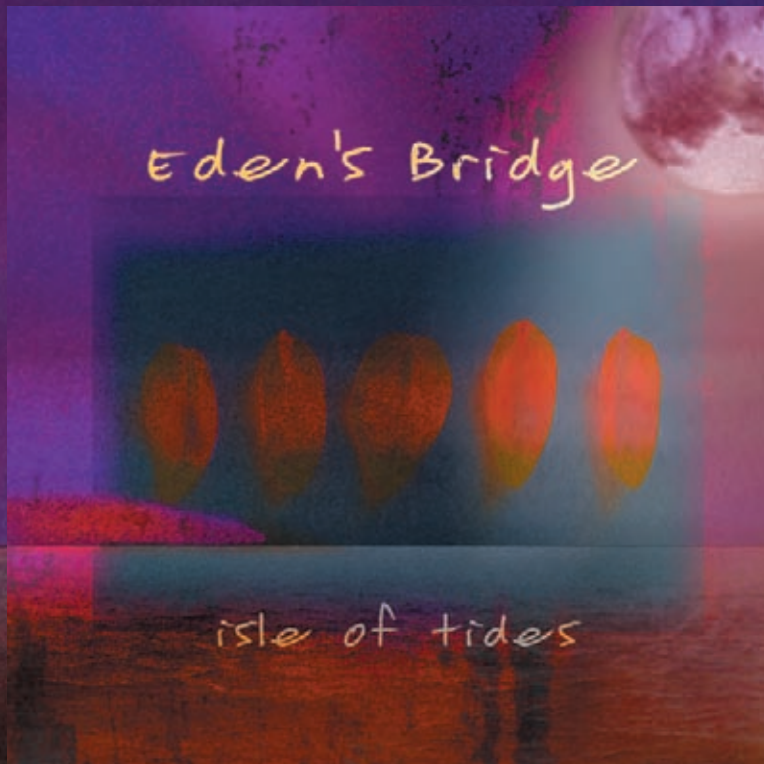
CYBERBABBLE

"The sound of worship should never be limited but explored and expanded. Consider the different sounds of worship from Integrity to Hosanna, Vineyard to Morning Star, Passion to Worship Together, Hillsongs to hymns, etc. They all have a very distinct sound, yet they all invite the



presence of God. It's funny how many of the old hymns were taken from old bar/tavern songs of the day, and the words were just re-written to be Christian. I wonder if these songs of praise were embraced by the people of the time or if they were rejected because they were too contemporary, ground-breaking or different from what they were used to?"—Sith Lord Darth RPG, from the Delirious thread of ccmchat.com posts his thoughts and questions about praise & worship music.

What do you think of what he had to say? E-mail me your thoughts to izzy@ccmcom.com. Last month, several of you had plenty to say about Jars of Clay, so check out the feedback at ccmmagazine.com.

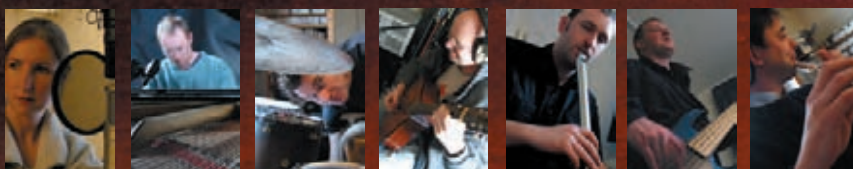


After a two year break from recording and with well over half a million album sales of the 'Celtic' series behind them, multiple Dove nominees Eden's Bridge return with a stunning new album.

'Immaculately played, sung and arranged - these guys are magic!'
- *Cross Rhythms*

'Eden's Bridge play all their music with real flair and create a musical dreamscape' - *Giveaway magazine - New Zealand*

'Whatever their secret is, it's worth discovering!' - *Juice*



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PHOTO BY: ANDY SACKS

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THE UPPERCLASSMEN SURVIVING AND THRIVING DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

THE SCENE IS FAMILIAR:

Bright-eyed, excited 18-year-olds wave goodbye to their families who are drying their eyes inside their minivans as they pull away from the dorm parking lot and head home. Suddenly the freshmen are alone—and facing their first crucial week at college. Will they adjust? Thrive? Make friends? Love their classes? Or, will homesickness and loneliness disillusion them—like many young people facing life away from familiar surroundings for the first time?

OR MAYBE YOU'RE AN OLD PRO AT THIS MID-AUGUST RITUAL, and you don't even bring your family to move-in day anymore because you have your own car on campus. But did you ever think you

“You don't have to adjust and figure out your whole college experience during orientation.”

CHRIS CARLSON, GORDON COLLEGE

may have something to offer these freshmen (even as you giggle at them moving their entire bedrooms from home into closet-sized dorm rooms)? Whether you're unpacking your stuff for the first time or the umpteenth time, the first week of the college semester presents obstacles and opportunities for all students.

For you freshmen, however, it may be the most important week of your entire college career, but don't stress.

“THE BEST ADVICE FOR FRESHMEN IS TO GET INVOLVED,” says Angela

Naginey, assistant director of student life and residence at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. “Join a club, get involved with student government, visit different rooms in your residence hall. Don't be a hermit—meet as many people as you can. Even if you have a heavy load of classes your first week, concentrate on getting to know people and get out there. Go to things. If something sounds interesting, try it out—as long as it's not dangerous.”

Naginey adds that the more you're involved on

campus and the more support systems you can find, the sooner you'll feel at home.

Chris Carlson, associate dean of students at Gordon College in Wenham, Mass., agrees that it's important to get involved—but not necessarily at a breakneck pace. “You don't have to adjust and figure out your whole college experience during orientation,” Carlson says. “I try to remind students to have patience, have fun with their experiences and that the transition will take their entire first year—so take one thing at a time.”

Naginey and Carlson agree that while upperclassmen may struggle with a different set of issues than freshmen, these older students are

invaluable assets to freshmen orientation. “Upperclassmen can be mentors,” Naginey says. “They can point freshmen in the right direction because they've already been through it.”

Carlson says he encourages upperclassmen to smile and try to help the herds of lost freshmen that stream onto campus every fall. “With a community culture, freshmen can get really good role models from among upperclassmen and connect with them.”

And for freshmen, the key word appears to be *persevere*. “Keep an open mind,” Naginey says. “Get excited to learn and to meet new people.” Says Carlson: “You never get another chance to experience college for the first time—enjoy it.”

DAVE URBANSKI

THE QUEEN IS CELEBRATING HER 50-YEAR JUBILEE, MICK JAGGAR HAS BEEN KNIGHTED AND THE UNDERGROUND FOLLOWING OF CHRISTIAN MUSIC IS SLOWLY COMING TO THE SURFACE.

'MIND THE GAP': LONDON'S MUSICAL UNDERGROUND

For millions of visitors, England's capital continues to be a living museum where fur-hatted guards strut, ancient buildings stand regal and history is on sale for the price of an open-bus tour. But musically, too, London has long enjoyed its reputation as a swinging city. One of the world's largest record companies, EMI, has its headquarters here while its theatres, clubs and pubs offer a huge array of live music each night. As for Britain's small but growing Christian music scene, London is not the epicenter. None of Britain's Christian record labels are based here, and the UK's best known music ministries like Delirious, The Tribe and Paul Oakley only visit the capital to play the occasional concert.

Despite this, there is a flourishing underground music scene flowing from London's churches. First, there is the R&B/garage scene. Today, over half of London's churchgoers are black, and dozens of acts have emerged performing R&B gospel and garage gospel (for the uninitiated, UK garage is an R&B derivative which takes elements of techno into its riff-driven grooves). Acts like girl group Siani, gospel diva Helen Yawson, R&B team Global Zamar and garage songstress Neresa Maye have all released singles or albums you'll hear on Britain's first Christian radio station, London's Premier Radio.

On the other end of the musical spectrum, London sports Britain's only regular Christian hard music venue, the Asylum in London's Soho. This month the Asylum Church will be one of the organizers of the Destruction Festival, on Aug. 9-11, which will include in its delights death metal from Last Days of Torment, industrial metal from "X" and punk rock from Cephas. **TONY CUMMINGS**

LONDON AREA ARTISTS the music you haven't heard yet

The Wades is an R&B/gospel institution whose independent album, *A Family Thing*, was spotlighted in *Billboard* as the best UK gospel album of the year. thewades.co.uk

Sabio is a fine acoustic-tinged rock band that built up a major UK following under its original name, Fruit, and have now returned with *Escape*. sabio.uk.com

Jonnys in the Basement is the occasional CD identity of record producer Jonny Baker, a pioneer of alternative praise & worship, whose music takes in trip hop and breakbeat. proost.co.uk/backbone.html **COMPILED BY T.C.**

TRUE COMMUNION an interview with matt redman

English worship leader Matt Redman does a lot more than just sing in the studio. Twenty miles from London is Watford, a thriving town which in recent years has become known as the headquarters of Soul Survivor, a youth ministry whose annual events in Somerset have drawn thousands and whose record label has launched several key worship ministries, including Redman's. Redman shares his thoughts on worship and relocating away from Soul Survivor.



On his recent decision to leave Soul Survivor: "It's a really big thing moving, and there's a lot of emotion. Mike Pilavachi [founder of Soul Survivor], my wife Beth and I had a real consensus that this is God, and it's a new season, and we'll still be walking together and working together on things."

On his new church: "We're going to be moving to Brighton and plugging in with the Church of Christ the King there, which is a part of New Frontiers International. There are a number of other worship leaders already there like Phatfish and the Stoneleigh folks like Stuart Townend, Kate Simmonds and Paul Oakley. It's a clean sheet, and there is time to dream and hear what God is saying."

On his new album *Where Angels Fear to Tread* (Sparrow): "We started off with communion and shared bread and wine and recognized we had a bond between us and that it wasn't just music. I thought if we just met and fellowshiped around Jesus and tried to respond to His Word through music, I knew we would have some special times."

INTERVIEW BY MIKE RIMMER

Surf tour dates by city or state at ccmmagazine.com.
Artists are now listed in alphabetical order by first name.

98TH PARALLEL

Aug 9-Steubenville, OH
10-Mercersburg, PA
Sept 7-Pella, IA
615/859-7040

4HIM

Aug 2-Charlotte, NC
3-Columbia, SC
8-Chillicothe, OH
18-Rockford, IL
23-Leawood, KS
24-St. Louis, MO
Sept 1-Canton, OH
13-Sioux Falls, SD
14-Fargo, ND
19-Waterloo, IA
20-Madison, WI
21-St. Paul, MN
22-Duluth, MN
27-San Antonio, TX
30-Houston, TX
615/963-3000

ACAPPELLA

Aug 5-Hernando, MS
11-Muskegon, MI
18-Midwest City, OK
19-Topeka, KS
20-Junction City, KS
22-Hays, KS
23-Hutchinson, KS
24-El Dorado, KS
25-Enid, OK
28-Dumas, TX
30-Longmont, CO
31-Grand Junction, CO
Sept 1-Kansas City, MO
2-South Fork, CO
21-Arlington, TX
28-Bossier City, LA
901/641-6810

ACCORDING TO JOHN

Aug 4-West Carrollton, OH
17-Rocky Mountain, NC
615/778-0088

ACE TROUBLESHOOTER

Aug 2-Lincoln, NH
17-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
615/662-7776

ALVIN SLAUGHTER

Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
7-Huntington, WV
11-Houston, TX
25-Danbury, CT
Sept 1-Jacksonville, FL
8-Medford, NY
15-Kansas City, MO
21-Poughkeepsie, NY
22-Danbury, CT
29-Dallas, TX
914/986-2766

AMONG THORNS

Aug 31-Rochester, NY
615/297-2021

ANDREW GARLTON

Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
10-Lansing, MI
30-Wisconsin Dells, WI
615/285-3000

ANONITED

Aug 10-Muskegon, MI
16-Porterfield, WI
17-Pigeon Forge, TN
Sept 24-Lubbock, TX
615/859-7040

APOLOGETH

Aug 4-Lincoln, NH
10-Eden Prairie, MN
15-Hanceville, AL
17-Clymer, PA
24-Canton, OH
25-Oakdale, PA
31-Tipton, PA
Sept 1-Jackson, NJ
7-Marion, OH
11-Honolulu, HI
21-Holland, MI
28-Huntington Station, NY
949/770-3001

ASHLEY CLEVELAND

Aug 11-Hanover, PA
Sept 21-Auburn, CA
28-Neodesha, KS
219/269-3413

AUDIO ADRENALINE

Aug 3-Lincoln, NH
4-Estes Park, CO
6-Darien Center, NY
9-Muskegon, MI
10-Oklahoma City, OK
17-Pigeon Forge, TN
23-Waco, TX
24-Midland, TX
Sept 7-Lake Buena Vista, FL
13-Spartanburg, SC
615/963-3000

AURORA

Aug 4-Coatesville, PA
615/790-5540

AVALON

Aug 1-Santa Rosa, CA
9-Colorado Springs, CO

17-Pigeon Forge, TN
18-Redmond, WA
23-Columbia, SC
27-Timonium, MD
30-Waco, TX
Sept 1-Sioux Falls, SD
14-Denver, CO
21-Charlotte, NC
24-Lubbock, TX
26-Kennesaw, GA
27-Carrollton, TX
615/963-3000

BABBEY MASON

Aug 24-Frankfort, KY
Sept 14-Grand Rapids, MI
818/992-5780

BASIX

Sept 8-Lodi, CA
219/269-3413

BERNABO

Aug 23-Pevely, MO
31-Kansas City, MO
Sept 28-Wilkesboro, NC
615/297-2021

BEBO NORMAN

Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
Sept 1-Greenwood Village, CO
615/297-2021

BEN GLOVER

Aug 7-Suffolk, VA
10-Arbuckle, CA
615/790-5540

BEN TANKARD

Aug 3-Carbondale, IL
17-Detroit, MI
30-Reading, PA

Sept 7-Nashville, TN
14-Chicago, IL
21-Providence, RI
615/207-6685

THE BENJAMIN GATE

Aug 3-Lincoln, NH
10-Mercersburg, PA
16-Greensboro, NC
17-Pigeon Forge, TN
22-Pasadena, TX
23-Garland, TX
24-Oklahoma City, OK
30-Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 1-Albuquerque, NM
6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
jeffroberts.com

THE BLAMED

Aug 17-Lewisberry, PA
773/561-2450

BLEACH

Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
16-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
615/297-2021

BLINDSIDE

Aug 16-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
blindsidemarpeco.se

BOB CARLISLE

Aug 31-Plymouth, MI
Sept 21-Coral Gables, FL
615/771-6010

BOB SMILEY

Aug 28-Neodesha, KS
615/370-4700

BRIAN FREE & ASSURANCE

Aug 3-Fayetteville, AR
4-Dunn, LA
615/851-4500

BRIDE

Aug 17-Bangor, ME
31-Clinton, IN
Sept 28-Wilkesboro, NC
502/922-4870

BROTHER'S KEEPER

Aug 2-Palmetto, FL
3-Augusta, GA
7-Elkhart, IN
8-Terre Haute, IN
9-South Haven, MS
10-Lexington, TN
11-Indianapolis, IN
14-Savannah, GA
15-Salem, VA
21-Little Rock, AR
22-Joplin, MO
23-Baker, LA
Sept 7-Moody, AL
13-Atlanta, GA
205/755-9077

BRUCE CARROLL

Aug 17-Cordova, TN
901/624-9039

BRISAN DUNCAN

Aug 2-Stockton, CA
10-Lansing, MI
17-Davenport, IA
18-Peoria, IL
24-Houston, TX
Sept 7-San Jose, CA
17-Jackson, TN
219/269-3413

BUCK ENTERPRISES

Aug 23-Buchanan, MI
248/478-6488

BUDDY AND JULIE MILLER

Aug 31-Portland, OR
Sept 1-Seattle, WA
6-Bowling Green, KY
7-Remus, MI
415/485-5100

BY THE TREE

Aug 4-Coatesville, PA
9-Meridian, MS
15-Springdale, AR
17-South Bend, IN
23-West Palm Beach, FL
24-Dunedin, FL
29-Cleveland, TX
30-Arlington, TX
31-Kansas City, MO
Sept 2-Warrensburg, MO
7-Dallas, TX
8-Nacogdoches, TX
9-Coppell, TX
18-Toledo, OH
28-Grand Rapids, MI
615/790-5540

CADET

Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
615/297-2021

CAEDMON'S GALL

Aug 3-Madison, WI
Sept 28-Greensboro, NC
615/297-2021

CALIBRETTOS

Aug 10-Muskegon, MI
17-West Lebanon, IN
615/297-2021

CARMAN

Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
17-Toccoa, GA
615/771-2711

CAROLYN ARENDS

Aug 17-Manhattan Beach, CA
28-Malibu, CA
Sept 8-Seattle, WA
615/467-3398

CECE WINANS

Aug 9-Dallas, TX
16-Washington, D.C.
18-Redmond, WA
Sept 6-Anaheim, CA
14-St. Paul, MN
20-Hartford, CT
615/963-3000

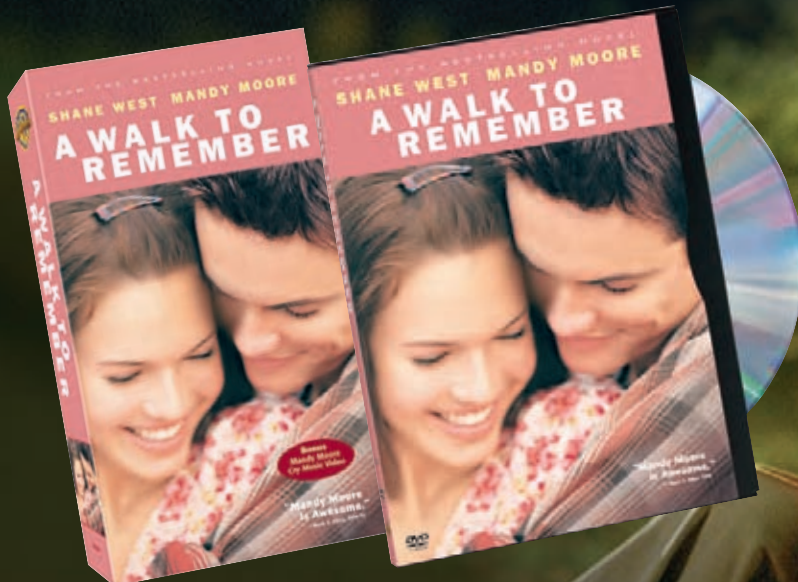
CELLI RAIN

Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
4-Darien Center, NY
8-Albany, NY
9-Reading, PA
Sept 7-Syracuse, NY
14-Berkley, NJ
28-Williamsburg, VA
615/791-9986

CHARLES BILLINGSLEY

Aug 4-Lynchburg, VA
9-Martin, TN
10-Waycross, GA
11-Jacksonville, FL
18-Lynchburg, VA
23-Jackson, MS
25-Lynchburg, VA
Sept 1-Destin, FL
4-Prattville, AL
8-Lynchburg, VA

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27-Nashville, TN
29-Lynchburg, VA
770/579-3343

CHERI KEAGGY

Aug 3-Lookout Mountain, GA
16-New Castle, IN
24-Muskegon, MI
Sept 14-Fresno, CA
21-Crystal Lake, IL
28-Fairmont, WV
615/777-2227

CHEVELLE

Aug 3-Columbus, OH
4-Cuyahoga Falls, OH
7-Clarkston, MI
10-Tinley Park, IL
11-East Troy, WI
13-Noblesville, IN
15-Cincinnati, OH
17-Somerset, WI
19-Maryland Heights, MO
20-Bonner Springs, KS
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24-Marysville, CA
25-Mountain View, CA
27-George, WA
31-Devore, CA
Sept 5-Phoenix, AZ
7-Selma, TX
8-Dallas, TX
chevelle@chevelleinteractive.com

CHRIS RICE

Aug 1-Omaha, NE
615/383-8787

CHRIS TOMLIN

Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
Sept 15-Centreville, MI
30-Whiting, NJ
936/273-4142

CLAY CROSSE

Aug 17-Branson, MO
Sept 7-Greensboro, NC
15-Greenford, OH
29-Wentzville, MO
615/777-2227

CROSS MOVEMENT

Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
215/423-1800

CRUSTAL LEWIS

Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
17-Honolulu, HI
615/383-8787

DAILY PLANET

Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
24-Rome, NY
30-McAllen, TX
31-Kingsville, TX
Sept 14-Indiana, PA
15-Everett, WA
615/859-7040

THE DRARIS

Aug 3-Coatesville, PA
25-Virginia Beach, VA
31-Vicksburg, MI
Sept 21-Carrollton, TX

22-Lake Charles, LA
615/790-5540

DAVID CROWDER BAND

Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
davidcrowderband.com

DAVID MEECE

Aug 1-Villanova, PA
Sept 14-Springfield, MO
15-Nixa, MO
28-Ovilla, TX
520/981-1828

DELIRIOUS

Aug 3-Lincoln, NH
4-Darien Center, NY
615/383-8787

DENVER & THE MILE HIGH ORCHESTRA

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615/414-8135

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615/361-0051

DOGWOOD

Aug 23-Reno, NV
24-Carson City, NV
Sept 1-Sioux Falls, SD
615/673-1398

DON MOEN

Aug 18-Augusta, GA

Sept 16-Des Moines, IA
Moenbooking@integinc.com

DONNIE MCGURKIN

Sept 6-Houston, TX
615/822-5308

DOWNHERE

Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
4-Darien Center, NY
9-Fort Myers, FL
10-Sebring, FL
11-Lakeland, FL
14-Winchester, TN
23-Brentwood, TN
Sept 8-Brentwood, TN
14-Wilmington, NC
18-St. Augustine, FL
219/269-3413

EARTHSAUIT

Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
10-Mercersburg, PA
30-Greensboro, NC
615/383-8787

ELI

Aug 10-Middleburg Heights, OH
615/673-1398

THE ELMS

Aug 2-Doswell, VA
4-Lincoln, NH
10-Tulsa, OK
24-Transfer, PA
615/963-3000

EMBODIMENT

Aug 17-Lewisberry, PA
23-Houston, TX

29-Thorton, CO
31-Kansas City, MO
713/477-5122

ERIN O'DONNELL

Aug 10-Arbutuck, CA
615/790-5540

FERNANDO ORTEGA

Aug 18-Fort Collins, CO
219/269-3413

FFH

Aug 17-Raleigh, NC
29-Palmer, AK
Sept 1-Waukeson, OH
7-Conway, AR
615/790-5540

FORTY DAYS

Aug 2-Paducah, KY
3-Lockout Mountain, GA
17-Milton, DE
25-McKinney, TX
Sept 17-Irving, TX
21-Mount Pleasant, MI
615/777-2227

FRED HAMMOND

Aug 13-Columbus, OH
fredhammond.com

FREDDIE COLLOGA

Aug 2-Palmetto, FL
3-Augusta, GA
7-Elkhart, IN
8-Terre Haute, IN
9-South Haven, MS
14-Savannah, GA
21-Little Rock, AR

22-Joplin, MO
615/859-7040

FROST

Aug 2-Twin Falls, ID
4-Sun Valley, ID
10-LaGrande, OR
12-Baker City, OR
14-Florence, OR
16-Salem, OR
18-Portland, OR
20-Olympia, WA
22-Tacoma, WA
23-Seattle, WA
25-Wenatchee, WA
562/254-5498

FURTHER SEEMS FOREVER

Aug 2-Birmingham, AL
17-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
617/247-4287

FUSEBOX

Aug 3-Midland, MI
31-Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 6-Fort Myers, FL
11-Greenville, NC
15-Centreville, MI
22-Lancaster, PA
28-Portland, ME
30-Whiting, NJ
615/859-7040

GARY CHAPMAN

Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
615/963-3000

GEOFF MOORE

Aug 6-Chicago, IL

10-Hickory Corner, MI
11-Muskegon, MI
18-Racine, WI
Sept 1-Callahan, FL
6-Plymouth, MN
7-Fairfield, IL
8-Harrison, AZ
14-Hudson, WI
21-Fergus Falls, MN
27-Des Moines, IA
28-Burton, MI
615/790-5540

GERSH

Aug 3-Birmingham, AL
4-Estes Park, CO
615/777-2227

GINNY OWENS

Aug 2-3-Somerset, KY
4-Estes Park, CO
24-Indianapolis, IN
Sept 3-Mount Hermon, CA
8-Riverside, CA
615/771-2500

GLENN KRAISER

Sept 28-Wilkesboro, NC
773/561-2450

GO FISH

Aug 31-Sioux Falls, SD
717/734-3335

GREG LONG

Aug 18-Matthews, NC
24-Oakdale, CA
Sept 7-Abingdon, VA
14-Marion, IN
21-Fort Wayne, IN
615/963-3000

GREG K VOLZ

Sept 5-Bradenton, FL
15-Anchorage, AK
949/487-4801

GS MEGAPHONE

Aug 23-Pevely, MO
501/243-5885

HANGNAIL

Aug 10-Burbank, CA
17-Lewisberry, PA
615/297-2021

HUNTINGTONS

Aug 7-Virginia Beach, VA
8-Bristow, VA
9-Buchanan, MI
10-Muskegon, MI
16-Bartlesville, OK
18-Huntington, WV
20-Kendallville, IN
22-Council Bluffs, IA
24-Canton, TX
26-Houston, TX
27-Kingsville, TX
30-Knoxville, TN
31-Carlisle, PA
713/477-5122

THE INSURDERZ

Sept 21-Doswell, VA
28-Santa Clara, CA
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Aug 2-Fort Lauderdale, FL
5-West Allis, WI
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23-Spokane, WA

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27-San Antonio, TX
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JAKE
Aug 18-Pigeon Forge, TN
Sept 14-Hershey, PA
21-Fayetteville, AR
615/771-6010

JAMI SMITH
Sept 27-Tacoma, WA
405/752-9330

JARS OF GLAY
Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
17-Milton, DE
18-Meadville, PA
Sept 6-Orlando, FL
21-Doswell, VA
22-Bloomsburg, PA
28-Greensboro, NC
615/963-3000

JASON UPTON
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
jasonupton.com

JEFF DEBO
Aug 1-Dallas, TX
3-Midland, MI
28-South Barrington, IL
Sept 7-Silsbee, TX
14-Oak Forest, IL
15-Sioux Falls, SD
18-Pontoon Beach, IL
27-Tacoma, WA
817/560-8179

JENI VARNADERO
Aug 16-Houston, TX
25-Green Bay, WI
Sept 21-Petoskey, MI
615/731-7422

JENNIFER KRAPP
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
9-Mercersburg, PA
11-Marietta, GA
18-Meadville, PA
21-Hyannis, MA
Sept 6-Orlando, FL
7-Mequon, WI
615/383-8787

JILL PHILLIPS
Aug 30-Grand Island, NY
Sept 21-Mount Pleasant, MI
615/777-2227

JOHN FISCHER
Sept 5-Lebanon, OR
6-Northville, MI
661/325-6967

JOHN REUBEN
Aug 16-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
615/297-2021

JOHN TESH
Aug 15-Cleveland, OH
22-Cincinnati, OH
24-Columbus, OH
25-Cleveland, OH
28-Atlanta, GA
Sept 21-Denver, CO
615/383-8787

JOY ELECTRIC
Aug 3-Horseheads, NY
17-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
714/963-3521

JOY WILLIAMS
Aug 4-Darien Center, NY

9-Jacksonville, FL
14-Suffolk, VA
16-Pigeon Forge, TN
17-Milton, DE
24-Midland, TX
31-Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 3-Mount Hermon, CA
7-Lake Buena Vista, FL
14-Clinton, IA
15-Bemidji, MN
615/859-7040

JUMPS
Sept 7-Lake Buena Vista, FL
14-Hershey, PA
28-Fayetteville, AR
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JUSTIFIDE
Aug 3-Port Clinton, OH
10-Leitchfield, KY
21-Hart, MI
24-Midland, TX
480/899-8846

JUSTIN McROBERTS
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
31-Woolwich, ME
615/297-2021

KATHY TROGGOLI
Aug 1-West Palm Beach, FL
2-Fort Lauderdale, FL
9-Nashville, TN
16-Washington, D.C.
23-Denver, CO
31-Davenport, IA
Sept 5-Minot, ND
6-Anaheim, CA
14-Grand Rapids, MI
20-Hartford, CT
27-Philadelphia, PA
615/963-3000

THE KATINAS
Aug 3-Grand Rapids, MI
4-Estes Park, CO
8-Simpsonville, SC
9-Leitchfield, KY
10-Marietta, GA
17-Milton, DE
23-Des Moines, IA
24-Austin, TX
Sept 1-Jackson, NJ
7-St. Paul, MN
13-Winston-Salem, NC
14-Knoxville, TN
15-Greensboro, GA
615/963-3000

KELLY MINTER
Sept 4-Wooster, OH
7-Catonsville, MD
28-Visalia, CA
29-Seattle, WA
219/269-3413

KIRK FRANKLIN
Aug 9-Beaumont, TX
12-Springfield, IL
24-Spokane, WA
Sept 6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
615/963-3000

KJ-52
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
24-Indianapolis, IN
615/662-7776

L.A. SYMPHONY
Sept 28-Santa Clara, CA
615/662-7776

LaRUE
Aug 9-Leitchfield, KY
10-Marietta, GA
800/578-7984

LINCOLN BREWSTER
Aug 18-Katy, TX
24-West Milton, PA
25-Cedar Hill, TX

Sept 4-Orville, OH
7-Jackson, MI
15-Cary, NC
615/790-5540

LUNA HALD
Aug 10-Mercersburg, PA
615/297-2021

MARGARET BECKER
Aug 11-Hanover, PA
615/963-3000

MARK SCHULTZ
Aug 3-Madison, WI
7-Darien Center, NY
17-South Bend, IN
Sept 13-Cottonwood, AZ
20-Waco, TX
21-Grapevine, TX
22-Allen, TX
24-Marion, AL
615/790-5540

MARS ILL
Sept 7-Tyler, TX
marsill.com

MARY MARY
Aug 2-Poughkeepsie, NY
3-Lincoln, NH
4-Darien Center, NY
9-Sacramento, CA
24-Indianapolis, IN
Sept 6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
615/383-8787

MATT BROWDER
Sept 18-North Charleston, SC
615/771-6010

MERCURIE
Aug 17-Redmond, WA
Sept 13-Spartanburg, SC
615/297-2021

MICHAEL W. SMITH
Aug 4-Lincoln, NH
10-Muskegon, MI
11-Cincinnati, OH
15-Harrisonburg, VA
16-Wexford, PA
17-South Bend, IN
30-Plymouth, WI
31-Lampe, MO
Sept 7-Lake Buena Vista, FL
13-Tulsa, OK
615/383-8787

MICHELLE TUMES
Aug 17-Creamery, PA
20-Bolling Springs, NC
28-San Diego, CA
615/790-5540

MITCH McVICKER
Aug 2-Norman, OK
4-Newton, KS
Sept 7-Tomball, TX
785/232-4189

MMPH
Aug 1-Atlanta, GA
2-Orlando, FL
3-Pompano Beach, FL
4-Tampa, FL
5-Jacksonville, FL
6-Charlotte, NC
7-Virginia Beach, VA
8-Bristow, VA
9-Camden, NJ
10-New York, NY
11-Asbury Park, NJ
13-Burgettstown, PA
14-Buffalo, NY
15-Boston, MA
18-Detroit, MI
615/963-3000

NATALIE GRANT
Aug 15-Grovetown, GA
16-New Port Richey, FL

28-Sterling Heights, MI
Sept 6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
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NATALIE WILSON & SOPHORA
Sept 13-Newark, NJ
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NEWSBOYS
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
17-South Bend, IN
31-Jackson, NJ
Sept 6-Orlando, FL
14-Clinton, TN
770/736-5363

NEWSONG
Aug 2-Palmetto, FL
3-Augusta, GA
4-Decatur, IL
7-Elkhart, IN
8-Terre Haute, IN
9-South Haven, MS
10-Muskegon, MI
14-Savannah, GA
15-Blacksburg, VA
18-Porterfield, WI
21-Little Rock, AR
22-Joplin, MO
23-Baker, LA
24-Arnold, MO
29-St. Paul, MN
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NICHOLE NORDEMAN
Aug 3-Melbourne, FL
10-Millers, MD
17-Milton, DE
30-Raleigh, NC
615/777-2227

NICOLE G. MULLEN
Aug 2-Minneapolis, MN
4-Lincoln, NH/
Darien Center, NY
10-Muskegon, MI
25-Spokane, WA
30-Rochester Hills, MI
Sept 6-Charlotte, NC
14-Ocala, FL
615/383-8787

NIKKI LEONTI
Aug 3-Yakima, WA
17-Milton, DE
Sept 21-Brighton, MO
615/963-3000

OUT OF EDEN
Aug 2-Lincoln, NH
9-Leitchfield, KY
17-Milton, DE
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
13-Spartanburg, SC
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Aug 3-Millers, MD
23-Rome, NY

Sept 29-Huntsville, AL
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17-Somerset, WI
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615/963-3000

PAUL GOLMAN TRIO
Aug 4-Lincoln, NH
16-Lewisberry, PA
24-Portland, ME
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
615/662-7776

PAKZ17
Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
17-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
615/297-2021

PETE ORTA
Aug 10-Tulsa, OK
peteorta.com

PETRA
Aug 3-Arlington, SD
Sept 7-Lake Buena Vista, FL
615/285-0729

PHAT CHANGE
Aug 1-Fruitland Park, FL
9-Mercersburg, PA
10-Leitchfield, KY
16-Blountsville, AL
17-North Little Rock, AR
23-Hoover, AL
25-North Wilkesboro, NC

Sept 3-Valencia, CA
6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
14-Big Rapids, MI
27-Bourbonnais, IL
615/790-5540

PHIL KERGGY
Aug 3-Lititz, PA
Sept 5-Bremerton, WA
6-West Linn, OR
19-Wichita Falls, TX
21-Longview, TX
219/269-3413

PHILMORE
Aug 10-Muskegon, MI
14-Frankenmuth, MI
31-Santa Maria, CA
713/477-5122

PILLAR
Aug 2-Loveland, CA
3-Harrisonburg, VA
4-Lincoln, NH/
Darien Center, NY
10-Leitchfield, KY
16-Milton, DE 17-Lewisberry, PA

23-Garland, TX
31-Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 6-Carmel, IN
7-Harrison, OH
28-Greensboro, NC
580/774-2665

PLUS ONE
Aug 17-Eureka, MO
31-Jackson, NJ
Sept 6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
21-Charlotte, NC
615/963-3000

PROJECT 86
Aug 17-Lewisberry, PA
project86.com

RACHAEL LAMPA
Aug 2-Palmetto, FL
3-Augusta, GA
7-Elkhart, IN
8-Terre Haute, IN
9-South Haven, MS
14-Savannah, GA
21-Little Rock, AR
22-Joplin, MO
24-Ashland, KY

Sept 13-Greensboro, CA
14-Hershey, PA
615/383-8787

RANDY STONEHILL
Aug 2-Lincoln, NH
Sept 12-Buffalo, NY
219/269-3413

REBECCA ST. JAMES
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
4-Estes Park, CO
8-Garden City, KS

9-Muskegon, MI
10-Leitchfield, KY
18-Pigeon Forge, TN
31-Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
8-Fort Lauderdale, FL
11-Greenville, NC
13-Lutherville, MD
14-Trexertown, PA
15-Centreville, MI
17-Kingwood, WV
19-Williamsville, NY
20-Elmira, NY
22-Lancaster, PA
27-Bangor, ME
28-Portland, ME
30-Whiting, NJ
615/771-2900

SARA GROVES
Aug 2-Fort Dodge, IA
3-Broken Arrow, OK
9-Omaha, NE
10-Arnolds Park, IA
29-Swaney, NJ
30-Vineland, NJ
31-Woolwich, ME
Sept 1-Malden, MA
615/383-8787

SARAH MASEN
Aug 3-Lincoln, NH
Sept 17-2227

SARAH SADLER
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
sarahsadler.com

SATELLITE SOUL
Aug 1-Livingston, TX
23-Marshalltown, IA
24-Le Mars, IA
Sept 1-Williamsport, PA
13-Green Bay, WI
14-Menomonie, WI
15-Springfield, IL
219/269-3413

SCOTT KRAPPAINE
Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
13-Frankenmuth, MI
18-Chehalis, WA
24-Visalia, CA
615/777-2227

SELAN
Aug 1-Davis, OK
4-Cabot, AR
10-Cross Plains, WI
11-La Grange, IL
13-Frankenmuth, MI
18-Simpsonville, SC
615/777-2227

SHAWN GROVES
Aug 16-Nashville, TN
17-Milton, DE

28-Palm Springs, CA
Sept 11-Las Vegas, NV
15-Orlando, FL
888/PRAISES

RONNIE FREEMAN
Aug 18-Bristow, VA
Sept 7-Harrisburg, PA
28-Ironwood, MI
615/790-5540

RUSS LEE
Aug 16-Pigeon Forge, TN
615/771-6010

SALVADOR
Aug 4-Lincoln, NH
9-Norman, OK
11-Irving, TX
16-Stockton, CA
18-Pigeon Forge, TN
31-Sioux Falls, SD
Sept 1-Davenport, IA
14-Clinton, IA
20-Westlake Village, CA
jeffroberts.com

SANDI PATTY
Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
6-Kansas City, MO
8-Old Orchard Beach, ME
11-Rochester, ME
16-Gray, TN
17-Elwood, IN
24-Lake Juraluska, NC
28-Carfield, OH
Sept 9-Allegan, MI
13-Indianapolis, IN
18-San Diego, CA
20-Las Cruces, NM
22-Oklahoma City, OK
615/963-3000

SARA GROVES
Aug 2-Fort Dodge, IA
3-Broken Arrow, OK
9-Omaha, NE
10-Arnolds Park, IA
29-Swaney, NJ
30-Vineland, NJ
31-Woolwich, ME
Sept 1-Malden, MA
615/383-8787

SARAH MASEN
Aug 3-Lincoln, NH
Sept 17-2227

SARAH SADLER
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
sarahsadler.com

SATELLITE SOUL
Aug 1-Livingston, TX
23-Marshalltown, IA
24-Le Mars, IA
Sept 1-Williamsport, PA
13-Green Bay, WI
14-Menomonie, WI
15-Springfield, IL
219/269-3413

SCOTT KRAPPAINE
Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
13-Frankenmuth, MI
18-Chehalis, WA
24-Visalia, CA
615/777-2227

SELAN
Aug 1-Davis, OK
4-Cabot, AR
10-Cross Plains, WI
11-La Grange, IL
13-Frankenmuth, MI
18-Simpsonville, SC
615/777-2227

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28-Waco, TX
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31-St. Augustine, FL

Sept 1-Hendersonville, NC
7-Harrison, OH
13-Marion, IN
14-Trexertown, PA
15-Bluffton, OH
20-Valencia, CA
21-Chandler, OK
28-Greensboro, NC
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SLICK SHOES
Aug 24-Westerville, OH
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SMALLTOWN POETS
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SOLOMON'S WISH
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16-Pigeon Forge, TN
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14-Clinton, IA
22-Houston, TX
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17-Millers, MD
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2-Indianapolis, IN
27-Akron, OH
28-Woodbridge, VA
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SOULJAZZ
Sept 1-Hendersonville, NC
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SPOKEN
Aug 2-Twin Falls, ID
4-Sun Valley, ID
10-LaGrande, OR
14-Florence, OR
16-Salem, OR
20-Olympia, WA
22-Tacoma, WA
23-Seattle, WA
25-Wenatchee, WA
spokenmusic.com

SQUAD FIVE-O
Aug 17-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
Sept 28-Greensboro, NC
Booking@rocketshipmanagement.com

STAGIE ORRICO
Sept 7-Lake Buena Vista, FL
21-Doswell, VA
28-Santa Clara, CA
615/383-8787

STARFLYER 59
Aug 17-Lewisberry, PA

24-Westerville, OH
714/963-3521

STEVE BELL
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204/774-3715

STEVE WIGGINS
Sept 8-Houston, TX
14-Gallup, NM
22-Houston, TX
615/859-7040

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Aug 17-Redmond, WA
Sept 6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
21-Charlotte, NC
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STEVEN DELOPOULOS
Sept 15-Grand Island, NY
615/777-2227

STRETCH ARM STRONG
Aug 1-Birmingham, AL
2-Orlando, FL
3-Pompano Beach, FL
4-Tampa, FL
17-Lewisberry, PA
stretchinfo@mindspring.com

SUPERCHECK
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
3-Harrisonburg, VA
6-Darien Center, NY
24-Indianapolis, IN
30-Sioux Falls, SD
31-Kansas City, MO
Sept 1-St. Paul, MN
6-Taylorville, IL
7-Logansport, IN
11-Cambridge, WI
14-Clinton, TN
21-Arlington, VA
28-Santa Clara, CA
770/736-5363

THE SUPERTONES
Aug 4-Lincoln, NH
6-Darien Center, NY
10-Mercersburg, PA
23-Pevely, MO
Sept 1-Tipton, PA
6-Orlando, FL
20-Valencia, CA
615/963-3000

SWITCHFOOT
Aug 4-Lincoln, NH
7-Hyannis, MA
10-Lansing, MI
11-Wickliffe, OH
17-Lewisberry, PA
Sept 1-Albuquerque, NM
11-Longview, TX
22-Bloomsburg, PA
615/963-3000

TRIT
Aug 1-Redmond, OR
3-Augusta, GA
9-South Haven, MS
11-Indianapolis, IN
24-Ashland, KY
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TEN SHEKEL SHIRT
Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
615/297-2021

THIRD DAY
Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
7-Darien Center, NY
17-Redmond, WA
23-Spokane, WA
31-Kansas City, MO
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
10-Salt Lake City, UT
12-Allegan, MI
28-Santa Clara, CA
30-Tulsa, OK
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THOUSAND FOOT KRUTCH
Aug 1-Lincoln, NH
11-Green Bay, WI
17-Lewisberry, PA
24-Westerville, OH
Sept 13-Clarkston, MI
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TOBY MARG
Aug 2-Lincoln, NH
10-Tulsa, OK
24-Midland, TX
31-Kansas City, MO
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
13-Spartanburg, SC
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TRINITEE 5:7
Aug 4-Estes Park, CO
20-Los Angeles, CA
trinitee57.com

TRUE VIBE
Aug 2-Palmetto, FL
3-Lincoln, NH/Villanova, PA
4-Darien Center, NY
7-Elkhart, IN
8-Terre Haute, IN
9-South Haven, MS
14-Savannah, GA
16-Augusta, GA
18-Springfield, IL
21-Little Rock, AR
22-Lansing, MI
31-Kansas City, MO
Sept 7-Orlando, FL
12-Allegan, MI
14-Greensboro, NC
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THE UNDECIDED
Sept 1-Sioux Falls, SD
204/326-6613

VEGGIETALES
Aug 4-Darien Center, NY
Sept 17-Houston, TX
24-San Antonio, TX
615/963-3000

THE VIOLET BURNING
Aug 17-Lewisberry, PA
714/963-3521

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Aug 10-Leitchfield, KY
17-Booneville, MS
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WATERMARK
Aug 4-Darien, CT
615/777-2227

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Aug 2-Fort Dodge, IA
25-Augusta, GA
Sept 11-Hickory, NC
13-Matthews, NC
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21-Canton, PA
27-Matthews, NC
28-Austin, TX
29-McKinney, TX
615/777-2227

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Aug 25-Oswego, IL
219/269-3413

WHISPERLOUD
Aug 3-Lookout Mountain, GA
4-McMinnville, TN
14-Suffolk, VA
17-Milton, DE
Sept 11-Monks Corner, SC
14-Hariman, TN
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WOODY ROCK
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woodyrock.com

YOLANDA ADAMS
Aug 2-Monroe, LA
3-Aurora, OH
615/282-1795

ZOEGRAL
Aug 3-Lincoln, NH
4-Darien Center, NY
9-Cleburne, TX
11-Wickliffe, OH
17-South Bend, IN
Sept 6-Lake Buena Vista, FL
7-Hawasssee, GA
8-Raleigh, NC
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time machine D-BOY (DANNY) RODRIGUEZ

D-Boy Rodriguez, the rapper who preferred to be known as a "street poet," was shot in the chest and killed in East Dallas on Oct. 6, 1990, just a few weeks short of his 23rd birthday. D-Boy released his first album in 1989 and had a second slated to release in November 1990.

Working as a tutor and counselor at Street Church Academy—the school his parents, Cookie and Demi Rodriguez, had started to help teens turn from gangs—D-Boy was

making a difference while in the danger zone. "Danny told me, 'I don't think I'll grow to be an old man,'" Tim Miner, D-Boy's producer and close friend, told *CCM Magazine* after his death. "He predicted his own violent death. Now he's issued a challenge. We need to get out there and reach these kids."

While D-Boy's death was tragic and mysterious, his life made a difference to many people. To read about one of those he touched, go to yourtruehero.org/content/hero/view_hero.asp?8185.

SARAH ALDRIDGE M'NEECE



D-BOY

music that matters

'PLAIN' REMINDS TEEN SHE'S SPECIAL

I am not an open person. I always just stay to myself unless someone talks to me. My sister, who is 14 (I am 18), is much taller than I am and quite open. Sometimes people know that one is the senior, and they think it's my sister. One day I saw this guy (*Of course there was a guy. Isn't there always?*) who I thought was looking at me. Come to find out, he thought that my sister was the 18-year-old. I was so crushed.

I had just recently bought ZOEgirl's new CD *Life*. I started listening to it and came across the song "Plain." I listened to the lyrics, and it was just hitting me hard. I had felt that I was someone on the sidelines. I felt

"This song made me realize that God made me to be shy and not as tall as my sister. And that's OK."

worthless. This song made me realize that God made me to be shy and not as tall as my sister. And that's OK.

Until that little incident, I would say to myself that I was pretty. But when little incidents like that come along, that's when God wants us to trust Him more.

So, ZOEgirl's song "Plain" is my reassurance that I am what God has made me, and I should be happy about that.

Robin Zimmer
Okinawa, Japan



What's your story? How has Christian music changed your world? E-mail us at tellcm@ccmmagazine.com with a letter (300 words or less) that tells how a song, an album or an artist has impacted your life. Submissions must include your full name, address and phone number to be considered for publication.

page turners

Luis Palau takes a new look at an old Book

It may come as a surprise, but I've been reading the Bible (again) as if for the first time. The edition I'm reading is the new Zondervan *Starting Point Study Bible*. For those of us who've been reading God's Word for years, it's easy to forget how intimidating and confusing Scripture can be—especially to new believers or those returning to the faith. Like the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8, many new readers wonder, "How can I understand what I'm reading unless someone explains it to me?"

One barrier, frankly, is the vocabulary. Saying, "I *hope* my team wins the NBA championship next season," isn't the same as "hope" in the Bible. One is wishful thinking. The other is a sure reality. To help readers understand what they're reading, the *Starting Point Study Bible* highlights hundreds of biblical terms and quickly links readers to articles that define those terms. This new study Bible also explains hundreds of other biblical issues. A disclaimer: I contributed an evangelistic message titled "What Is a Real Christian?" and a few other

articles. But more than 140 people did all the real work!

I'd love to see this Bible get into the hands of every new believer. Toward that end, we've decided to give away a Gospel of John *Starting Point Study Bible* "sampler" to every decision-maker in our evangelistic music festivals here in the United States.

Luis Palau will be at the Puget Sound Festival, Aug. 17-18 in Seattle. For more information go to pugetsoundfestival.org.



PALAU

coming next month

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DAYNA CURRY AND
HEATHER MERCER

VEGGIETALES AT
THE MOVIES

final word

"BUT THE PEOPLE OF GOD will sing a song of joy, like the songs at the holy festivals. You will be filled with joy...." Isaiah 30:29a (NLT)