

My life is a miracle TYLER	82
Give him a chance TED KIRKPATRICK	86
You who are thirsty SLAV SIMANIC	88
Prayer: HURTING MYSELF	90
I was deeply miserable JEFF HARSHBARGER	91
The Bible is an enormous treasure chest SIMON ROSÉN.....	96
Prayer: SET ME FREE FROM THE DEMON OF ALCOHOL	99
Forgiven CARLOS LABORDA.	100
10 burning questions for Joel.....	105
I hated Christians MICHAEL HERO	110
Saved at the gate of hell JUHA.....	112
Prayers: SET ME FREE FROM ADDICTION TO GAMBLING.....	117
What an awesome God we have! TOMMY ALDRIDGE	118
Confessions of a Teenage Satanist CHARLES EVANS	120
Christian Metal links	124
Prayer: TORMENTED BY DEMONS	126
Bible for the Nations	127

Metal Bible third edition ISBN 978-3-946919-50-6 Article: 1791.50.000
 Metal Bible is a special edition from Bible for the Nations e.V.
 All material on the colored pages belongs to Bible for the Nations e.V.
 Copyright © Bible for the Nations e.V. All rights reserved

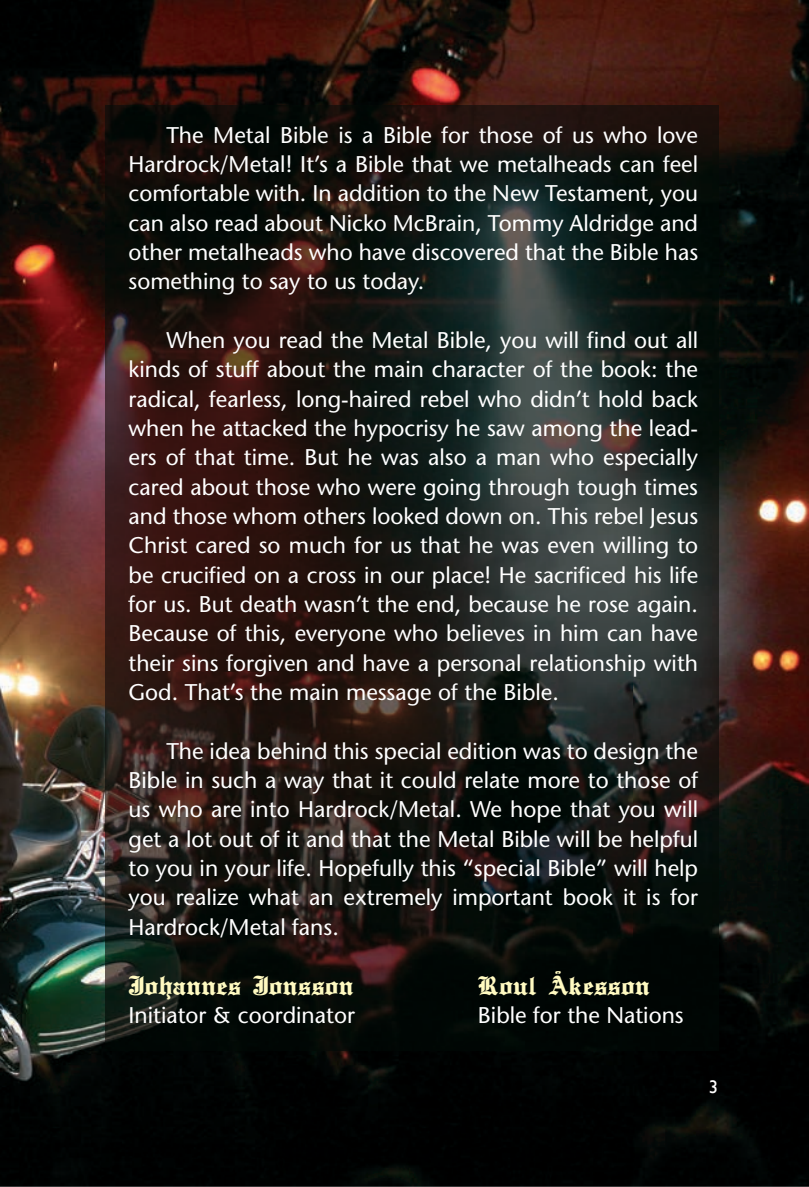
The New Testament copyright:
 Holy Bible, New Living Translation, New Testament, copyright ©
 1996, 2004, 2007 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission
 of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 351 Executive Dr., Carol
 Stream, IL 60188, USA. All rights reserved.

THANK YOU! Jesus, for helping us put together this Metal Bible.
 Johannes Jonsson, for all the work you've done to produce the material for this edition.
 Devon Hill and Chris Gatto for excellent work with the grammar check.
 Simon Manfredsson, Daniel Karlsson and David Svensson (for a great layout).

Bible for the Nations e.V
 Aulkestraße 28, D-48734 Reken, Germany
 www.bible-for-the-nations.com
 info@bible-for-the-nations.com
 Tel: +49 2864-882907, Fax: +49 2864-882909

Metal Bible





The Metal Bible is a Bible for those of us who love Hardrock/Metal! It's a Bible that we metalheads can feel comfortable with. In addition to the New Testament, you can also read about Nicko McBrain, Tommy Aldridge and other metalheads who have discovered that the Bible has something to say to us today.

When you read the Metal Bible, you will find out all kinds of stuff about the main character of the book: the radical, fearless, long-haired rebel who didn't hold back when he attacked the hypocrisy he saw among the leaders of that time. But he was also a man who especially cared about those who were going through tough times and those whom others looked down on. This rebel Jesus Christ cared so much for us that he was even willing to be crucified on a cross in our place! He sacrificed his life for us. But death wasn't the end, because he rose again. Because of this, everyone who believes in him can have their sins forgiven and have a personal relationship with God. That's the main message of the Bible.

The idea behind this special edition was to design the Bible in such a way that it could relate more to those of us who are into Hardrock/Metal. We hope that you will get a lot out of it and that the Metal Bible will be helpful to you in your life. Hopefully this "special Bible" will help you realize what an extremely important book it is for Hardrock/Metal fans.

Johannes Jonsson
Initiator & coordinator

Roul Åkesson
Bible for the Nations



I PRAY TO GOD EVERY DAY

I first came to know the Lord 1999. I knew about Him from an early age, but I had my own things on my mind and not the things or thoughts of God. As a little boy I went to Sunday school and took religion classes in junior and high school, but at that age I was into playing drums and being a bit of a wild child.

My wife was very instrumental in my walk towards God. She came to know Him before I did. I would come home after being on tour and she would be doing a Bible study. I would take a peek at it, and she would get frustrated with me for reading her Bible when she needed it. One Sunday she talked me into going to Spanish River Church. It was on this day that the Lord moved in my heart. The music was phenomenal, and I just started to cry from the passion through the music – it was wonderful. Touched by the Holy Spirit, I gave my life to Jesus Christ.

Since that day I pray to God daily. I am so thankful that He has forgiven my sins. I know that God has given me eternal life through His son Jesus Christ. It is the good news from God. He is just and

caring, and He loves us all. It is a promise for everyone.

None of us can live up to what God wants from us, so He sent His only son to die on that cross. There on the cross Jesus took all our sins upon Himself. Jesus died on the cross, but three days later He rose from the grave and overcame death.

The good news is that Jesus Christ took our sins and guilt upon himself, and through him we are now forgiven. Isn't that great news? Wow, that means that all of us who have had our sins forgiven by Jesus Christ will have a place in heaven for eternity with God. If you don't get to know God and find peace through Him, you will have eternal separation from Him. I don't like the sound of that at all – do you?

No, I want to see and be with you all in heaven, so if you haven't discovered the good news yet, there is still time to get to know Him.

John 3:16 is one of my favourite passages from the Bible. These are the words of our saviour Jesus Christ:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life".

Isn't that great? I also think that Romans is a great book as well. If you want a kind of quick fix for getting to know God, then this book is cool. It was written by Saul/Paul. He has written thirteen of the books in the New Testament. Also read the book of Acts; it will explain how Paul came to know the Lord and it lays the foundation for building the church.

GOD BLESS YOU

Nicko McBrain, IRON MAIDEN





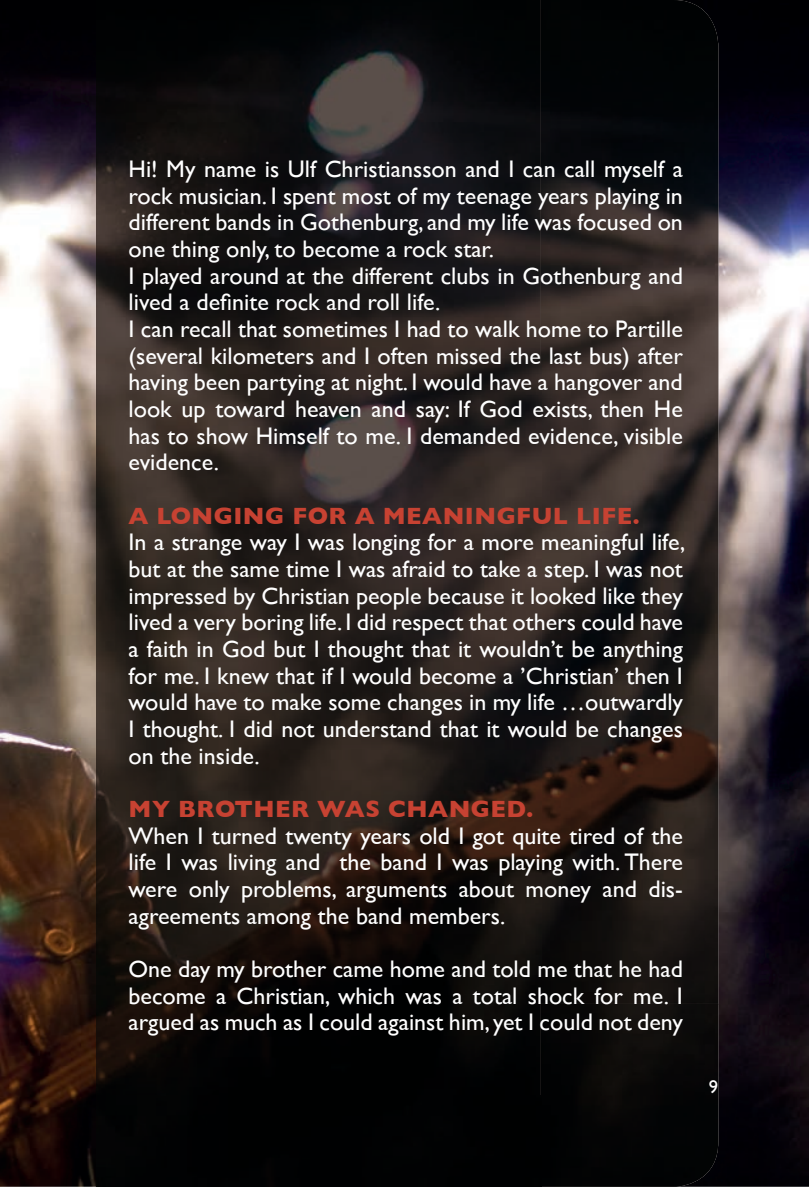
The instruction book of life...

God is Creator of all, and He has revealed himself through his Word – the Bible. I believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, his instruction book for Christian living, and the history of his love for all of us. There is so much rich history, strong revelation, vivid imagery, and absolute Truth in the Bible that it is by far the most fascinating and popular book ever produced on the face of the earth. I have read the Bible cover to cover several times, and each time it brings new meaning and insight to the mystery, wonder, and awe of God's power through Jesus Christ.

The Bible applies to everyday life, and it is timeless. I challenge you to pray to God before you read it and ask Him to illuminate his Truth and meaning to you so that you may understand all the depth of its worth and value for your life. The Bible is spiritual food, and it's the best meal I've ever had.

Rob Rock

A longing for a meaningful life



Hi! My name is Ulf Christiansson and I can call myself a rock musician. I spent most of my teenage years playing in different bands in Gothenburg, and my life was focused on one thing only, to become a rock star.

I played around at the different clubs in Gothenburg and lived a definite rock and roll life.

I can recall that sometimes I had to walk home to Partille (several kilometers and I often missed the last bus) after having been partying at night. I would have a hangover and look up toward heaven and say: If God exists, then He has to show Himself to me. I demanded evidence, visible evidence.

A LONGING FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE.

In a strange way I was longing for a more meaningful life, but at the same time I was afraid to take a step. I was not impressed by Christian people because it looked like they lived a very boring life. I did respect that others could have a faith in God but I thought that it wouldn't be anything for me. I knew that if I would become a 'Christian' then I would have to make some changes in my life ...outwardly I thought. I did not understand that it would be changes on the inside.

MY BROTHER WAS CHANGED.

When I turned twenty years old I got quite tired of the life I was living and the band I was playing with. There were only problems, arguments about money and disagreements among the band members.

One day my brother came home and told me that he had become a Christian, which was a total shock for me. I argued as much as I could against him, yet I could not deny

that there was a change for the better in him. I said that if God existed and was good, then He could also fix the mess that we humans have created, and if He was God, then He should have understood that it would be like this, since He had created us and knew everything. Everybody who has a brain to think with will understand, that it is only a security that we humans have created ourselves.

I was going on like that for about a year until one day I was asked if I wanted to come along to an event that would take place in the Slottsskogen in Gothenburg. I had just broken up with my girlfriend of four years and was not really in the mood to come along but I said ...OK, I'll come anyway.

"JESUS LOVES YOU MAN"

When I got there I saw a lot of people and they told me that two guys from the Jesus people would talk but I had no idea what it would be like. Then suddenly two guys with very long hair got up on the stage. They looked like they were playing in some rock band and when they said "Jesus loves you man," most of my prejudice against what a Christian would be or look like, disappeared. They said that you had to choose either for or against, no middle line...I knew that I was not directly against but not for either so I thought that I would give God a chance....but only one and if it didn't work then I would not waste my life on a 'Jesus trip'.

I GAVE GOD A CHANCE.

So that night I gave God that chance and did not know what adventure I was actually going to be a part of. I quit playing in the band that I was part of, which was only a lot

of trouble anyway...and I told God that if He showed me that what He said was true, then I would follow Him..... from that time on a lot of changes took place in my life. I understood that I had to give up something to get something else. He showed me that what He tells me actually stands...

All this became the start of the band that I later started in Gothenburg—'Jerusalem' with which I have toured almost the whole world.....but that is another story. Yes ... this is my life story, or at least a little part of it..... so what shall I say....that God exists? Yes, He exists, but He also does have conditions for us to experience Him. A proud, arrogant and self-sufficient person cannot experience God; it takes humility and a willingness to give Him entrance into our lives.... it is actually simple, yet very difficult for us to give up....all our own reasoning will only keep us in uncertainty ... not security.

We all make choices every day about a lot of things, maybe this is the most important choice that we ever make – I actually believe it. It is possible to believe if one wants to... but only if one wants to....

Bless you all...
Uffe



www.u-l-f.com
www.jerusalem.se

Free from a life as a witch!

I was fully convinced that the black magic that we practised was a reality. But what kind of forces were there behind this spiritual world?

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PECKING ORDER IN CLASS

At an early age I came in contact with the occult, which nearly destroyed my whole life. I was eight years old when we moved from Finland to Sweden, I came to a foreign country, whose language I couldn't speak and attended a school where no one understood me. It was a complete disaster. I didn't settle and I consequently became involved in fights. Since I didn't speak the language I was insecure, shy and timid. I became the target of the bullies.

PAIN IN MY STOMACH EVERY MORNING

I had pain in my stomach every morning when it was time to go to school. After years of being bullied every day, I was so filled with hate against my classmates that I just snapped and started to fight back. I was physically stronger than they were. The bullying came to an end, but I never made any real friends in the class. Instead I started to hang with friends that were some years older than me.



"THE SPIRIT IN THE GLASS"

My mother was a Christian, which meant that as I grew up I went to Sunday school and attended church services. When I was thirteen, I decided not to have anything to do with my mother's God. I viewed Christianity as boring, and filled with lots of rules and regulations. It seemed like everything that was fun was sin and you should have a life that is as boring as possible. The years of bullying had left their mark on me. I was broken inside, had low self-esteem and felt a great void inside me. Some older friends had started messing with "the spirit in the glass". It seemed exciting when they told me about the game. I decided to join them and test it. To be really sure that none of the others were bluffing I asked exact questions with answers that only I could know. To my great surprise it worked. The glass that was being used moved in its "own" power from one letter to another and gave me the answers I was looking for. "This was cool", I thought. Maybe I had found something that would give my existence the excitement and the meaning I was looking for.

SATANISM

I became more and more involved in occult activities. I devoured all the occult literature that I could get, which wasn't so much at that time. Since I was wide open for anything that was supernatural, I was like a magnet that was drawn to people that practised these things. I met some people that were into Satanism. Their ideology appealed to me: "Do as you want, as long as it makes you feel well. If you reach your own goals it doesn't matter if you run over others. The strong will conquer the weak they must be eliminated", and so on. It was an ideology of total selfishness where I could be strong and look down on other people. I didn't have to feel inferior any more.

I WAS DEDICATED TO BEING A WITCH

For many years I had been ganged up on in my class, but now I had the chance to take revenge on my tormentors by putting curses on them. Voodoo was an effective way to get revenge. I saw how these unseen curses hit the people that were being

exposed to voodoo. At the same time that I was fascinated by the supernatural spirit world it felt a little spooky. I was totally convinced that the black magic which we practised was a reality, but what kind of force was behind this spiritual world? It certainly wasn't Mom's God anyway. I was completely sure of that. After all there were a great deal of the Sunday school teachings that had stuck in my memory. I had heard about a God that is good and a devil that is evil.

The day I was dedicated to become a witch, I renounced everything that had to do with Christianity. I firmly believed that my life would be a success and that I would succeed in all I did. I thought the spirit world should protect me, if I did what was pleasing to my master, Satan. But no matter how much I filled my life with occult activities, like astral travels (experiences outside the body), there was still a nagging unrest inside me. The emptiness in my inner being just became bigger each day.

SEDATIVE DRUGS AND MORPHINE

Finally I started to use sedative drugs and morphine to get rid of the anguish that was growing inside me. Since drugs can only ease the pain for a short time, it wasn't a solution. In my 20's I had a child with my husband, who I had married a few years earlier. He was not initiated into Satanism, but he had problems with alcohol and drugs. The marriage broke up after a few years, and I got the care of our son Mikael. Now I had a new mission to raise Mikael to be a good Satanist right from the start. Just as Christians see it as natural to teach their children about their religion, it was just as natural to me to teach my son the ideology that I believed in. But life didn't really turned out as I expected. Right from the start Mikael had problems at school. He was aggressive against the teachers and against everyone that wanted to rule over him. Both Mikael and I felt worse and worse.

MORE AND MORE DEPRESSED

I wanted to break with Satanism, because it made me more and more depressed. Life felt like a big darkness that I couldn't break out from. Was there anything or anyone that could help

me? My thoughts started to go back to the God I had heard of in my childhood. Could he help me? Would he hear me if I prayed to him? I didn't really know if I dared to try, because I believed that the dark forces were stronger than the God of Christianity. Finally I picked up courage and cried out "If you hear me and if you can help me, then show it in some way". Immediately I got a strong thought "Go to the Pentecostal church now". I wondered if it was God that gave me the thought. If it was I couldn't afford to miss it and off I went. The service had already begun and the Pastor stood in the front behind the pulpit ready to start his preaching. I sat down in the back of the church. Then something happened. The Pastor said that he just had received a message from God to someone in the congregation. What he said, corresponded exactly with my situation, right to the smallest detail. I understood that God had heard me and answered my prayer. He cared for me!

THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE

After this event things started to fall into place, just like a puzzle. I got in touch with Christian people who enabled us to get away to a place where we could get help with our problems. After my decision to believe in the Jesus of the Bible, as God's Son and my personal Saviour, I felt that the dark disappeared and light filled my life. I now had true meaning and substance. The emptiness that I had always felt was filled with the love of God.

REMARRIED WITH THE SAME MAN

I am now remarried to Mikael's father, who has also had his life changed by God. These days I tell others about my life and warn people against all kinds of occultism, in different places and for all different age groups. One thing I know for sure: Jesus can change any situation, no matter how hopeless it seems!

Heli

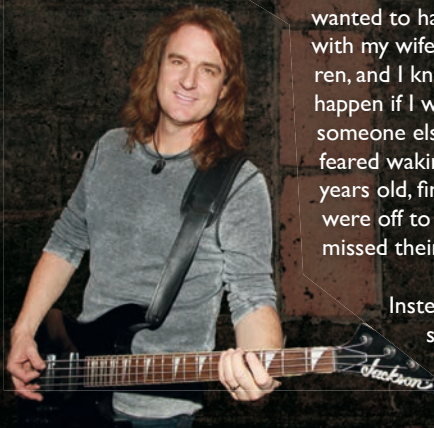
Mega Life!

I wanted to have time at home with my wife and two children

In my eight years away from Megadeth, I seized the moment to branch out into many new artistic opportunities – all of which really helped me to grow as an artist, a musician and a person. Initially, I got calls to tour with some big rock and roll artists,

but first and foremost, I really wanted to have time at home with my wife and two children, and I knew that wouldn't happen if I was on the road for someone else all the time. I feared waking up one day, 50 years old, finding that my kids were off to college and I had missed their entire childhood.

Instead, I put together several rock bands, played on a



bunch of different records, and did Artist Relations work for Peavey Electronics Corporation. Another thing I really wanted to do in my time away from Megadeth was develop music that tied into my Christian walk. A few years later, my family started going to Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church in Scottsdale. During this time I was asked to become an elder, and shortly thereafter, our new Pastor Jon Bjorgaard asked if I would help create a new worship service with him, which he wanted to call MEGA Life!, based on John 10:10.

Megadeth

I had been in Megadeth as a co-founding member since I was 18 years old. I grew up there and had been given a good life as a result. I got sober in 1990, at 25 years of age, and that brought me back to a renewed Christian walk that I had as a kid growing up in the Lutheran church. So there I was, all those years playing in Megadeth but being groomed spiritually behind the scenes.

I clearly see the invitation to return back to Megadeth as God's timing, not mine. I view it as a way to finally clear the past once and for all, to mend fences and show the world that even a messy situation like a rock and roll band's demise can be made right through Christ. I also see that, in many ways, my return to the band probably has more to do with what my faith should be (which is forgiveness and glorifying Jesus in all that I do) even if that means going outside the church (and my own hometown ministry) to make things right during this particular season of my life. It's a chance to be on a different stage and to be serving while doing it.

Really being honest and true to yourself

I've said for many years that I've always been a Christian

musician, even though I don't always play Christian music. I think it's okay to live in the world and enjoy the activities and fun things God has placed here for us to partake in, as long as our convictions aren't compromised in the process. I view it as being 'in the world, but not of the world,' and not conforming to ways of the world, as expressed in Romans 12:2.

Being a Christian and a rocker aren't two totally separate things. Some people have to quit one to be true to the other, but for me, they both work very well together. When you're really being honest and true to yourself, you go and pursue the passions that the good Lord put in you anyway.

As far as future lyrical messages, I'm not sure Megadeth will ever be a band blatantly singing songs of praise to Jesus, nor should it. It's okay to sing songs about various topics outside of just your faith. However, it is very evident to all of us that God has done some huge things in our personal and professional lives this year and that our current success is to His glory.



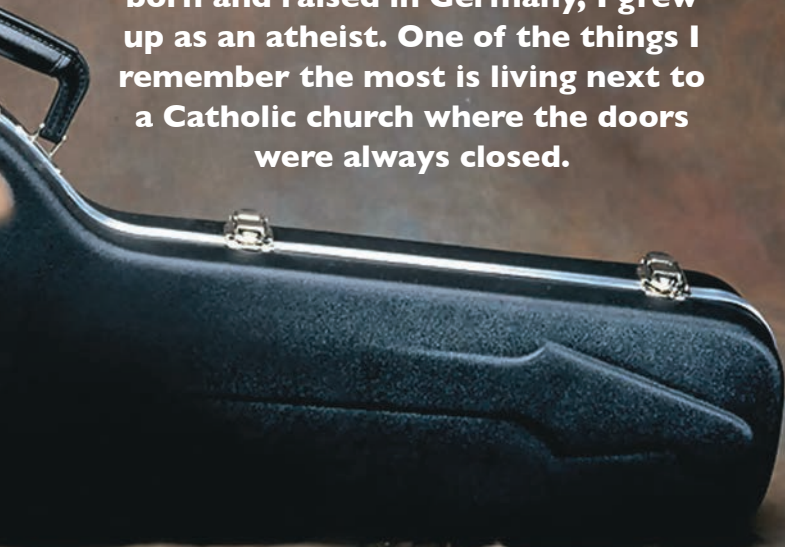
www.megalifeaz.org

Dave Ellefson **Megadeth**

PETER BALTES
(Bassist In ACCEPT)



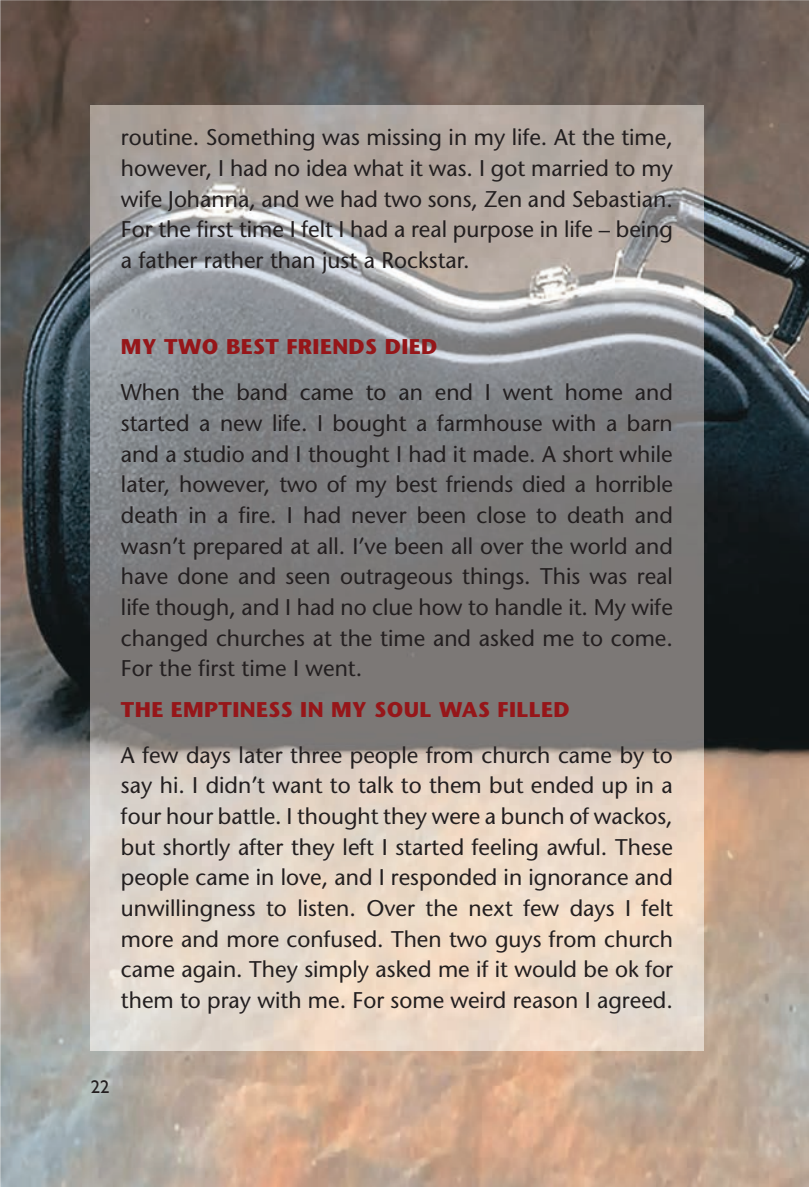
**Something was
missing in
my life...**



**I have been the bass player in
Accept from the beginning. Being
born and raised in Germany, I grew
up as an atheist. One of the things I
remember the most is living next to
a Catholic church where the doors
were always closed.**

A SELFISH LIFE

When Accept released our first couple of albums, we became famous very fast. As a result I started living a life mostly dedicated to myself. Even though we were traveling all around the world playing for thousands of fans every day, my life started to become unfulfilling. Every show was the greatest high, but soon the rest of the day just became



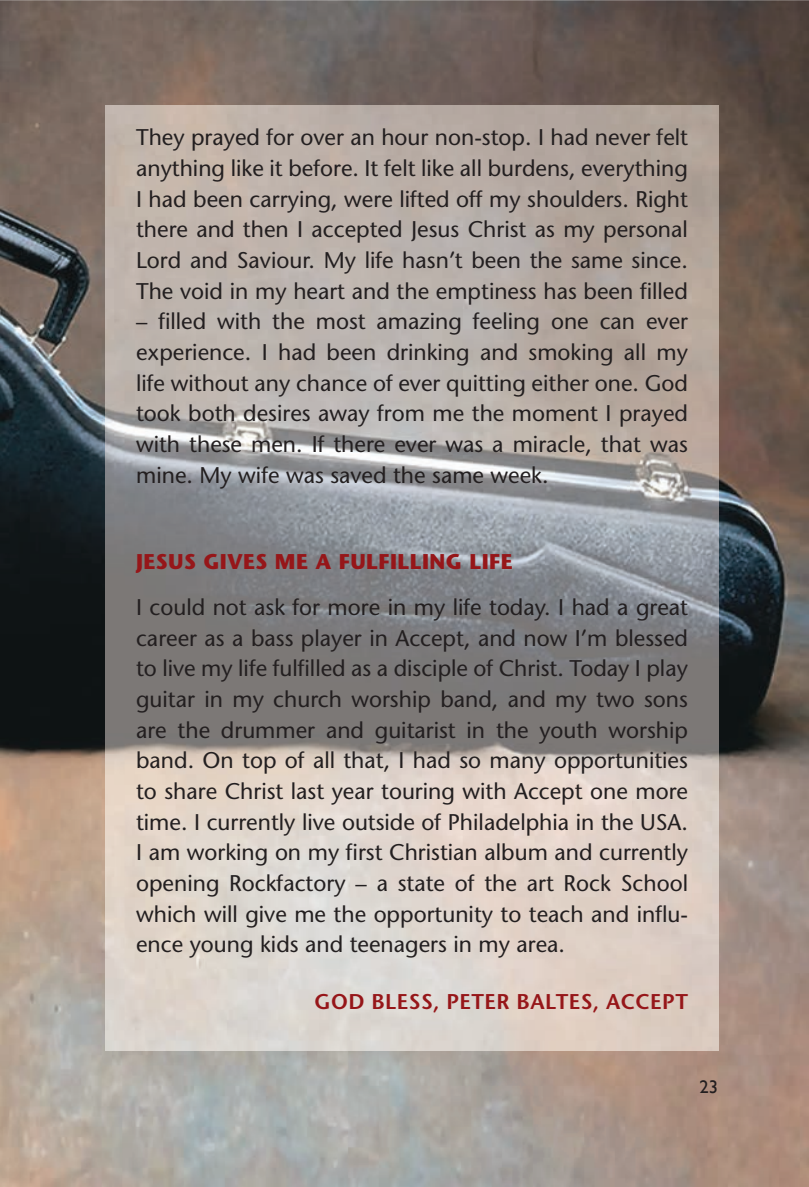
routine. Something was missing in my life. At the time, however, I had no idea what it was. I got married to my wife Johanna, and we had two sons, Zen and Sebastian. For the first time I felt I had a real purpose in life – being a father rather than just a Rockstar.

MY TWO BEST FRIENDS DIED

When the band came to an end I went home and started a new life. I bought a farmhouse with a barn and a studio and I thought I had it made. A short while later, however, two of my best friends died a horrible death in a fire. I had never been close to death and wasn't prepared at all. I've been all over the world and have done and seen outrageous things. This was real life though, and I had no clue how to handle it. My wife changed churches at the time and asked me to come. For the first time I went.

THE EMPTINESS IN MY SOUL WAS FILLED

A few days later three people from church came by to say hi. I didn't want to talk to them but ended up in a four hour battle. I thought they were a bunch of wackos, but shortly after they left I started feeling awful. These people came in love, and I responded in ignorance and unwillingness to listen. Over the next few days I felt more and more confused. Then two guys from church came again. They simply asked me if it would be ok for them to pray with me. For some weird reason I agreed.



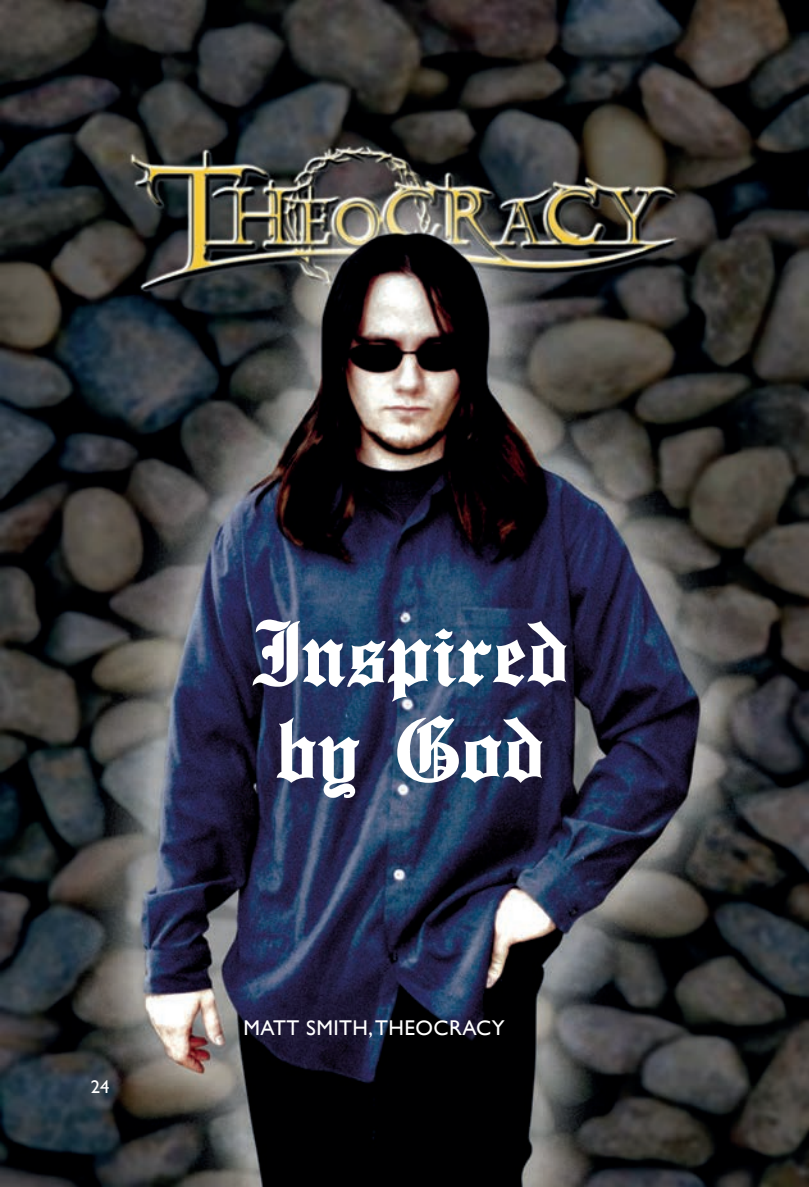
They prayed for over an hour non-stop. I had never felt anything like it before. It felt like all burdens, everything I had been carrying, were lifted off my shoulders. Right there and then I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. My life hasn't been the same since. The void in my heart and the emptiness has been filled – filled with the most amazing feeling one can ever experience. I had been drinking and smoking all my life without any chance of ever quitting either one. God took both desires away from me the moment I prayed with these men. If there ever was a miracle, that was mine. My wife was saved the same week.

JESUS GIVES ME A FULFILLING LIFE

I could not ask for more in my life today. I had a great career as a bass player in Accept, and now I'm blessed to live my life fulfilled as a disciple of Christ. Today I play guitar in my church worship band, and my two sons are the drummer and guitarist in the youth worship band. On top of all that, I had so many opportunities to share Christ last year touring with Accept one more time. I currently live outside of Philadelphia in the USA. I am working on my first Christian album and currently opening Rockfactory – a state of the art Rock School which will give me the opportunity to teach and influence young kids and teenagers in my area.

GOD BLESS, PETER BALTES, ACCEPT

THEOCRACY



Inspired
by God

MATT SMITH, THEOCRACY

You are holding the greatest book of all time in your hands.

If you've never read it, you may think it's just an old, boring religious document that is not worth your time. Nothing could be further from the truth! Every facet of the human condition and spiritual journey is covered in this book. Times change, but the basic fabric of humanity does not.

As you study the Bible you will soon learn that there's really nothing new out there; the principles we see in day-to-day life, the struggles we face, the questions, the victories – it's all here, and this collection of books was written thousands of years ago. You will also ALWAYS find something new when you open this book – even when you re-read passages you've read many times before. This is the way God speaks to us today. The words are inspired by God, they are timeless, and the message is as eternally unchanging as the One who moved the writers to write these words so many years ago.

The Bible is a mirror that helps us to see ourselves as we really are. It is a very personal book. It speaks to us in so many different ways: it comforts us, it convicts us, it enlightens us, and it teaches us.

No matter where we are in our life spiritually or what we are going through, it always hits us with just what we need. This is far from just being words on a page, my friend – it's God's living Word!!!

ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY WITH GOD

STRYKER

ISAIAH 53:5



The Bible cleanses my inner being...

The Bible, to me, is like water. When I drink water, it cleanses my body; when I read God's Word, it cleanses my heart, mind, and soul. When I don't drink water, my body becomes dehydrated; when I don't read God's Word, my life becomes dehydrated. As a believer, God's Word is vital for my life. It guides and directs me to every answer to every question. As much as I know this to be true, it's still very easy from time to time to put God's Word on a shelf to collect dust. When I finally dust it off and open the pages again, it speaks to me like nothing else, and I'm reminded of God's undying love, grace, peace, and mercy that are beautifully written within every word in the Bible.

Michael Sweet





Head to Christ

The band KORN was formed in 1992, but under a different name. In the beginning the band consisted of Welch and guitarist James “Munky” Shaffer, bass player Reggie “Fieldy” Arvizu and drummer David Silveria. Singer Jonathan Davis joined the group in 1993. It was at that time that the band changed its name to KORN. They released their debut album in 1994, and it sold double platinum and was celebrated for being innovative. The group has released a total of six studio albums with Welch, and over 11 million albums have been sold in the U.S. alone. Welch’s last album, “Take a look in the mirror,” was released in 2003.

This is Brian Welch’s story.

I WANTED WHAT THIS FAMILY HAD

My first contact with Christians was when I often visited a Christian family in my early teenage years. They had such a nice atmosphere in their home. It was so peaceful, and I never heard them arguing. These people told me about Jesus, but I never understood who he was, but what I remember is that I wanted what this family had. After I lost contact with the family and had turned sixteen, I really started to party. During the time that I played with KORN I had become addicted to cocaine and amphetamine. I was stuck and couldn’t stop doing drugs, even though I desperately tried to for months. I was also deeply depressed and felt awful all the time.

ON OUR WEBPAGE ARE MESSAGES ABOUT DYING, DEATH AND KILLING

I was also becoming more and more uncomfortable with the image I saw that we had in our music and in our videos. It all went against what I stood for. The band had a dark, sick image. I saw on our webpage that there were messages like dying, death and killing. But I didn't do any of that stuff and I didn't want to stand for it. Something finally woke me up when I heard my five year-old daughter humming, "All day I dream about sex." Then I just felt like I had had enough.

PLEASE, GIVE HER AT LEAST ONE PARENT WHO IS DRUG-FREE

I was in my room, preparing a drug dose, when I just stopped, looked straight up and said, "Jesus, if you are real, set me free from my drug

"Jesus, if you are real, set me free from my drug addiction"

addiction. My daughter has lost her mother to drugs, please, give her at least one parent who is drug-free, and help me want to live!" What happened was something that no therapy, and not even love for my daughter, could accomplish. Within a

week's time I was completely free from my drug addiction. I had also found new hope for my life. It was at that time that I found a church so that I could get help. They prayed for me and helped me in my process of being completely restored.

I WAS SO HAPPY THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT

After experiencing this amazing deliverance through Jesus Christ, I wanted to tell everyone about it. But inside of me, I sensed the Holy Spirit warning me that people were going to make fun of my experience. But he also told me clearly that I was to never be afraid of confessing the name of Jesus. I was so happy that it actually didn't even matter what people thought about me. I knew now that this faith in Jesus thing wasn't



actually what I and so many other people had previously thought it was: a finger in your face, prim and proper religion designed to keep people in line. Now I knew that it was about a real relationship between God and people. When I read about all the heroes in the Bible I told Jesus, "I want to walk with you just like these heroes did." This is the coolest thing in the world! It's so much more than any drug can give you.

I TALK TO GOD EVERY DAY

Sure, there are people who think that I am a little bit crazy. And it's ok with me if they want to look at it that way. I talk to God every day, and the first thing I do when I get up in the morning is to say hello to Jesus. My life has also been completely transformed, both for me and my daughter in everyday life, as well as what I do for other people. I feel like I want to invest my future earnings in starting orphanages in different countries. There isn't anything else I need. I don't want to just sit on a bunch of stuff. We just started an orphanage in India and more orphanages are on the way in different places around the world. God has really given me a burden in my heart for street children. We just have to save these children who sleep outside at night and scrape to survive.

FINANCES TO START MORE

"I feel like I want to invest my future earnings in starting orphanages in different countries"



ORPHANAGES

So I'm writing music again, this time for a purpose. Partly to get out the message that is close to my heart, but also to finance the start of more orphanages. Like I said, I don't need any more stuff. I used to have everything that people usually strive to get. I really had it all! But when you've acquired everything you want, you'll still only live to be 80, or 90 at the most. When you realize that you have to leave it all behind, you'll be asking yourself what the point of it all really was. That's what happens to so many people. They run after money, or a house maybe, but they will never find the meaning of life that way.

I'M ACTUALLY HAPPY NOW

My life is complete now. And I am going to do all that I can to try to change this world! Or I will die trying. I'm actually happy now and it all feels like some fairy tale. Sure, I go through trials every day, but God helps me and speaks to me in many different ways.

The only thing I want to add if you are reading this is: Give your life to the Lord. He is the only one who can make your life complete and fill the emptiness you have on the inside.

/Brian Welch

www.brianheadwelch.net

PRAYER

Hatred that could kill

How did it all begin?

Somebody hurt me, someone lied

Someone said something nasty about my dad

It started with pain, and then the bitterness came

Then the feeling of revenge, finally the hatred came

Oh so tough to hate, it only gets worse and worse

God, release me from my hatred

I want to love and to see the light again

I want to be able to laugh again,

Jesus, you died for my hatred and you loved your enemies

How could you do that?

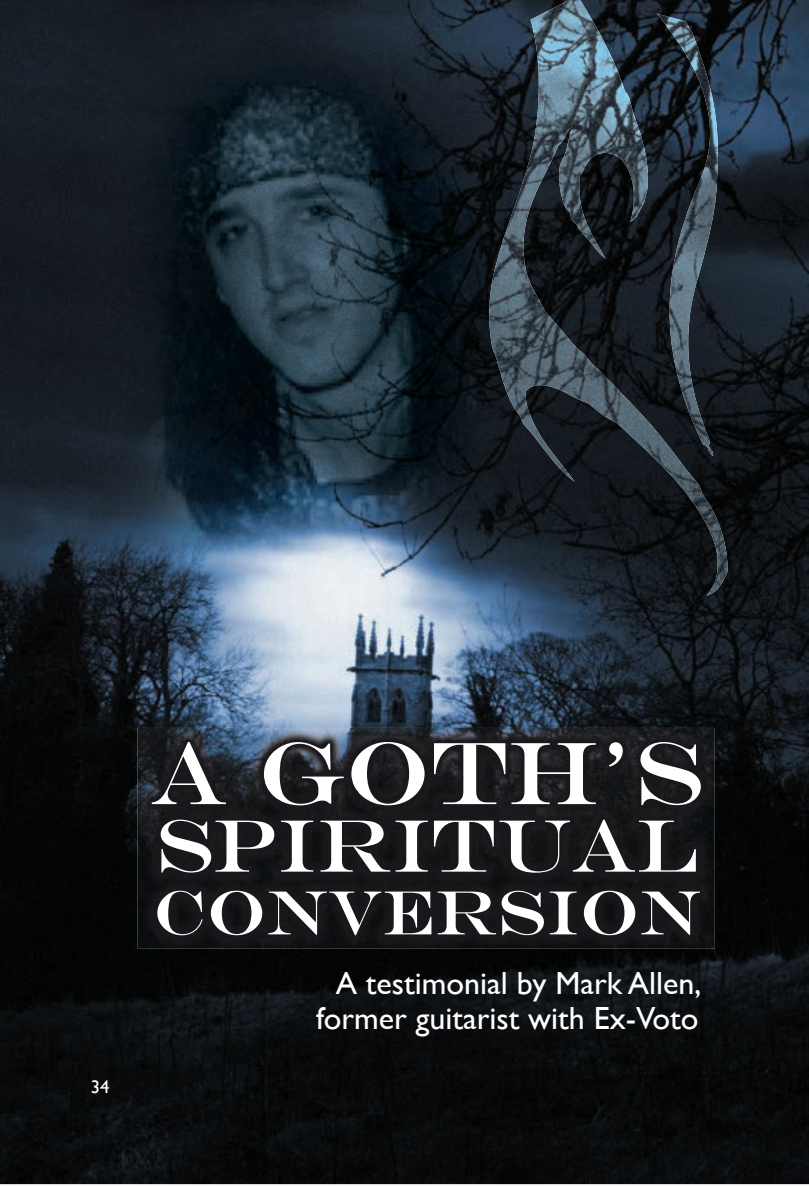
Jesus, take away my hatred

Help me to forgive those that I hate

Those who hurt me

Help, I can't forgive!

Help me to forgive.



A GOTH'S SPIRITUAL CONVERSION

A testimonial by Mark Allen,
former guitarist with Ex-Voto

DAD'S DEATH

Dad died when I was 12 years old. We were close and my Mom didn't tell me he was dying, so it came as quite a shock when it happened. I didn't cry, or have any outward signs of distress. But the impact of this event would shape my life over the course of the next 25 years.

I WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP MY SOUL FOR THIS

I started using drugs of all kinds about the age of 12. Beginning with pot and climbing the drug charts with a bullet all the way to the pinnacle, heroin. I was a bonafide hope to die junkie at the age of 25. I didn't care about anybody or anything other than my music and my drugs. Girls were just something to use and get rid of. I was slamming heroin and practicing magic any chance I could get. I felt like I had power for the first time in my life, and that something big was going to happen. I was going to be a star! I thought that the devil would protect me and that he would give me the desires of my heart. I was even willing to give up my own soul for this. I had written a contract one night while intoxicated on heroin and cocaine. The contract read that for seven years of fame and fortune I would give my soul to Satan. I cut my hand and bled all over the page, did an incantation to seal the deal and hid the document in a safe place.

THE FIGURE MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST SEVEN FEET TALL

One night, I was practicing black magic in my room when the silhouette of a figure started to materialize on my closet doors illuminated by the flickering candles on the floor. The shape must have been at least seven feet tall with wings. Yes, wings! I had been asking the dark powers to visit me that night, but I didn't really expect it to happen, at least in a physical way. But it did. I got scared and ran out of my room and into the front yard completely frightened. What had I done? Would the figure be in my room when I went back? I wasn't sure. Slowly I walked back down the hallway to my room. The scent of candles was present and the flickering shadows were visible on the wall. To my surprise, nothing was there to greet me. I blew out the candles and tried to sleep.

My thoughts were filled with demons and death all night as I tossed and turned. I had given the devil a foothold that wouldn't be broken for almost another decade.

MY MUSIC CAREER WAS OVER

We were playing clubs, getting better and better, and more people were coming. Our manager ran the Krypt Klub in Los Angeles, which was the only real Gothic Club in town. As the band got more exposure and played bigger shows, my drug use got worse and worse. I would be doing heroin right before a show in the dressing room or bathroom. My drug use and temper caused a severe rift within the band. Just when we were about to go big time, I imploded. The band fired me because I was too much trouble to deal with. Arguments, jail stints, drugs, etc. They canned me hard. I was devastated because they pretty much wiped away any trace of my history with them and my influence on their success. I soldiered on. Undaunted, my heroin addition progressing rapidly, my weight declining and my health tentative, I formed my own band, The Covenant. It was a great line up with a strong set of material that I had written and arranged. We were set to debut at The Blitz Club. I read about it in the papers. "Former Guitarist from Ex-Voto Debuts with his New Band". Sounded exciting, but I never made it. I ended up slamming heroin in my car that night. My music career was over.

I BECAME HOMELESS

The next several years found me either in jail or on the streets. I was staying in homeless shelters and sleeping anywhere I could stay warm and dry. I wandered about the streets of Santa Ana, my music career long gone. Just trying to survive day to day and keep the heroin flowing. Whenever you get a meal when you are homeless at a shelter or somewhere, you have to hear someone talk about God. It was something I had to deal with to get what I needed. So I put up with the Jesus stuff. This went on for several years with no change.

Then one night, something happened. I was standing in a crowd of about forty homeless people waiting for my food. The preacher was intense as he read from his Bible. He caught my eye once and stopped his sermon

dead in its tracks. He said to me “son, come up here for a minute”. So I did. He looked at me in the eyes and said “I believe that Jesus is going to deliver you from your heroin addiction tonight’. He asked me if I believed that Jesus could do this, and that He was the Son of God? I said “yes, I did”. I couldn’t believe I said that, because ever since my Dad died I had been a God hater.

My heart was changing and God was doing the change. I got down on my knees in the dirty streets of Santa Ana and made a confession of faith in Christ Jesus and accepted Him as my personal Lord and Saviour.

MY TIME AS A GOTH

I still remember how lonely I felt in those days within the Goth scene. I had never had more people around me, and yet felt so alone. I thought I fit in that scene, but just like every other scene before it, I never really fit. I just fooled myself into thinking that I did. The reality is that until you are ok with yourself and with God, you can’t fit anywhere. Only through Jesus taking this lonely, lost, hurting and broken soul, cleaning me up and setting me in another direction did I finally find out who I was, where I had been and where I was going.

IT IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!

There really is a plan for you that is bigger than you could imagine. Don’t let the devil sell you a bill of goods that is just a cheap imitation of the original. The Bible says that the devil’s plan is to steal, kill and destroy. I sure allowed him to do a pretty good number on my life up until I accepted Christ. If he has stolen from you, and destroyed things and relationships in your life, he hasn’t finished with you. He intends on killing you and will not be satisfied until this is accomplished. Be aware, there is a spiritual battle for your soul. Use wisdom and choose rightly whom you will serve. It is a matter of life and death! Choose life, choose Jesus!

God Bless!

Mark

I got a whole new life!

HEAVY MUSIC, HEAVY MESSAGE

I've been a metalhead most of my life. In grade school I was listening to bands like Aerosmith, Thin Lizzy and Kiss. It was also at this young age that my parents would take me to church each Sunday morning and drop me and my brothers off.

I continued to



go to church throughout my childhood years right into my teenage years. I always prided myself in the fact that I was at church, yet I could still be myself. I would go and sing the songs and listen to the teachings, but I would go wearing my Led Zeppelin and Kiss shirts. This is who I was. I wasn't going to play a game of Sunday Christian. However, I really enjoyed the youth activities and became good friends with the youth pastor – a man I really respected. I wasn't unlike most other teens – getting into trouble here and there, experimenting with smoking, occasional drinking and some drugs. I can't say that I ever sank to rock bottom like many others have done before I realized my need for something outside of music or religion. The fact was, I was religious and didn't really know a true and living God. Religion was simply my attempt to reach God and to fool myself into thinking I was a "good person".

LONG-HAIRED GUYS WHO SAID THEY WERE CHRISTIANS

I went to college in Rochester, NY. Just as in my teen years, I was still heavily into metal. Weekly outings in search of records, concerts, and parties were part of my life but weren't truly fulfilling. I loved the music, and I loved the metal scene. It was at a Motorhead/Raven concert at the Penny Arcade in Rochester that I met a group of long-haired guys like myself who also claimed to be Christians. However, these guys weren't there for the music like I was. They were there sharing their faith with the crowd and seemed to be genuinely happy. People were mocking them, while others were avoiding them, but they didn't care. To me, that attitude embodied something stronger than the tough, exterior facade I portrayed. I became friends with these guys who also happened to be in a heavy metal band called Holy Saint, a Christian

metal band. To be honest, I didn't realize there was such a thing as "Christian" heavy metal. The Christian music I was familiar with from the church I used to attend wasn't anything I was interested in. Guys like Keith Green and B.J. Thomas were fine for the Sunday School Christians, but they didn't appeal to me. But these guys had the look, knew the lingo, and were intense!

RECEIVED FORGIVENESS...

It was through their friendship that I began to see that there was more to being a Christian than just going to church on Sunday morning. I finally realized my own depravity. I had spent years in church hearing messages about God but never realized I didn't know WHO Jesus was. I only knew OF Him. One day at a Bible study I attended with these guys, I simply realized my need for a Saviour. I realized that despite going to church and thinking I was a good guy, I was headed for hell because of my sin. I realized on that day that I could never actually reach a perfect God on my own because I was imperfect. I realized instead that God was reaching down to me and offering me forgiveness and grace and that all he required me to do, was to ask Him for it.

A WHOLE NEW LIFE...

I can honestly say I became a new person on that day. Life had a whole new outlook for me. It was no longer about me or living for music but about living for God and others. In one moment God totally changed me. I had true joy that didn't end at the end of a concert. I finally understood why God has sacrificed so much for me in giving his Son, and I finally knew what true love was. How awesome his love is for me that he cared enough to send the eternal Son to earth to reach down in love for me.

A LOVING GOD

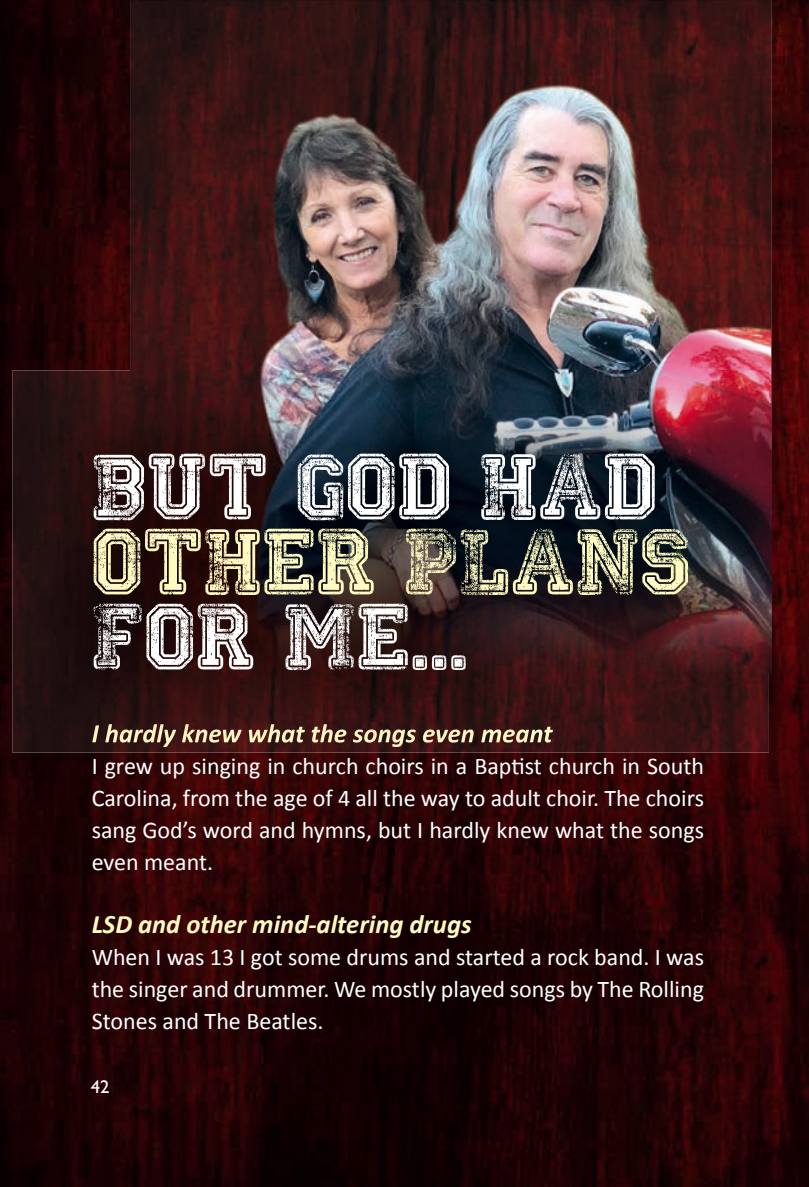
God speaks to us through his Word, which is conveyed in the pages of the Bible. At one time I thought it was a dusty, old, outdated book of rules. This couldn't be further from the truth. What the Bible gives us is true freedom. It is through the Bible that God conveys the true unconditional love, grace, and forgiveness that I discovered that day in 1988. It is to the Bible that I go to get strength when I am weak. It is in the Bible that I find comfort when I need it. It is through the Bible that I can learn more about my God. It is because of this book that I discovered a loving God, and it is because of that love that I have been compelled to share that through my music over the years.

THE BEST MUSIC

Many feel that Christianity and metal cannot coexist. This cannot be further from the truth. I have always felt that heavy metal was the ultimate music and the ultimate form of expression, with Christianity being the ultimate message. The message and the music fit together perfectly, in my opinion. I have also always believed that metal has room for more than just your typical clichés for lyrics. The Bible assures everyone who believes that the Spirit is given as the deposit of our salvation, so all can be assured that God's Spirit abides in them. If that is so, how could I not share the good news of freedom in Jesus? If my faith didn't show through my music I would be the ultimate poser.

Scott Waters





BUT GOD HAD OTHER PLANS FOR ME...

I hardly knew what the songs even meant

I grew up singing in church choirs in a Baptist church in South Carolina, from the age of 4 all the way to adult choir. The choirs sang God's word and hymns, but I hardly knew what the songs even meant.

LSD and other mind-altering drugs

When I was 13 I got some drums and started a rock band. I was the singer and drummer. We mostly played songs by The Rolling Stones and The Beatles.

Although I had felt the hand of God on me several times, I still had no idea what it meant to be a Christian. My little band fell apart in the ninth grade when my guitar players were busted for marijuana possession. I was curious and by the tenth grade I began to experiment with marijuana myself and by the eleventh grade had used LSD and other mind-altering drugs, whatever I could find.

1950 chopped Harley Panhead

But I was soon to realize that God had other plans for me in the near future. I rode motorcycles everywhere I went and had quite a reputation of being a wild man on my 1950 chopped Harley Panhead. But because of God's protection I never overdosed or died in a crash, even though I had three really bad ones.

I know God has a plan for your life

I often saw my mother down on her knees praying as I walked past her bedroom to get to bed after a long day of doing drugs and tripping on acid.

She would tell me, "I'm not worried about you. I know God has a plan for your life. I have placed you in his hands." Every morning she would read from the Bible while my brothers and I were eating breakfast before school. She had a beautiful voice. I can still hear her singing, "Trust in the Lord your God and lean not on your own understanding. He will direct your path."

I prayed the prayer of salvation

During my first few weeks at college, Jesus really began to move on me. A young lady with Campus Crusade for Christ invited

me to go hear a Christian speaker named Josh McDowell speak on campus. She also shared the “Four Spiritual Laws” booklet with me. So on the night of the event I dropped some acid and went to enjoy the speech. The author spoke about the book of Revelation and I got very frightened. Two days later I woke up in my dorm room and I could feel the Holy Spirit all around me. I prayed the prayer of salvation to be born again and I became a new creation in Christ! Then I told God, “You will have to help me!” And he sure did!

Sherry

In 1972 I traveled to Florida to continue my art education. I had no idea what God had in store for me. Shortly after starting art school I met a pretty girl on the beach and we went to a party together. We got to know each other that evening and the next.

We really liked each other. On our third date I told her my testimony.

Sherry wanted to know how to become a Christian because nobody had ever told her before. So, I told her to ask Jesus to wash away her sins and give her faith to believe and make her a new creation in Christ. Within a moment she was filled with God’s Holy Spirit.

We got married three months later.

They showed us much love and understanding

After Sherry and I got married we got involved in a small church in Sarasota, Florida. I started work as a brick mason. I bought a brand-new Triumph 650 after selling my Harley Davidson chopper to have some money to start our lives together.

Every morning, I rode down Highway 41 along the west coast

of Florida for about 50 miles. It was a great time to think about how God had blessed me and Sherry.

The people at the church we went to showed us so much love and understanding as I was recovering from my drug-damaged brain.

Today I work as a musician

Later I began to try to write songs with my guitar to express the faith God had given me in Jesus. Later I began playing the piano. Now whenever I have the opportunity to sing for Jesus it is with a real, vibrant purpose. Today I work as a musician and travel in the U.S. and Europe.

By the grace of God, Sherry and I have been married for more than 40 years. We have three children, grandchildren, and a wonderful church family that supports our ministry. I really have an abundant life!

Follow Jesus!

Jesus has kept his promise to take care of me, just as he says in his word, the Bible.

In the Bible he promises to “Never leave us or forsake us.” He is a true friend who is closer than a brother. He also tells us that nobody, no power on earth or anywhere else, can ever take us out of his hands.

Follow Jesus! Call on his name. He will save you and never ever leave you.

Rob Cassels

www.robassels.com





Trapped

between many worlds

I COULDN'T CARE LESS

I never really cared about religion during my high school years. I just lived my life and tried to enjoy it. There wasn't much that really sparked my interest besides video games and music. After having listened to various styles of music, I finally discovered metal when I was 15. At first I listened to Metallica, but through friends I found out about other bands like Death, Paradise Lost, Obituary, Merauder etc. etc. It was several years before I first started to listen to blackmetal, but when I did, I was hooked and I tried to listen to as many different bands as possible. I never really understood the hatred that many metalheads and bands seemed to have against Christianity. Personally I always



found it rather boring, but the more I was confronted by the hatred in the scene against Christianity, the more I got interested in finding out why on earth people made so much fuss about something I couldn't care less about.

I WANTED TO FIND ANSWERS

So I started to read the Bible because I wanted to know what it was all about, and the more I read, the more it made sense to me. Somehow it connected with me deeper than music ever did, and somehow I just knew that God exists and that He is very interested in His Creation. The proof of that is His life as Jesus. Yet whenever I set foot in the local church, it all seemed so dull and uninspiring, and when I visited other churches I was often confronted with rejection and distrust because of my Metal appearance. However, reading the Bible on my own often raised more questions than I could find answers to, so to find those answers I eventually joined a church and just accepted being an outcast there.

During that time I learned a lot from the stories in the Bible, but after a few years I finally grew tired of the constant distrust that was shown towards me because of my appearance and my love for metal-music. So, I left.

TRAPPED BETWEEN MANY WORLDS

In the following years I slowly sank into a deep depression. Most Christians I met gave me the impression that they would never accept me as an equal as long I stayed Metal, and most metalheads I met despised me for believing in Jesus. I found myself trapped between many worlds and not even the mainstream outside world bothered to understand me (since they see all metalheads as outcasts). My life seemed worthless to me and I started to believe that I would be better off without it.

I sought refuge in all sorts of entertainment the world had to offer, mostly playing video games and watching movies day in, day out, but that did not bring me any solace. It all just made me feel like an even bigger failure. My band 'Slechtvalk' was stranded in a dead end just after the release of 'At the Dawn of

War' and it seemed that all I tried to accomplish was doomed to fail. I wanted to kill myself and hated God for my failure, but my belief in God was already rooted so strongly within me that I feared the consequences of such a rash action. Once I had a vision about hell, and the memory of it was so terrible that I never dared to kill myself if it meant that I might end up there.

PEOPLE ACCEPTED ME FOR WHO I WAS

For several years I lived my life, day by day, keeping up an appearance that everything was okay (even to my wife), even though it was not, and not a week went by without playing with the thought of committing suicide. I dragged myself through life until I finally visited a church that some of my friends were a part of. That was the first place where people accepted me for who I was and it was the beginning of a long healing process within me, during which I had many setbacks, but each time it was less intense than before.

It's now been 4 and a half years since I first visited that church, and it has become a second home to me. It's a shame that it took me so long to find a church where people try to be like Jesus instead of like dictators, but I am glad I did.

I REALLY LOVE THIS LITTLE KID

My wife and I are now expecting our first child. I really love this little kid growing in her belly and I am looking forward to holding this child in my arms and watching him or her grow up. It is just mind-boggling to think that if I had killed myself when I wanted to, this little person would never have come to be.

Shangar Ingarric Eladson



Christian Liljgren

is a vocalist in the bands Golden Resurrection, Narnia, Audiovision, Modest Attraction, Divinefire & Flagship. He is also the owner of Rivel Records in Sweden.

When I was 14 years old I had a personal encounter with Jesus. It has had an impact on my life ever since then. Being a Christian is not something you are just on Sundays; it's a lifestyle and a journey – the most exciting one you could ever experience!

I have been made fun of many times because I'm a Christian, but what I experienced when God's Spirit came alive in me, and what I am still experiencing, is something that I would never want to trade for anything else. In a fallen world filled with so much violence and death, I want to spread a message of life, one that will give people life for eternity. My calling as a singer and rock evangelist has given me so much that I want to share with others.

God's word, along with my relationship with Jesus, give me stability in life in a way that nothing else can. Of course, life is not always easy, but together with Jesus it's easier to make

it through the tough times. The Bible has so much to give at so many different levels of our lives. Although I have read some Bible verses many times, something new still shines through them every time I read them, and this deepens my relationship with God. I hope that you – through this Bible – will have many exciting experiences that will give you courage to live in this world. It's a fantastic book with a message that is always reliable, no matter what you face.

I wish you everything good in life. Take the opportunity to get to know Jesus. He is the way, the truth and the life!!!

One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 23:1-3: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lay down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

To have your sins forgiven

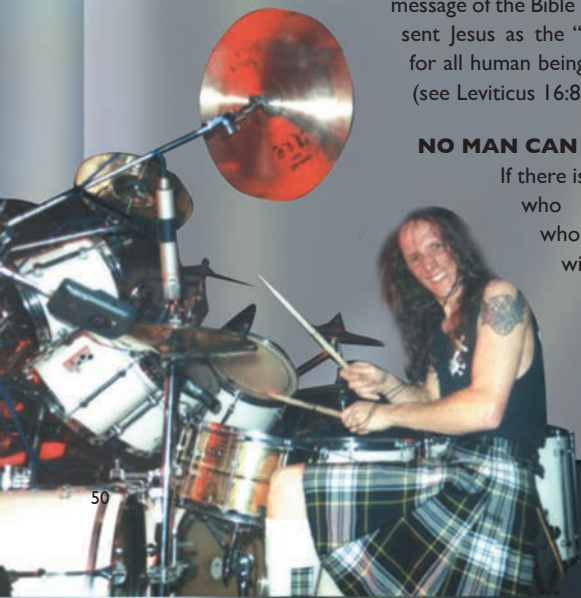
THE MAIN MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

The Bible is more than just a book. It's the living Word of God that we are holding in our hands. The Creator of the heavens and the earth shows us in his Word what He has done and what He will do. For example, God revealed to Isaiah that He would send a redeemer. This was prophesied 600 years before Jesus was born (see Isaiah 9:6).

The Old Testament is mostly the story of God's chosen people (Israel), while the New Testament concerns all of mankind. The main message of the Bible is that God sent Jesus as the "scapegoat" for all human beings on earth (see Leviticus 16:8, 20-22).

NO MAN CAN ESCAPE

If there is a Creator who made the whole earth with all the plants and



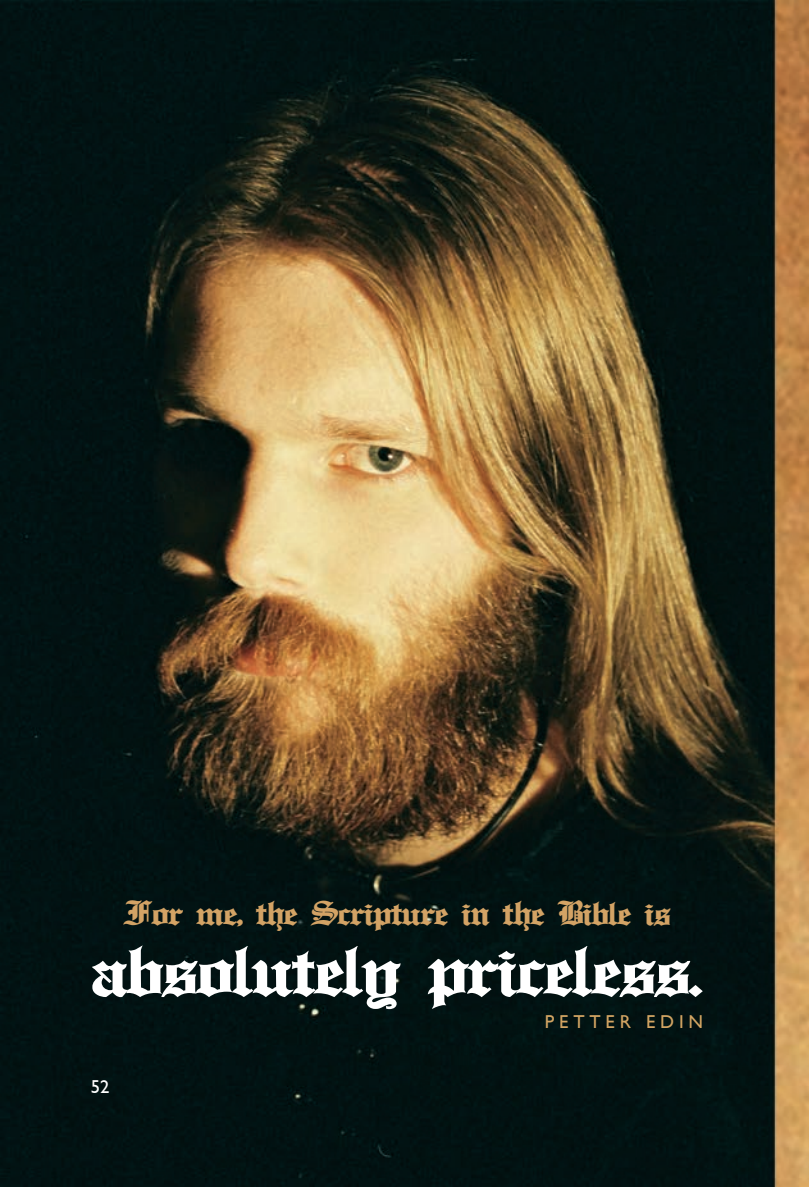
animals and all the people on it, this Creator must be much more intelligent than any human. I believe that the Bible comes from God, and that it is a part of God's thoughts. I believe that the Bible is the truth, and if the Bible is the truth, we will all stand before God's throne one day (Revelation 20:11-15). Nobody can escape; everyone will have to answer to God for his deeds. Every man has sinned in his life (every little lie is against the will of God), and the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). However there is one way, only one way, for each man to achieve an acquittal and have his sins forgiven, and that is by confessing his sins and letting Jesus be his Saviour and to invite Jesus to be Lord of your life (1 John 1:9, Galatians 3:22, Romans 10:9-10).

HE IS MY ONLY HOPE

Jesus is my Lord. He is my only hope, and He is my Saviour. He is more important to me than my wife or my daughter or my band because He saved me from eternal death. He doesn't keep my life clear of problems, but He always helps me to solve them. Reading the Bible also helps me to live my life the way He wants me to live it. My favourite verse is John 3:16. I always write it beside my signature when we sign autographs.

Mike Pflüger





For me, the Scripture in the Bible is
absolutely priceless.

PETTER EDIN

The least you can say about the Bible is that it is a fantastic book that has so incredibly much to give – much more than what you think. Some people call the Bible a book of fairy tales – something that many different men wrote according to their own will and definitely something you can't put your trust in. But I just don't buy into that way of thinking. You can read the Bible as an ordinary book and not get very much out of it, but it has a very deep dimension that you will only discover if the Holy Spirit leads you to it. I would like to point out a powerful Bible verse:

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

“Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” (2 PETER 1:20-21)

No truth in the Bible can be revealed or understood on our own, but only the Holy Spirit, God's own Spirit, can reveal the meaning of the Scripture to us. It is then that the Bible becomes meaningful, inspiring and satisfying to read.

ATHEIST PROFESSOR GOT SAVED

One atheist professor had decided to set out to prove that the whole Bible is just one big scam. The professor started to read from Genesis, but after he had only read four chapters, he started to believe in Jesus Christ. He said that no man could have written something so incredibly well thought-through as what was written in the text of the Bible. This discovery led him to a personal faith in the God who is behind the Bible. Many people think the Bible is difficult to understand, and

there may be some truth to that. Not even as a Christian are you able to necessarily understand everything it says to the fullest, but just because something is complicated and difficult to understand doesn't mean that it's not true.

A COMMON THREAD

The whole Bible took 1500 years to write, and although the people who wrote the Bible lived at different times, there is still a common thread throughout the whole Bible. Everything comes together in an incredible way! It is also very interesting to see that many

prophecies (predictions) from the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New Testament, and more and more prophecies that the Bible talks about are about to happen.

The Bible is the Word of God, and **“it's living and active”** (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible is not just a bunch of printer's ink, but instead it is a collection of dynamic, divine words that can change a person's life completely.

Next time you read the Bible, think about what you are holding – a priceless treasure that is just waiting for you to discover its message. You can read it as an ordinary book and think it's boring, but you can also choose to open up to the Holy Spirit's guidance and let the words of God change your entire life!

Petter Edin

We lived in darkness..

Before we had a relationship with the Lord Jesus, we lived in darkness. This consisted of using drugs, alcohol and practicing the occult. We didn't find peace in any of this. We were left feeling empty and confused. When we moved from the dark side into the life of Jesus, everything changed. No longer did we have feelings of doubt about who we are. God's peace, which is beyond all understanding, was alive in our hearts. We now rejoice every day for what God has done for us.

We are also so blessed to have the Bible. It provides a road map for how we should live our lives. Furthermore, the Bible has beautiful poetry, great stories, power and most importantly, the life of Jesus. We have learned through the Bible that God understands our humanity and that He knows that we are not perfect. He loves us for who we are. The fact is, He created us in His own image. All He wants from us is honour, love and to put our trust in His son, Jesus.

Rod Rivera/Johnny Bomma



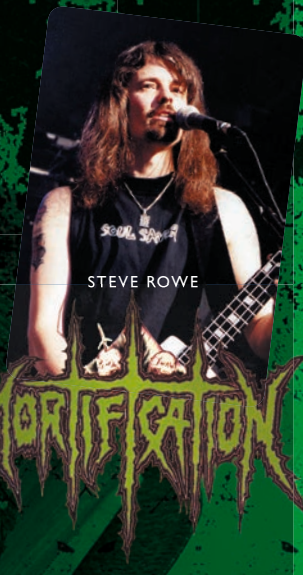
I conquered cancer with the Word of God

THE BIBLE MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME because it is the inspired Word of God. I was brought up in a Christian home and learned the truths of the Bible and how to apply them to my life from a very young age. When I started playing Christian metal music 25 years ago in 1984, it was because I love metal music, but also because I wanted to share with metal fans worldwide the truth of God's Word.

In 1996 I was diagnosed with leukemia and twice was given just two hours to live. The first time was in June '97, four months after a bone marrow transplant and again in April '98 with severe brain fluid disease. All through my journey surviving cancer I had scriptures plastered all over the hospital walls around my bed wherever I was being treated. That way every time I looked around I could read about God's truths. For example, "I shall live and not die and declare the works of the Lord."

MY FAVOURITE BOOK

My favourite book is the book of James written by Jesus' brother. I do endeavour to "consider it pure joy when I face trials of many kinds." My favourite verse of scripture is James chapter 1 verse 27: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."



STEVE ROWE

HOPE FOR ETERNITY

The Bible has given me the words to fight and beat cancer and the devil. I live on to share my hope in Christ with others through the music and concerts of Mortification. I remind myself daily to stay clean from the world's ways. My wife Kate, our son Leighton and I support a child through Compassion International even though in a Western sense we are not very financially rich. We live like royalty, however, compared to the real poor of this world. Without Christ the living Word of God I am nothing and have no hope in eternity.

God bless you! Steve Rowe (MORTIFICATION)

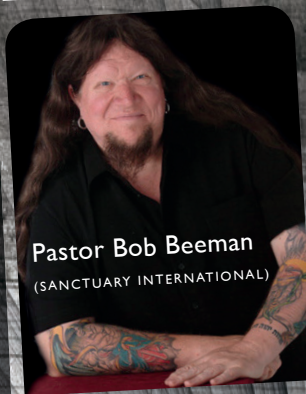
The Bible is powerful and explosive!

The Bible is powerful and explosive! I have walked with the Lord for almost 5 decades and have learned to trust its content more and more every day. In all of these years, I can tell you that the Lord has never let me down. He has always been faithful to his Word and to his promises.

As you look through this special edition of the Bible, you will find some exciting things in its pages: among them are hope, strength, wisdom, and comfort. You will, as I have, begin to find the path for your life and direction as you walk it.

Life with God is an adventure and a challenge worth taking!

AN ADVENTURE WORTH EXPERIENCING



Pastor Bob Beeman
(SANCTUARY INTERNATIONAL)





The Bible takes you closer to God

The Bible is the best book for practical Christian living. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible provides us with insights and direction to bring us closer to God. By applying these truths to your life, you move toward the direction of God's will.

The many letters to the churches provide us with instructions, caution and rebuke – none to be taken lightly. I can tell you that when I'm not in God's Word, I'm usually not in God's will. I exhort you to take time each day and spend it wisely at the feet of Christ and read all He has given us in this wonderful book called the Bible.

Richard Lynch (SAINT)

The Way to Salvation



GOD CARES!

Some people don't think that God cares for them, but the Bible says that God cares so much for us that He sent his son Jesus to die in our place! We are so valuable to God that Jesus was even willing to die for us while we were still sinners. [Romans 5:8]

NOBODY IS PERFECT

No man is perfect, and we all miss the mark somewhere. This is what the Bible calls sin. It is our sin that separates us from God. Our sin is like a barrier that blocks us from having fellowship with God. Jesus came down to earth to restore the fellowship between God and man. He took our sins upon himself and died in our place. Since Jesus did this for us, the way to heaven has been opened so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life – that means fellowship with God forever. As a result of what Jesus did we can now have our sins forgiven and get ourselves right with God to the extent where it is like we have never done anything wrong.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD!

Deep inside every man there is an emptiness that neither parties, material things, sex, drugs nor anything else here on earth can fill. Only God can fill this emptiness and give us real satisfaction – a satisfaction not just for the moment but that lasts for your entire life. If you choose to put your life in God's hands and devote your life to Him you will have personal fellowship with God.

That is what a real Christian life is all about! It is not a dry, boring religion but a living relationship with God! This means that when you choose to follow Jesus you will have a personal relationship with God.

GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU COMPLETE SATISFACTION

It is no accident that you are reading this, because God has a plan for your life! He also wants you to get the most out of life. He wants to give you complete satisfaction. This will only happen, however, when you

come into God's plan, where you will find the ultimate meaning of what life is all about and be fully satisfied.

As long as you choose to go your own way, you will miss God's plan for your life. You will never be truly satisfied but will always feel that there is something missing. If you choose to devote your life to God, however, and lay your life in the hands of God, you will get the most out of life.

COME INTO GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

If you want to get the most out of life and come into God's plan for your life, you can pray a simple prayer to invite God into your life and make a decision to follow Him. If you do this and are serious about what you are doing, God will forgive your sins and you will have personal fellowship with God – fellowship that will last all the way into eternity.

YOU CAN PRAY LIKE THIS:

"Jesus I believe that you died and rose for me. Thanks for being willing to also die in my place. Forgive me of my sins. From this moment I will follow you and let you be the Lord of my life. Thank you for forgiving my sins. Thank you that I now have fellowship with you from this moment. Amen."

HOW WILL I HEAR GOD SPEAK TO ME?

We can talk to Jesus about anything and everything, and we can be sure that he will help us, both in everyday things and in the most important decisions in life. Finally, I just want to give you some tips on how you can let your relationship with Jesus grow, and how you can get to know God more and more. I also want to congratulate you for making the most important decision we humans can make: to ask Jesus to forgive our sins.



SOME IMPORTANT TIPS FOR YOUR LIFE TOGETHER WITH GOD.

- Read “the instruction book” (the Bible) or as someone said Best Instruction Before Life Ends
- Talk to Jesus often, and don’t forget to listen to his answers!
- Be sure to find Christian friends who can help you and support you!
- Tell others about your decision. Tell them about your faith in Jesus! (this is actually a part of salvation itself)
- Attend a church where you get to know more about God and grow in your faith.

Today I decided to place my life in Jesus’ hands and have received Jesus as my Saviour..

Date: _____ Place: _____

☐ I would like to get to know other Christians nearby.

Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Copy and send to:

Multi-Language Media, P.O. Box 1449, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Washington, PA 19034

**And one more thing:
Don’t forget that God
is always with you!**

PRAYER

LIGHT IN MY DARKNESS

Jesus, fear and anxiety always creep in early in the morning.

I don't know where this anxiety comes from.

Jesus, set me free!

I open my entire heart to you.

Jesus, you bore all my anxiety on the cross when you died for me.

Thank you Jesus for taking my fears.

Set me free and let me see light in this darkness.

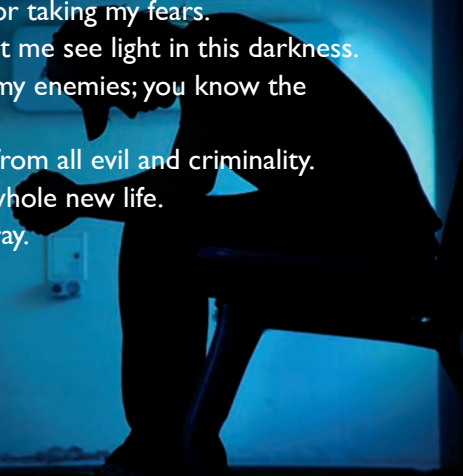
Protect me from my enemies; you know the things that I fear.

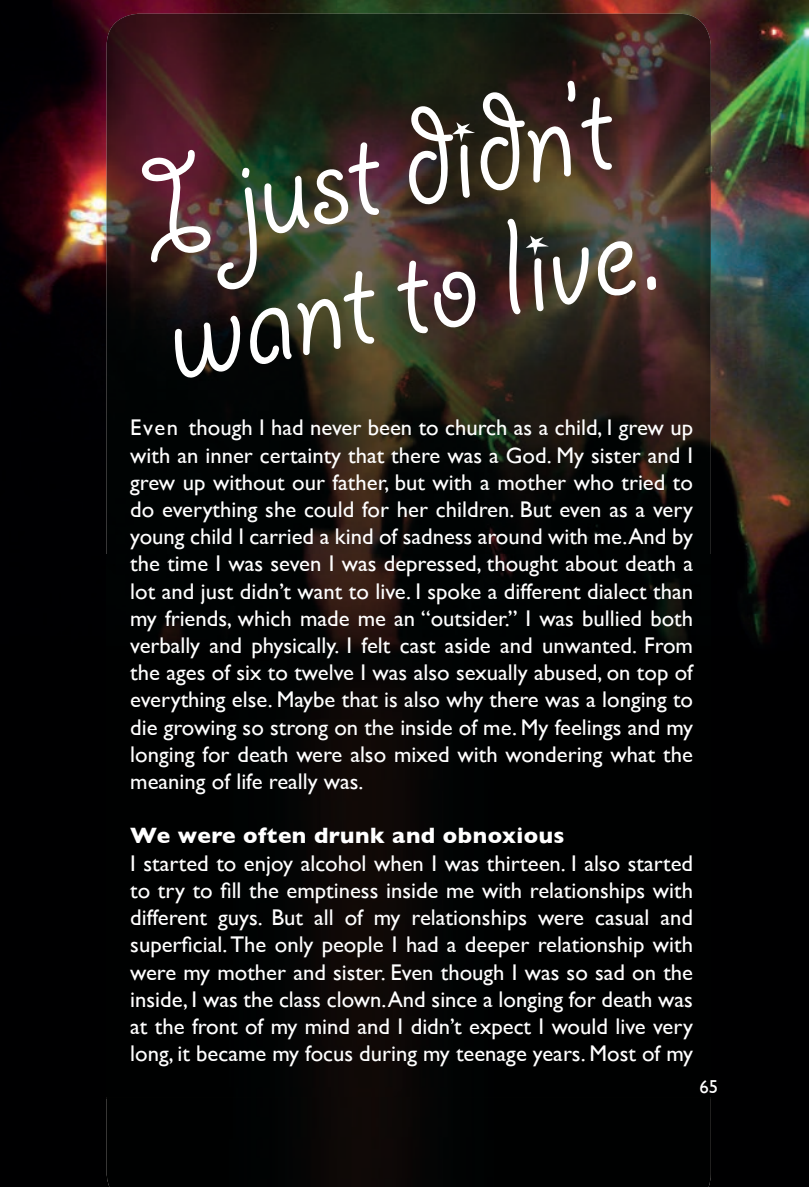
I want to be free from all evil and criminality.

I want to start a whole new life.

In Jesus' name I pray.

Amen.





I just didn't want to live.

Even though I had never been to church as a child, I grew up with an inner certainty that there was a God. My sister and I grew up without our father, but with a mother who tried to do everything she could for her children. But even as a very young child I carried a kind of sadness around with me. And by the time I was seven I was depressed, thought about death a lot and just didn't want to live. I spoke a different dialect than my friends, which made me an "outsider." I was bullied both verbally and physically. I felt cast aside and unwanted. From the ages of six to twelve I was also sexually abused, on top of everything else. Maybe that is also why there was a longing to die growing so strong on the inside of me. My feelings and my longing for death were also mixed with wondering what the meaning of life really was.

We were often drunk and obnoxious

I started to enjoy alcohol when I was thirteen. I also started to try to fill the emptiness inside me with relationships with different guys. But all of my relationships were casual and superficial. The only people I had a deeper relationship with were my mother and sister. Even though I was so sad on the inside, I was the class clown. And since a longing for death was at the front of my mind and I didn't expect I would live very long, it became my focus during my teenage years. Most of my

life was just surviving from weekend to weekend. At this time both my sister and I were two girls who really stuck out. We were often drunk and obnoxious. In some strange way, my longing for death was mixed during this time with a certain hunger for peace and love. But in the relationships I had, it most often just about sex.

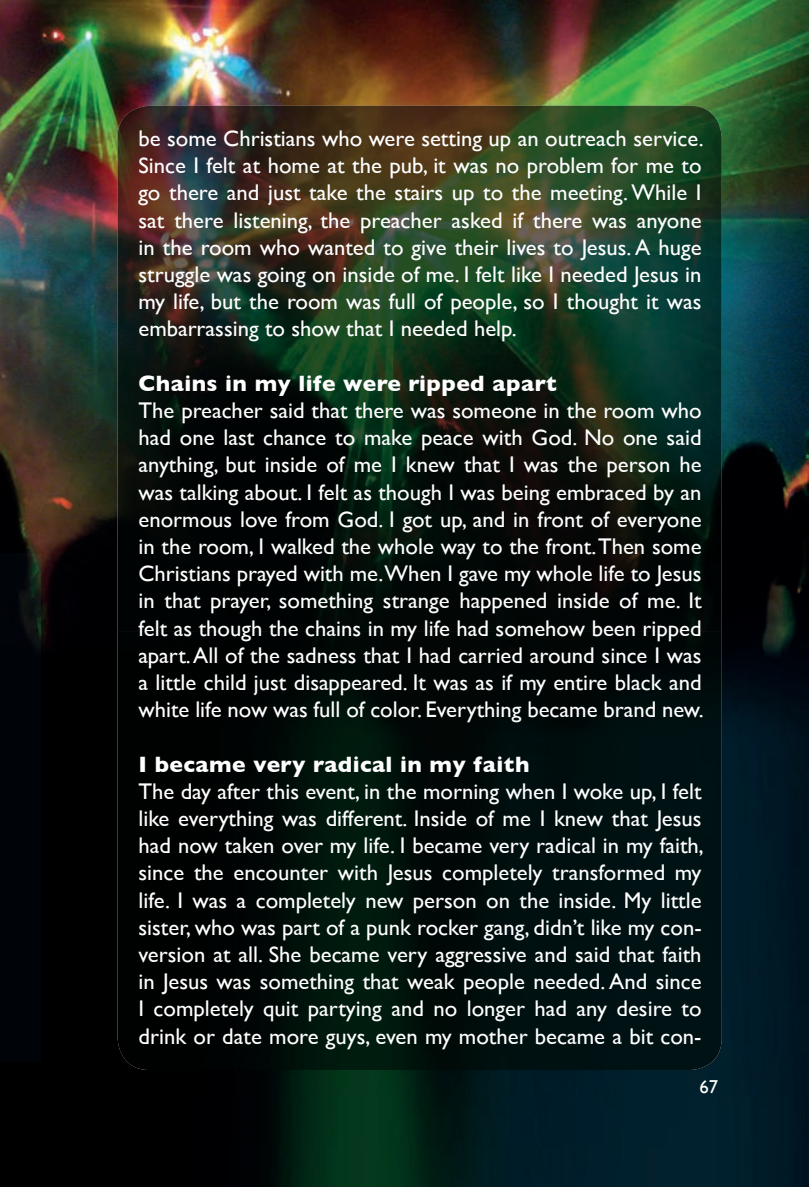
From that moment on I wanted to live!

One morning, when I came home from partying when I was 18 years old, I just felt that I had had enough. I just didn't want any more. I took a knife and slit my wrist. As the blood pumped out of me, I saw before my eyes something like a film. It was a movie with different scenes where people had told me about Jesus. As clear as lightning, I was convinced that God exists. I was just as convinced that if I were to die right then, that I would not come to him. Even though no one had told me that, I knew it with full certainty. There, in the middle of my misery, I cried out: "God, if you really exist, take over my life and make something of it!" At that moment, the darkness in the room where I was standing had vanished. Instead, I felt like a strong light had come into the room. I was sure that something had happened, and that I would never be the same again. I put a bandage on my wrist. From that moment on I wanted to live.

It was embarrassing to show that I needed help

Just a few days later I heard about a group that met above the pub where I usually hung out. It happened to





be some Christians who were setting up an outreach service. Since I felt at home at the pub, it was no problem for me to go there and just take the stairs up to the meeting. While I sat there listening, the preacher asked if there was anyone in the room who wanted to give their lives to Jesus. A huge struggle was going on inside of me. I felt like I needed Jesus in my life, but the room was full of people, so I thought it was embarrassing to show that I needed help.

Chains in my life were ripped apart

The preacher said that there was someone in the room who had one last chance to make peace with God. No one said anything, but inside of me I knew that I was the person he was talking about. I felt as though I was being embraced by an enormous love from God. I got up, and in front of everyone in the room, I walked the whole way to the front. Then some Christians prayed with me. When I gave my whole life to Jesus in that prayer, something strange happened inside of me. It felt as though the chains in my life had somehow been ripped apart. All of the sadness that I had carried around since I was a little child just disappeared. It was as if my entire black and white life now was full of color. Everything became brand new.

I became very radical in my faith

The day after this event, in the morning when I woke up, I felt like everything was different. Inside of me I knew that Jesus had now taken over my life. I became very radical in my faith, since the encounter with Jesus completely transformed my life. I was a completely new person on the inside. My little sister, who was part of a punk rocker gang, didn't like my conversion at all. She became very aggressive and said that faith in Jesus was something that weak people needed. And since I completely quit partying and no longer had any desire to drink or date more guys, even my mother became a bit con-



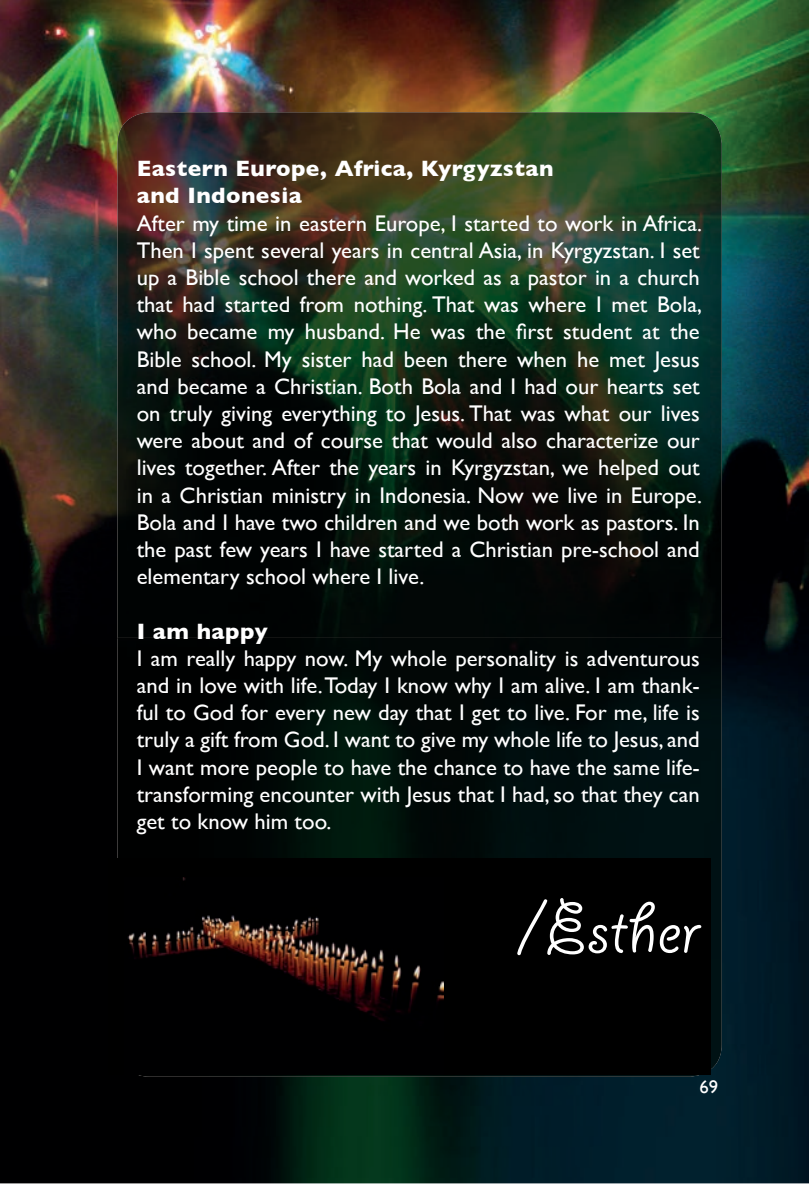
cerned. She thought it was ok for me to believe in God, but that I didn't necessarily need to become a fanatic about it. She thought that I could just go on living as I had done before. But I had been completely transformed inside. I really didn't want my "old life" back.

The people in church showed me so much love

Instead, I started going to church. I wanted to know more about Jesus and wanted to follow him with all my heart. I was feeling so great as I sought after more of Jesus. My transformation was apparently making an impression on my family, because soon my mother started to come along to church and soon after that my previously so aggressive little sister also gave her life to Jesus. The people in the small church I attended showed me so much love. There was one older couple in particular who took good care of me. Wherever I went, I wanted to share what I had experienced, and how Jesus had changed my life. I gathered a group of young people and brought them to church. It was with that group that I started to have youth group meetings.

God's plan for my life

I now began to also understand that God had plans for my life. He had a plan that I could follow. I wanted to take the path that God had for me with my whole heart, and I wanted to give everything I could to Jesus, since he had done so much for me. So I enrolled in a Bible school that had a practical, theological program. My little sister also attended the Bible school, and she and I started to help out in small churches in eastern Europe. For the next twelve years my sister and I traveled to many countries where we supported the Christians and encouraged them to tell their friends and colleagues about Jesus, especially in small churches. We even helped to start new churches in different places.



Eastern Europe, Africa, Kyrgyzstan and Indonesia

After my time in eastern Europe, I started to work in Africa. Then I spent several years in central Asia, in Kyrgyzstan. I set up a Bible school there and worked as a pastor in a church that had started from nothing. That was where I met Bola, who became my husband. He was the first student at the Bible school. My sister had been there when he met Jesus and became a Christian. Both Bola and I had our hearts set on truly giving everything to Jesus. That was what our lives were about and of course that would also characterize our lives together. After the years in Kyrgyzstan, we helped out in a Christian ministry in Indonesia. Now we live in Europe. Bola and I have two children and we both work as pastors. In the past few years I have started a Christian pre-school and elementary school where I live.

I am happy

I am really happy now. My whole personality is adventurous and in love with life. Today I know why I am alive. I am thankful to God for every new day that I get to live. For me, life is truly a gift from God. I want to give my whole life to Jesus, and I want more people to have the chance to have the same life-transforming encounter with Jesus that I had, so that they can get to know him too.



/ Esther

A man with long, straight brown hair and a full beard is shown from the chest up. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic design. He is holding a dark-colored electric guitar and singing into a microphone. His eyes are closed, and he has a focused expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

The most important thing to me is
my relationship with

Jesus

Reading and studying the word of God is vital to my spiritual health. A lot of people seem to think that reading about people and things that happened thousands of years ago couldn't possibly relate to our lives today. However, the more I study the Bible, the more I realize that humanity has not changed. We are all exactly the same as we were then. We fall into the same lusts and temptations as people did back then, and we have the same defiant and rebellious attitudes towards God.

God gave us His word, not to put restrictions on us and to oppress us, but to help us and show us His love. Christians must be grounded in what the Bible says. We need to know what God's Word is saying.

Besides the understanding and wisdom it will bring, there is also a lot of false doctrine seeping into the church, and it's important to know the Bible well so that we'll know the difference between the good and the false.

I've seen many Christians seduced into believing things that are not from God because they don't know the Bible, and when something false is presented as Scripture and sounds like Scripture, they don't question it. All I can say is that I encourage everyone to study the Bible. I'm not just talking about Christians either. To all the non-Christians, I really encourage you to read for yourself who Jesus is. Don't just listen to what they say on television, or what your family says, or what your friends say. Find out for yourself. I know that without the word of God I would be lost and stumbling in the dark.

God bless! Luke Renno, Crimson Thorn

PRAYER

TORMENTED BY THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE

Jesus, I come to you.
You know about these thoughts that are plaguing me.
Over and over again, thoughts of taking my life come upon me,
and everything feels so hopeless.
All of my problems become huge mountains and
I am gripped with fear and anxiety.
I can't see any future for myself.
But I reach my hands up to you and cry out:
Set me free from these thoughts of suicide!
Give me a passion to live!
Help me with these problems that seem so impossible to overcome.
I know that you will help me.
Jesus, I place my entire life in your hands.
I want to live!!!

In the name of Jesus Christ.



GOD IS TRULY A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES

Not many things slowed me down

My journey has been long and hard. From the time I was thirteen years old I used and sold drugs. Later in life, I rode choppers and chose my own lifestyle. Not many things slowed me down, not a drug bust in the 70s, a stint in the military, not even a drug overdose. In 1974, life as I knew it came to a halt, when I crashed my motorcycle into a stone wall. For the next eight months, while recovering from my injuries, I began thinking about God and the meaning of life and about my youth and the life I had led. This became a turning point in my life.

I was already hooked on living a wild lifestyle

Rebellion had been a way of life. At fifteen I had my first experience with bikes. I was at a parade when more than a dozen hard-core bikers pulled up and began to party, defying anyone who challenged them. When a fight broke out with a rival club, I found myself actually rooting for them . . . like a Roman cheering the gladiators. I was already hooked on living a wild lifestyle. Proverbs 14:12 says: There's a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Go to jail or join the military

At seventeen, my dependence on drugs grew stronger. I dropped out of school and hitch-hiked across the country, ending up at a large anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C. I was busted for selling drugs to an informant, and the law gave me a choice – go to jail or join the military. I arrived at Great Lakes Naval Training Center less than two weeks later, but even the military couldn't completely change me. Within a few months, I was back to getting into more trouble. I did learn respect, protocol, and about the chain of command.

While in the Navy, I bought my first large street bike – an 850cc Norton Commando. I raced people for cases of beer and bags of weed and rode with a couple of bike clubs. It was during this time that I hit the wall. After being discharged from the Navy, I went home for a few months, but couldn't handle being tied down. I headed up to Alaska, but I was soon back in the party mode. Matthew 7:13 says: Enter by the narrow way, because wide is the way that leads to destruction. Anything goes on the "Highway to Hell". I also hung out with, and rode with some "Legendary" Motorcycle Clubs, and was heading toward becoming a patched member. I also continued using and selling drugs, and getting myself in trouble frequently with the lifestyle that I had chosen.

***I thought Christians
were all geeks and hypocrites***

One day a Christian girl invited me to her church. I thought Christians were all geeks and hypocrites, but she was cute, so I decided to go to church with her, thinking she would later party with me. Before meeting her at church, I smoked a few joints and popped a couple of pills, figuring I would go there and tell those Christians how deceived they were.

Although I didn't like preachers, this one seemed to be speaking directly to me. I was sure the Christian girl had told the pastor I was coming, because I didn't know anything about the power of the Holy Spirit. As I listened to his message, my defenses slowly broke down. I could feel something tugging inside of me. But I fought it. However, when the altar call was given, I ran down the aisle, accepted the Lord, was baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit, all in the same night. My customers would call all hours of the night asking me if I had anything. I'd say yes – and tell them about Jesus when they showed up. Romans 3:23 All have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God.

My Christian experience seemed like a yo-yo

My life changed radically. But I wasn't grounded in the Lord. Before I knew it, my 'old nature' started rearing its ugly head. For a few months I'd do great, then go back to partying, then make a comeback to the Lord. My Christian experience seemed like a yo-yo. Proverbs 26:11 says: As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly.

I sometimes didn't make good choices in life and of course didn't always do the right things in life. I made some terrible life



decisions - one of the most painful decisions was divorce. God's Word tells us that God hates divorce! Malachi 2:16 "For the Lord God of Israel says That He hates divorce, For it covers one's garment with violence," Says the Lord of hosts. "Therefore take heed to your spirit, That you do not deal treacherously." It totally devastates families, and especially hurts the young innocent children.

I am thankful that our God is good, full of grace and mercy. He is able to take the worst situations and make things new. After coming to the end of myself, I realized that serving the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart, mind and strength, was the only way to have peace and fulfillment in my life.

Bikers for Christ

Today I have a beautiful wife named, Esther. She is my soul-mate and partner in the Lord's work. I have three beautiful daughters, Melody, Sandra and Andrea, as well as a beautiful step daughter Carmen, and 3 great step sons, Ramon David and Fernando. Together in our blended family. Esther and I have 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandaughter whom we love with all our hearts, and who love us. I am also thankful for the close friends, brothers and sisters in Christ that are literally all over the world. God has opened some amazing doors of ministry for all of us !

In 1990 I was ordained as a pastor and I also founded BIKERS FOR CHRIST International Motorcycle Ministry. Since then it has grown to thousands of members in the U.S. and in many countries overseas. The Lord Jesus Christ has given our members a Holy burden to reach out to all types of people, including "normal" folks, hardcore and independent bikers, drug addicts, alcoholics, rebellious teens, rock n' rollers, punkers, satanists, and others to whom God leads us. We use our motorcycles as tools for evangelism & ministry, sharing the gospel with everyone we meet. I also serve as a volunteer Biker Chaplain to many Hardore M/C's that I really love,





and who love me, and trust me. As BFC M/M members – we truly live "Full Throttle for Jesus".

God is truly a God of second chances and mighty miracles

Jesus freed me from the bondage of drug addiction and other sins, and I've found that living for Jesus and serving Him is the only way to have real peace and true purpose in life. Life is short, and we need to live life with eternity in mind. The Bible says that "life is a vapor" and we are only here for a short time. James 4:14 Use your time wisely – Seve the Lord !

Love and Respect

Pastor Fred Z.

www.bikersforchrist.org
www.rushingwindministries.org

PRAYER

SET ME FREE FROM DRUG ADDICTION

Jesus, I am stuck in drug abuse. It's like a prison.
I feel so alone and powerless.

I know that you have conquered these demons of
drugs who want to destroy my life.

Jesus, I place my entire life under your command and I
leave everything behind me.

I want to be free from this addiction.

Jesus, forgive all my sins and give me a pure heart and
give me completely new thoughts. Light me up on the
inside and give me a new passion for life.

Thank you, Jesus, that you are now my Lord and my
Saviour.

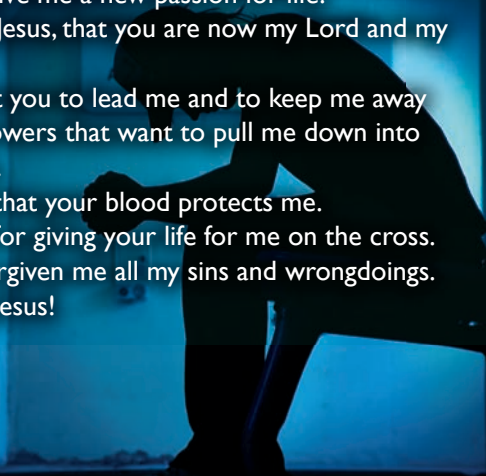
Jesus, I want you to lead me and to keep me away
from evil powers that want to pull me down into
destruction.

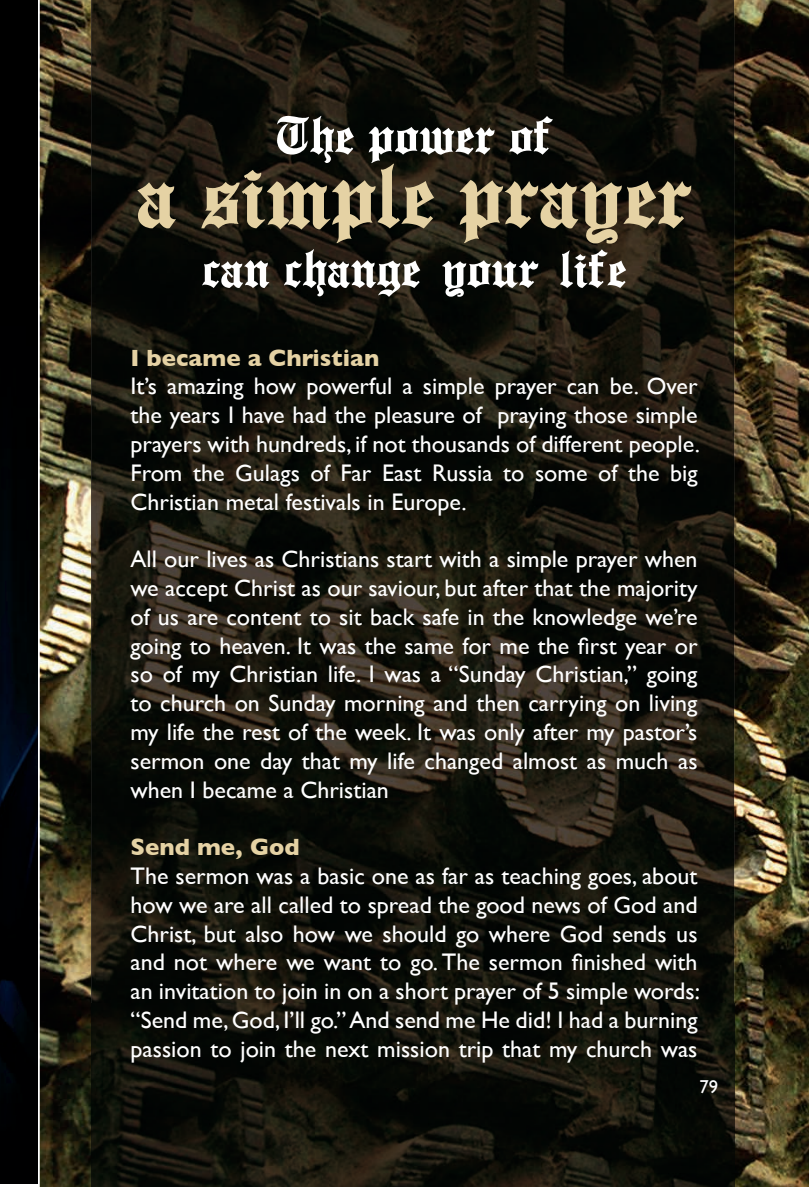
Thank you that your blood protects me.

Thank you for giving your life for me on the cross.

You have forgiven me all my sins and wrongdoings.

Thank you Jesus!





The power of a simple prayer can change your life

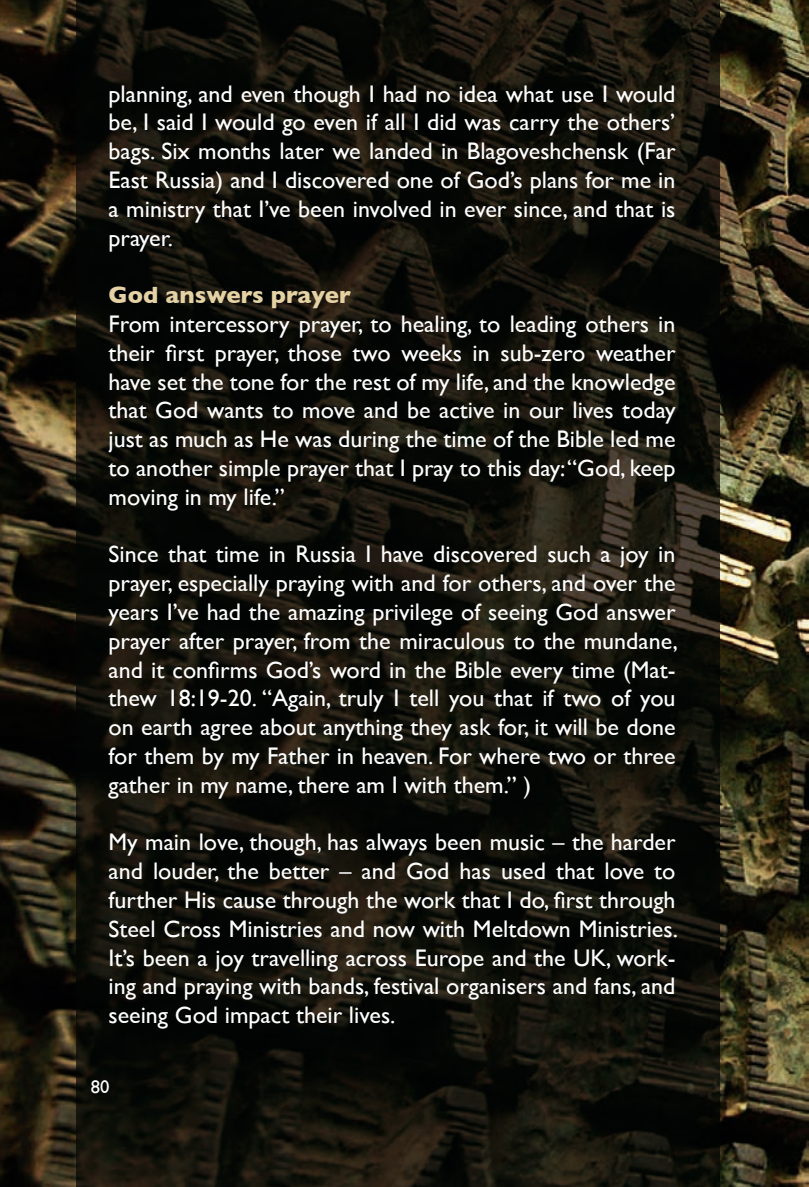
I became a Christian

It's amazing how powerful a simple prayer can be. Over the years I have had the pleasure of praying those simple prayers with hundreds, if not thousands of different people. From the Gulags of Far East Russia to some of the big Christian metal festivals in Europe.

All our lives as Christians start with a simple prayer when we accept Christ as our saviour, but after that the majority of us are content to sit back safe in the knowledge we're going to heaven. It was the same for me the first year or so of my Christian life. I was a "Sunday Christian," going to church on Sunday morning and then carrying on living my life the rest of the week. It was only after my pastor's sermon one day that my life changed almost as much as when I became a Christian

Send me, God

The sermon was a basic one as far as teaching goes, about how we are all called to spread the good news of God and Christ, but also how we should go where God sends us and not where we want to go. The sermon finished with an invitation to join in on a short prayer of 5 simple words: "Send me, God, I'll go." And send me He did! I had a burning passion to join the next mission trip that my church was



planning, and even though I had no idea what use I would be, I said I would go even if all I did was carry the others' bags. Six months later we landed in Blagoveshchensk (Far East Russia) and I discovered one of God's plans for me in a ministry that I've been involved in ever since, and that is prayer.

God answers prayer

From intercessory prayer, to healing, to leading others in their first prayer, those two weeks in sub-zero weather have set the tone for the rest of my life, and the knowledge that God wants to move and be active in our lives today just as much as He was during the time of the Bible led me to another simple prayer that I pray to this day: "God, keep moving in my life."

Since that time in Russia I have discovered such a joy in prayer, especially praying with and for others, and over the years I've had the amazing privilege of seeing God answer prayer after prayer, from the miraculous to the mundane, and it confirms God's word in the Bible every time (Matthew 18:19-20. "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.")

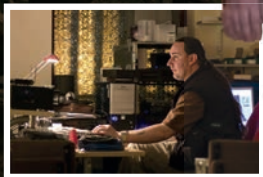
My main love, though, has always been music – the harder and louder, the better – and God has used that love to further His cause through the work that I do, first through Steel Cross Ministries and now with Meltdown Ministries. It's been a joy travelling across Europe and the UK, working and praying with bands, festival organisers and fans, and seeing God impact their lives.

God wants to bless us

One memorable weekend happened a few years ago in Wales at Meltdown's annual conference. Over the course of the weekend close to 20 people gave their lives to Christ, 10 recommitted their lives and several were healed of various illnesses. Everyone else connected with God in ways they never had before, and all of this started with a worship and prayer meeting that was added to the schedule at the last minute. More or less every person who encountered God was prayed for and each prayer started with these simple words: "God, bless this person."

God wants to bless us, encourage us and see us grow. God also wants to speak to us. So as you read this Bible, pray a simple prayer – God, speak to me – and see how a simple prayer can majorly affect your life.

**Brian
Bassingthwaighte**



My life is a miracle

Life was great

Linda grew up in a good home, went to church once in a while, and had a great family that loved her very much. Teddy had pretty much a similar life. They fell in love at the age of 13 and got married at the age of 22. Linda and Teddy had their first child at the age of 25. Love, marriage, a family...life was great. But one day Linda felt a bit sick so she went to the clinic and they gave her a shot of penicillin. The needle broke when they gave her the shot, so they gave her a second dose just to make sure. Linda left and thought everything was fine. Within 24 hours Linda had a high fever. She was rushed to the hospital and kept under constant supervision.

She was bleeding from everywhere

Linda was diagnosed with Stevens-Johnson syndrome. This is a life-threatening condition of cell death that causes the epidermis to separate from the dermis. Within weeks Linda lost a lot of weight, was down to about 40 kg, her nails and hair started falling



out, and she was bleeding from everywhere. Her skin had turned into black scales and was falling off. She basically looked like a skeleton that had just been removed from a fire. Teddy had to learn how to take care of her, clean her, move her, feed her etc. He was truly dedicated and never left her side. He even slept on the floor right beside her. Her skin was in such bad shape that when she was on the bed and had to be moved, it would stick to the sheets and would just rip off.

It was basically over

While all of this was going on, Linda's mom and sister, who were Christians, had been reassuring Teddy that God would heal her. Teddy was not interested at all. In fact, Linda's mom would make lunches for Teddy and place little notes in them every day with messages like: Trust in god, Jesus loves you, etc. Teddy got to the point where he wanted to punch Linda's mom in the face. Linda was only getting worse and worse. She had started to bleed internally and all of her insides had started to decay. Eventually the doctors had to let Teddy know that Linda's five percent chance of living was rapidly diminishing and that it was basically over.

Fear not

Teddy was outside the room with Linda's mom while Linda's sister was in the room with her, and they were both preaching the word of God at the same time. Teddy was desperate. He took the Bible from her and opened it up. His vision was blurred from crying so much, so all he could see was one sentence that was

very clear and highlighted. It read "Fear not; only believe and she shall be made whole." In the room, Linda's sister handed her a tract and the first thing she read was "When all that's left is God, you'll find that God is enough," and at the same time both Linda and Teddy gave their lives to Christ. They promised that if God restored Linda's health, they would not turn back; they would dedicate their lives to doing God's will. The next day, Linda went from nearly dead to showing signs of improvement. The doctors were amazed. They couldn't believe what was going on. Linda's fever went down, her skin started to get back to normal, and she started to eat again.

Still happily married

35 years later, Linda and Teddy are still happily married. The doctors said that even if she made it through the illness, she would never have children again, but she had two more children. Fully involved in the church and community, Linda and Teddy have touched hundreds of thousands of people with their passion and love for Christ.

My parents are truly my heroes

Linda is my mom, Teddy is my dad, and this is my testimony.

My life is a miracle. Because of my mom's suffering and what she went through, I now know Jesus Christ. Because of my dad's unconditional love for my mom and his persistent attitude of never giving up, I now know God's love. My parents are truly my heroes. I haven't had a perfect life,

but I couldn't ask for two better people to guide me through it! People always ask me, "How do you know there is a God?" I can reply that my faith is based on real life events. God is real and is ready to do miracles in your life.

I am currently in a Christian metal band called Blessed by a Broken Heart. We started the band in 2002, and now I am the only original member. God has blessed us enormously, allowing us to keep going this far. We have toured numerous times around the world (USA, Canada, UK/Europe, Australia, Japan) and have shared the stage with many bands (Megadeth, Judas Priest, Slayer, Stripper, Rammstein) and many more. When I'm not on tour, I work in a Christian tattoo shop called Ben Tattoo!



God Bless / Tyler

Give him
a chance

TURNIQUES



You are holding the most important book you will ever get your hands on – the Bible. It didn't always mean so much to me though. Like many people, I grew up going to church every Sunday because I had to, not because I wanted to. The Bible was just a really heavy, really boring book – even though I never took the time to check it out for myself.

THE INSTRUCTION BOOK

Around the time I was 14 years old, I got involved in a youth group at a new church. There I saw a lot of kids bringing their own Bibles – not because they had to, but because they wanted to! Well, I started to do the same – and reading it on my own too. I asked God to make the Bible real to me. Guess what – He did! Years later, I now see it as the “instruction book” that shows us how to live. The Bible is as real to me as ever – and even more important.

FAVOURITE VERSE

One of my favorite verses that I have signed on thousands of CD's, DVD's, and even T-shirts is Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and He will make straight your paths.” God is worth trusting; give Him a chance and give His Word a chance – you won't regret it.

Ted Kirkpatrick
(Tourniquet)



Slav Simanir

You who are thirsty...

The Bible is the best book that has ever been written. It tells us about our origins and where we come from. It also tells us about our Creator and His unlimited love.

The Bible is God's written Word. At the same time the Bible is a testimony of how great our God is. He doesn't demand any sacrifices from us but He gave his Son for our salvation so that whoever believes in Him can have eternal life.

This is one of my favourite Bible verses:
**"Whoever is thirsty, let him come;
and whoever wishes, let him take
the free gift of the water of life."**

(Revelations 22:17)

God bless you.
Slav Simanic

PRAYER

HURTING MYSELF...

Jesus, you know the pain I feel deep on the inside.
It hurts so much in my soul!

I just want to cut myself.

I don't really want to, but something is forcing me
to do it.

Jesus, set me free from this pain!

Forgive all my sins.

Jesus, help me to forgive those who have sinned
against me.

Jesus, heal me from all my inner wounds.

Let me become a whole person.

Jesus, set me free from compulsive thoughts.

I pray in Jesus' name.

Thank you for reaching deep inside me.

Jesus – thank you for hearing my prayer!



I was deeply miserable

JEFF HARSHBARGER

DELIVERANCE FROM SATANISM

I was not a traditional Satanist but chose the parts that worked for me. In other words, if it worked, I used it. I started out basically a philosophical Satanist; LaVeyan Satanism. But, I found out that there was a 'power' or demons were available, thus I began to pursue traditional Satanism, while holding on to what worked from LaVey; his self-centered philosophies. I ended up being possessed by demons because I gave myself over to them in exchange for their 'power'. After receiving Jesus Christ, I was delivered from the demons. Here is my testimony...

I WAS DEEPLY MISERABLE...

After four years in Satanism, I was miserable. I had seen everything that Satan had to offer, and still I was miserable. I decided that the only thing left to do, as a “respectable Satanist,” was to kill myself. But before I even checked into the motel, I knew that something or someone might cause me to lose my nerve. For company and courage, I took along a bottle of whiskey and a bag of marijuana. I put the rifle to my head but somehow I could not pull the trigger. I knew that the rifle worked, but I just could not pull the trigger. Disgusted with myself, I tried again the next night. On a September night in 1981, I tried to hang myself. I put the rope over a rafter in the garage, and kicked the chair out from under me. I landed on the floor with the rope still tied to the rafter. “What a failure,” I thought, “I can’t even kill myself.”

MY FATHER WAS AN ALCOHOLIC...

The story of my involvement in Satanism is so classic that it’s almost cliché. I was a lonely young man from a dysfunctional family. My father was an alcoholic. Things at home got worse until finally, my parents divorced. I was looking for a place to belong. I was looking for people who would pay attention to me and give me acceptance. I was looking for love, but I was caught in the middle of a violent house that left me feeling hopeless and frightened. In response, I started looking to the supernatural for courage and for some mystic power over my early existence. I was ripe for such an experience, and for a long time I had been interested in magic and other aspects of the paranormal. Even as a young boy, I knew that there was a spirit realm, and that there had to be a way to tap into it.

I GAVE MY LIFE TO SATAN

My first contact with Satanism came in 1978 when a snow-storm took my hometown by surprise. I was a 17 year old high school senior, and was working in a local store during the storm. I was just beginning to wonder how I would get home that night, when the store's assistant manager, a young man of just 18, invited me to stay at his apartment, just a short walk away. This young man seemed to have everything that I had ever wanted. Prestige, power, he gave every indication that he was in control of his life and acted much older than his 18 years. That night, he told me the source of his strength. I was fascinated. He showed me the magic notions and occult objects, which he had accumulated. I was convinced. Later that night, we performed a ceremony, where I gave my life to Satan.

I WANTED TO BE FREE...

After I graduated from high school, my "teacher" and I moved away to attend college. The two of us attempted to begin our own satanic coven. Our coven was to consist of thirteen disciples but we were only able to recruit six, all of them males. The six of us shared a house, where we conducted what I call "freelance" satanic rituals, creating and improvising ceremonies freely. Coven activities included casting spells and desecrating Bibles and any other Christian articles that we could get our hands on. During this time I was in contact with demons on a regular basis, though not with Satan himself.

Demons were powerful underlings, that were at my beck and call...or so I thought. Eventually the frightening and distasteful parts of Satanism overshadowed the thrilling parts. I began to worry about where the coven might be headed. I knew that I could not participate in the next step, blood sacrifice. I knew that this was the line that not even I would not cross. I wanted out.

JESUS MAKES MY LIFE COMPLETE

I thought at the time, that the only thing left to do was to kill myself. To my dismay, I failed. I know now that only Divine intervention could have saved me from both the gun and the noose. After returning home, I tried to drink myself into oblivion, but found that the taste of beer turned my stomach. So instead, I lit a cigarette to calm my nerves, but it burned my lips! So finally, I, the Satanist priest in the making, went to my room, lay in my bed and began to cry. I will never in my life forget what happened next. It was late at night. The rest of the coven was out partying so the house was empty. Out of the silence I heard a voice from beside my bed that said "Get out!" I stopped crying and looked around the room expecting the presence of a demon. This was no demon. The voice moved to the foot of my bed and said again. "Get out!" I remember being so shaken at the command that I immediately obeyed. I crawled out of the nearest window in my bedroom and onto the driveway, into the presence of God. My knees went weak and I fell on my face, there was no mistaking who this was. Looking up at the sky I pleaded, "Jesus, just make my life okay."

REFUGE MINISTRIES...

I have come a long way from those days when I was trapped in Satanism. I still believe in a spiritual reality. I believe in both demons and angels, evil and good. I have simply traded darkness for light. The Lord Jesus Christ has helped me through complete recovery. I have been married now for 18 years. My wife Liz and I live in South Carolina, USA. With God's help I have earned a M.A. in Pastoral counseling and have launched Refuge Ministries. Together, we instruct others about the dangers of the Occult, New Age beliefs and other false teachings. We don't just work with former Satanists; I know how it feels to be a lonely and confused person, driven to despair. We are here for who ever the Lord would send. My testimony does not represent LaVeyan or Traditional Satanism. I chose the parts that suited me and styled my own Satanism.

Jeff Harshbarger

A black and white photograph of Simon Rosén, a man with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark tunic and a chainmail skirt. He is holding a sword vertically in his right hand. The background is dark.

SIMON ROSÉN

Crimson Moonlight

**The Bible is an enormous
treasure chest.**

The Bible (or the Holy Scripture which it is often called) possesses many outstanding literary records. It's the world's oldest, most translated and most read book. No other book has ever meant so much for mankind as the Bible.

THE BIBLE IS TRUSTWORTHY

To me the Bible is like a huge treasure chest. Its unprecedentedly wide and varied texts can give comfort, strength, encouragement, joy, reflection, hope, inspiration and meaning in almost all parts of the life we live here and now. The books of the Bible (including the historic, the prophetic and the poetic) are not just interesting and well written stories.

I'm also convinced that what is being described in them is true. As an example, for centuries people laughed at the historic texts about Noah's ark, the dividing of the Red Sea and King Hezekiah's water tunnel (see Genesis 6-8, Exodus 14, 2 Chronicles 32:30 and 2 Kings 20:20).

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS SAID FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS

However in our time modern science, through archaeological exhibitions, has found evidence from all of the examples mentioned. In the 1700's people were punished by death just because they argued (with the help of the Bible) that doctors should wash their hands between for example a bloody operation and the delivery of a baby. Today we know that it's vitally important. This is what the Bible has said for thousands of years.

For the interested there is also evidence outside the Bible for the existence of Jesus and the miracles that he did. I believe that the Bible is God's own Word revealed to mankind. It is written by men but inspired by God's Spirit.

CHRISTIAN FAITH IS ABOUT THE INSIDE, NOT THE OUTER APPEARANCE

In the Bible you can read about God's greatness, his power and his characteristics in many places. One important characteristic is that, "God looks at our heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

People see and willingly judge based on the outer appearance, but God sees our motives and who we are as individuals. That is what counts to Him. That is why I use, in my opinion, the "mightiest" and "most majestic" music style to worship Him with – Black Metal. To me it describes God's greatness, ultimate power and victory in a unique way.

The first Christian Vikings in Scandinavia built their magnificent cathedrals adorned with Viking ornament artwork of the time.

In the same way that they held on to their culture and style when they put their faith in “Allfader HviteKrist”, I like to devote myself to Nordic history, style and handicraft. I believe it works in the same way with black metal music. It can and is allowed to be used for something better than to spread hate and darkness. Christian faith is about the inside, not the outside.

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

I look back on a time in my own life that in Biblical terms probably could be called “the valley of the shadow of death”. It was a time when I faced the deepest sorrow and despair a man could ever feel. In the situation I was in I saw two possibilities: either to throw myself down a steep cliff, away from everything, or throw myself into God’s arms and care. I know that I would have chosen the first if I hadn’t had my faith in Christ, and I even tried to do it anyway, but God was there at the edge of the cliff even before I went there. His arm reaches farther than the deepest deep. No one can ever take that experience from me that I bear with me from that time. It has given me the assurance that God wipes all tears away. I now look at life with brand new eyes. Jesus Christ has healed my wounded soul and given me so much strength through his own presence, the support and prayers from friends and through the words of the Scriptures. In my own weakness the power of God is my strength.

“But the LORD said to me: My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

(2 Corinthians 12:9)

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

PRAYER

SET ME FREE FROM THE DEMON OF ALCOHOL

Jesus, I come to you with my alcohol abuse.

I feel terrible and I want to get out of this abuse.

Jesus, set me free from the demon of alcohol!

Jesus, cleanse me from all my sins and the evil things I have done.

Forgive me all of my sins. Thank you for helping me.

Lead me to the right friends who don't drink; give me a free zone from alcohol.

Give me strength to pour out the liquor, beer and wine right now. I break off with my addictions today.

Jesus, fill me with your power and fill me with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, I want you to be my boss (Lord).

I pray for my friends and my family.

Forgive me for all the pain that I have caused them with my addictions.

Heal all of the wounds I've caused among my family and friends, so that we can become good friends again.

I pray for my children. Help them and protect them from all evil.

CARLOS LABORDA
COVERED BACKS - SPAIN

FORGIVEN

Rebellion and Loneliness

I was born in September 1975 in the town of Palencia, Spain to a middle class family. I was the youngest of three brothers. For some time my parents lived in the North of Spain, in Santander we lived there until I was nine years old and then, due to my father's work, the whole family moved back to the town of my birth.

From a young age, I started to have feelings of rebellion, without knowing where they had come from it meant that wherever I was I always got into trouble, especially with anyone who represented authority or rules. At primary school, then at secondary school with teachers and then later on in various different jobs — I always showed a lack of respect which made me defiant and uncaring about other people.

I was always complaining about everything. Maybe that's why one of the first bikes I rode was a 49 cc Derbi FDS which I had stolen with some friends.

When I was thirteen years old, I started to drink and take drugs which made me feel closer to other kids and more accepted. The drink and the drugs also helped me to continue being rebellious although at night the constant feeling I had was one of loneliness.



Round about that time I began to play the guitar and play in a couple of bands with some friends. The words of the songs were usually full of rage and misunderstanding as I wanted to try and explain what was going on inside me. This was when I started to write songs which opened a door to the occult. I started to get involved with satanism and to practice spiritism and other similar things, at first it was like a game which made us different from other people but very soon we started to get into trouble.

Strong attraction to death

In 1991 I met Eva who is now my wife and the mother of our two sons, her background was similar to mine and at the time we both started to take occult practices more seriously. We spent hours in cemeteries at any time of the day or night. We practised divination, worshipping the dead and we even desecrated some graves; the origin of all of this was a strong attraction to death.

Inevitably, these things we were involved in led to problems and two of our friends committed suicide. We were only seventeen years old but our lives were very complicated, not only socially but also on a personal level. We both had behavioural problems which made us increasingly rebellious and aggressive, as well as having a lot of thoughts related to death. It was getting more difficult to relate to other people in a normal way and thoughts of suicide and the inability to accept ourselves became stronger as time passed.

A few years earlier Eva had been in contact with a group of Christians who she met at an Ozzy Osborne concert. They spoke to her about the power of God to set people free from the kind of things we were going through.

Time passed and our lives were the same. One day, remembering the words that those people at the concert had said and thinking about their message, we started to spend more time with them (up until then we only had contact with them occasionally). They

FORGIVEN

shared the message of Jesus with us in a simple way without any kind of rituals or liturgy, without cold or distant words which is what we were used to whenever anyone spoke about God.

They also introduced us to people like us, not to professionals who had to talk about God because it was their job, but men and women who had experienced firsthand the benefits of responding positively to the question that Jesus asked the sick man at the pool of Bethesda: 'Do you want to be made well?' You can read this story in John 5.

The message from heaven

At this time we were open to the gospel but without any commitment — we didn't take the words of Jesus personally. We thought that just thinking about Jesus in a sentimental way was enough and that everything was fine in our lives. Our idea was that the message from heaven did not have to mean a commitment to God. Maybe other people, whose lives were worse than ours, needed Jesus in a more real way but for us thinking favourably about the gospel was enough.

So time passed and nothing much was going on; our lives continued to be surrounded by depression, darkness, aggression and an incredible weight of guilt because we were unable to be normal like other people.

From 1994 onwards God began to confront us with our own lives and attitudes and to show us that we needed to respond to that important question: 'Do you want to be made well?'

We were still open to the gospel, we even visited some churches and Christian communities from time to time, but without making a commitment to the message of Jesus; maybe because we were embarrassed by what our friends would say, or because of peer pressure as we were living a life that was totally contrary to the message from heaven. However, in 1995 we came to the point where we realised that accepting the gospel message was the answer we needed to resolve the problems we were facing in our lives.

God prepared the way to make us understand that we needed Jesus to come into our lives and sort out all the crazy-

ness. In every life God acts in the way He needs to in my case I remember that I was stealing at work to try and make some extra money by selling the things I was taking. This made me think a lot about what I was like and I realised that throughout my life I had turned my back on God.

Up until then I wasn't concerned about trying to join the two worlds; God's world and my own. I was trying to serve two lords. Up until then, I didn't think it mattered whether the word of God influenced you or not. I wanted to find something to hold on to but without changing my lifestyle: which, to call it what God calls it, was a sinful lifestyle.

I remember saying to God, 'I'm too young to change my lifestyle and stop doing the things that don't please you. Let me live the way I want to and then when I'm about thirty-five or forty we can talk again about living in a way that pleases you.' I didn't realise that all God wanted to do was to take away all the things that had been troubling

me and bothering me for years

and to heal my wounds. I was

living like a 'good religious

person' on the face of

it pretending to be

someone com-

pletely different

to what was

going on inside

me; I was like a

bad Christian or

rather, in reality,

I was not really a

Christian at all.

This was when

I felt that God was

talking to me about

how I had betrayed

Him.

I knew there

were questions to

which I could say



FORGIVEN

'yes' to in my mind like 'Do you go to Christian meetings? Do you love your family? Do you sing Christian songs? Do you help other people?' I could say yes to all of these questions but I was still the same.

I knew God was saying "I need your heart. I want to forgive you and change you. I want to heal you and forgive you! I want to take away your burden of guilt!"

These words resonated in my head and made me cry like a child asking Jesus to come into my heart and make it clean. Now I understood His words, everything made sense. I stopped being a religious person and became a new person that had a relationship with Jesus. I could feel that something special had happened and finally Jesus became real to me.

I started to pray regularly as a way to relate to God, to read His word (the Bible) to find out how to be closer to Him and please Him. I began to feel that I was of value to Him, accepted and not judged; I began to experience God in such a close, loving way that it was impossible for me to think that it was just my imagination. At the same time, Eva was going through a similar process with God and facing difficult situations which made her accept Jesus as her Saviour too.

Today, our lives are based on the words and message of Jesus. This doesn't make us super-human nor does it make us better than others, but our behavioural problems have disappeared. The occultism and everything relating to it is a thing of the past. We no longer need that rubbish to feel that we are somebody. Jesus filled the emptiness with His love and peace. We have the hope and assurance that we are going to spend eternity by Jesus' side and that is something very special. There is no stronger feeling than having the assurance that you have been forgiven.

We love rock music, bikes and the culture that surrounds them, we love and feel loved by Jesus.

Currently, we are the presidents of the Motorcycle Club 'Covered Backs MM' and our greatest desire is that others can come to know Jesus in a personal way.

FORGIVEN



10 burning questions for Joel

1 Does God really exist?

I believe that there is no question that every piece of artwork has an artist who painted it.

Every wristwatch, regardless of whether it is cheap or expensive, has a manufacturer. Every technical thing that you have in your home has been made by people who thought creatively and then made these things. But when it comes to Creation (of humans, animals, plants, etc.) many claim that it was all made by chance. They say that all of these things, which are much more thought-out, complicated, and detailed than computers and wristwatches and people's inventions, were made by chance. Isn't that illogical? The latest computers and the newest cars can make an impression on us. But what could be more thought-out than creation itself? The computer has a maker, but that which is many times more complicated than a computer, we human beings—could we really have a maker? For me it is obvious that we do.

2 Can anyone get to know God?

I am totally convinced that God wants every human being to experience Jesus' forgiveness and love and wants everyone to live for Jesus. Jesus opened the way to God for every person. The one who chooses to invite Jesus into their lives starts to live for Him and will get to know God. God has promised in His word that if you seek Him with all your heart, you will find Him.

3 Don't all religions lead to God?

Some people think that I am a bit narrow-minded when I answer that question with no. This is my conviction and I would not be honest if I said anything else. Jesus said Himself that He is the only way to God. Why is Jesus the only right way, one can wonder? Because he was sent by God to take away the sin of humanity. He says Himself that He is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. Then each person has to decide for themselves if this is really the truth. I have seen for myself that what is written in the Bible does work and therefore I believe what is written in it. Jesus has given me peace on the inside, plus joy and love. This makes me believe in Jesus' own words that He is the only way to God.

4 What happens if I don't believe in Jesus and don't receive His forgiveness?

The Bible says that all have sinned and are in need of receiving forgiveness from Jesus. If your sin is not removed, the punishment for your sins remains. God can't have anything to do with sin because He is holy and thoroughly true. Without the forgiveness that comes through Jesus we

The background of the entire page is a close-up, high-contrast image of bright orange and yellow flames. The flames are dynamic and textured, with darker, charred areas visible at the base and between the tongues of fire. The overall color palette is dominated by warm, fiery tones.

are separated from God and all that He stands for. When a person dies he will experience this as a clear reality. Eternal life or eternal death. To be separated from God means that we are separated forever from truth, love, life, joy and all other good things.

5 Aren't Christians very boring people?

Do you have any close friend who is a Christian? Sometimes people imagine things that don't agree with reality. To be a Christian means to live for Jesus and that is anything but boring. It is an exciting life. But there are those so-called Christians who have not yet experienced the real life with Jesus. Maybe they have just adopted some of the outward traditions and actions instead of the real life. They have no depth in their faith. Imagine an orange: if you taste the skin you just get a bitter taste in your mouth, but if you taste what is inside it tastes good. I believe that each person who goes deep in their faith in Jesus will experience that there is joy and life.

6 Is it true that Christians never have any problems?

As a Christian you also face problems-life is just like that. But there is an enormous difference. When you are living for God you are never alone with your problem. God is always there and He wants to help. It says in the Bible that we can cast all our worries on God, for He cares for us. Together with God you can get help in meeting your daily problems in different ways.

7 If God is so good, why are there so many terrible things happening in the world?

God is a good God who only wants every person's best. But because humanity has turned their back on God, there is a lot of evil in the world. I believe that most of us are in agreement about that. The evil that is happening in the world is a result of humanity turning its back on God. Let's look at one example. God has given us the earth and there is enough food so that everyone can have enough to get fed. But because of our selfishness, many small children die every day due to lack of food.

8 Why isn't God stopping all this?

God has committed the power over this earth to us humans. And He has given us a free will. We are free to choose between evil as well as good. And God is not interfering with our free will. He could have created us as robots who did everything correct all the time, but He didn't. He wanted us to have our own free will. He wanted there to be a creation that would love Him. God wanted us humans to turn back to Him and to live in love and to love our neighbours as much as we love ourselves. But as long as people are living in rebellion against God, a lot of terrible things are happening and sadly even innocent people are being affected. There will come a day when all those who believe in Jesus will live with Him in heaven. Then there will be an end to all evil.

9 What actually happens after death?

This is a question that I believe everybody is asking. I remember when I was out with a friend, talking to people about God. While we were walking in a park we saw a couple on a bench and I went up to them and asked: Do you know what actually happens after death? This is a question that is too straightforward to ask a stranger, but I asked anyway. Later I found out that when I approached this couple, they were just talking about what happens

after death, because of the passing away of a close relative. My friend and I could bring hope into their situation. Then they wanted to receive Jesus' forgiveness and start to live for Him.

If you have Jesus as your Lord and your best friend, you can be assured that you have eternal life and that death is not the end. It is actually the beginning of something much more wonderful.

10 Why do you believe in Jesus?

I grew up in a Christian home. My parents have never forced me to become a Christian, but it has definitely influenced me. It actually became natural for me to continue to believe in Jesus. I think the reason is that I have experienced so much myself. The greatest thing is probably not all the signs and wonders that I have seen, but rather that I feel like a close friend of Jesus. I talk to Him and He talks to me. It is fellowship. This fellowship gives me so much strength and inspiration. I would never want to live without this friendship with God.

Joel Sjöberg was born in 1976 and lives in Hällefors in the Västmanland province in Sweden. He is a publisher, lecturer and a preacher. He likes to travel and to meet new people. He is active in music, weightlifting, and running in his free time. Aside from this, it is faith in Jesus that influences his life.



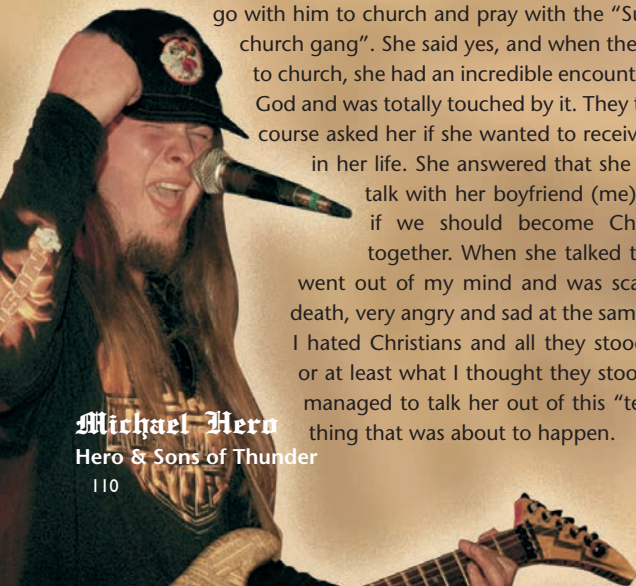
I hated Christians

My name is Michael Hero, and I grew up in Luleå, which is in the northern part of Sweden. Early on in my life I decided that I wanted to play guitar and start a band. At the beginning my idols were SWEET, but after awhile I discovered KISS, who I thought were much better and more importantly, much cooler. Later on I also had other role models like VAN HALEN, ACCEPT, DIO, RAINBOW, IRON MAIDEN and so on. My life was all about girls, playing music and partying hard with my friends.

I HATED CHRISTIANS

One day somebody knocked on the door of my girlfriend's home. She opened the door and outside there was a long-haired guy with a MAIDEN shirt on. He spoke with my girlfriend about JESUS and faith for several hours. He then asked her if she wanted to go with him to church and pray with the "Summer church gang". She said yes, and when they went to church, she had an incredible encounter with God and was totally touched by it. They then of course asked her if she wanted to receive Jesus in her life. She answered that she had to talk with her boyfriend (me) to see if we should become Christians together. When she talked to me I went out of my mind and was scared to death, very angry and sad at the same time. I hated Christians and all they stood for – or at least what I thought they stood for. I managed to talk her out of this "terrible" thing that was about to happen.

Michael Hero
Hero & Sons of Thunder



THE NAME JESUS, JESUS, JESUS POUNDED INSIDE OF ME

Two years after this happened I started to question the life I lived. Sure it was fun to party and rock hard, but there was still something missing. During this time I started a band called MYSTERY. Two of the members were Christians, and we began to speak more and more about faith and about JESUS. I was absorbing everything they said. My girlfriend and I wanted to have something new in our lives – something exciting. Later on we opened up for LEVITICUS in Luleå. The day after that, we went along with them to Piteå and watched their next gig. During this time Björn Stigsson (the guitar player of LEVITICUS) spoke with me about Jesus. When the gig was over my girlfriend, her friend, and I were on our way home. When we were driving through the forest on the E4 highway, all of a sudden there was a strong feeling of deep joy that came over me, and the name JESUS, JESUS, JESUS pounded inside of me. It was such an enormous joy that I had never experienced before. I asked if the others in the car felt the same way and they did. I sat there with tears flowing, and I just felt happiness. It was like all my burdens were suddenly gone. I don't know if it was true, but it felt like the car was hovering a little bit above the road – Jesus was definitely present. I remember that I went right away and bought a Bible and started to read it. The Word of God is food for the hungry and water for the thirsty. That was exactly what I experienced. I am living proof that Christian metal is of importance. That is why I now travel around and play with HERO and SONS OF THUNDER. I want to talk about what Jesus has done in my life and what Jesus wants to do for people who don't know him yet!

*"But seek first
his kingdom and
his righteousness,
and all
these things will
be given to you
as well."
(Matthew 6:33)*

Rock on for Christ / Michael Hero

Saved at the gate of hell!



REBELLION

My motorcycle interest started when I bought a moped at the age of ten but it was a motorcycle accident that changed my rebellious life. I was born in 1960 in Finland. My rebellion started when my parents divorced – I was 13 at that time.

I came to Sweden at the age of 20 in order to get my dream bike, a Harley-Davidson. I started to hang around with bikers, and participated in starting a motorcycle gang in Stockholm. My bike, a Harley-Davidson, was not a hobby – it was a way of life. With it followed a lifestyle of lawlessness, violence and drugs. At that time I thought I had everything and nothing to lose, but in reality I didn't have anything and everything to lose.

In 1985 I had a terrible motorcycle accident. The doctors did everything they could to rescue my life but it was too late. All my bodily functions had stopped. Before this happened I heard a voice saying: "We will show you a movie with you as the main character. It's a movie about your life." "I don't wanna see that garbage!" I answered.

"THE END OF MY LIFE"

I understood that I had come to the end of my life against my will. I was on the way to another world. I was brought downward into great darkness, but could think clearly, make conclusions, and think of where I was going. I felt the same kind of pressure in my ears as when I was a young kid in an elevator, going down into a mine with my dad. After a while I was at the bottom. I took a few steps. From a distance I saw the mouth of a tunnel and from the other end there came a bright light.

I became aggressive. Was someone playing a game with me? I was not going to accept that, so I yelled, "What is this place?! Why have I come down here? Who's in charge here? I have a right to know and I demand an answer now!"

A VOICE ANSWERED: "YOU DESERVE TO BE HERE."

I didn't accept that answer and repeated my question. Then I heard, "You have come to Hades. There is no way out of here, now you must go through the tunnel to the other side. You are accountable for your actions, what you have done and not done."

But I didn't want to take orders from anybody, so I challenged the voice: "Come and stand here so that I can see you, then we will see who's walking through the tunnel, if it's you or me."

"It doesn't matter what you say, you are going through the tunnel anyway", was the answer.

WHY HAD NOBODY WARNED ME ?

Suddenly some kind of suction, "a pulling force", got hold of me and it was useless to fight against it. I was pulled by the suction toward the mouth of the tunnel. The closer to the tunnel I came the more uncomfortable it became. I desperately thought of a way to escape. At the same time I had serious thoughts about why nobody had warned me about this place. Suddenly I understood that I would be eternally lost on the other side of the tunnel.

At the opening of the tunnel I threw myself on my knees and cried out: "God if you exist, please help me now!! I don't want to die this young!! If you help me I will repent!!" I promised God to stop violent behavior, taking drugs and drinking... (but not to give up my Harley-Davidson which had taken God's place as the most important thing in my life.)

The pulling force coming from the tunnel subsided as I was on my knees, until I had spoken out all of my promises. Then suddenly the pulling force drew me into the tunnel. I heard wailing voices from the other side. "Juha, don't come here! If you come here you will never get out of here." Then I cried out in panic: "Ok God, I give up the motorcycle as well, whatever it costs!" At that time, I didn't know that there is a scripture in the bible that says:

"Call unto me in the day of trouble, and I will rescue you and you shall praise me." Psalm 50:15. I just got to experience it – in my lifeless body, at the gate of Hell.

I FELT SOMEONE'S PRESENCE

When I gave up my idol, the darkness and the tunnel disappeared. Now after being drawn down to Hades I felt like I was being lifted upwards, and I felt someone's presence and I called out: "I know that someone is here. Who are you?" Then I got the answer: "I am the Lord your God. The Son has prayed for you that you would not be eternally lost. Whatever the Son asks I will give Him because I love the Son. You will return to life and tell your friends and others about the Son and your

experiences in Hades so that people will not end up there because they didn't know."

DIFFICULT YEARS

I woke up at the hospital nearly two weeks after the accident, without remembering anything of what had happened. The doctor told me that at one point I had been clinically dead. I didn't remember anything of my experience in the depths of darkness. I was back to life but not saved "yet". The impact of the accident was so devastating that I was signed in to the hospital for a ten month period.

For three difficult years I struggled with the consequences of the accident. I wanted to get my bike running again and get "back to the highway". But it became too expensive to stay in the club as the members moved into more expensive housing. Then I asked them to bring home my Harley. I kept it in my apartment and I became more and more isolated. After a difficult struggle I was able to stop taking drugs but after a few visits to fortune tellers I was followed by demonic supernatural phenomena. I experienced that parts from my motorcycle, which I had in boxes, started to move around by themselves. Everything I tried to eat in the apartment had a taste of human blood. After some time with these kinds of incidents I started to consider suicide.

I started to think to myself, "Before I do it I want to do a good deed." I collected a lot of clothes and brought them to a church. It was late but there were still two people left in the church after a prayer meeting.

"THE MEANING"

We started talking and after a while I told them about my life. They gave me a little booklet called "the meaning" and I decided to read it before my suicide. In it, I read about the forgiveness of our sins and about being born again. I thought – if it is as easy as it says here, then it is possible for me also.

Before I even came to the prayer of salvation and repentance at the end of the booklet, I already opened my heart and agreed that what I was reading was the truth and I wanted to receive the truth and the gift of salvation. The power of God came over me and I started to shake and

I both laughed and wept at the same time. All the hardness of my heart, hatred, bitterness and agony disappeared, and I got peace.

It was not until about six months later that the memory of my experience at the gate of Hades came slowly back. Since then I have often shared about it. Many do not believe me but believers in Christ understand and many non-believers are touched and fascinated.

Now afterwards, I have thought how I, there at the gate of Hades, was made more accountable for what I had not done than the evil I had done. I had not accepted God's plan of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Dear reader: I challenge you to also realize that the Bible speaks the truth when it says:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son for whosoever believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." (Gospel of John 3:16)

BELIEVE IN JESUS' WORD IN JOHN 5:24:

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

CHRIST HAS DIED FOR YOU. IT IS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPTURES.

Hebrews 9:27, "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, and in

HEBREWS 9:28

"So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."

/ JUHA MATTISSON

PRAYER

SET ME FREE FROM ADDICTION TO GAMBLING

Jesus, you know everything and you have seen my addiction to gambling. You know that I can't stop in my own power. You know the craving and attraction I have to gambling. You know my anxious soul.

Jesus, set me free from the demon of gambling that is holding onto me. YES, YOU CAN SET ME FREE!

Forgive me for all the time and money I have wasted.

It was time I should have had with you, my friends and family, my wife – my girlfriend – my husband – my boyfriend – my friends...

Forgive me Jesus. Forgive all of my sins.

Cleanse me with your blood, Jesus.

You died on the cross for my sake and bore all my sins and failures on the cross. Thank you that you are alive today and have conquered the devil.

I turn over everything into your hands, take care of my life and help me to figure out everything that is like a huge mountain in front of me. I tell this mountain of problems to disappear into the depths of the sea.

Thank you, Jesus, that you walk with me and give me the power to get my life in order. Jesus, I ask that my family and my friends would be able to forgive me for the trouble I have caused.

Give me the courage to talk with them.

Help me to ask them for forgiveness for all the pain I have caused them.

Amen.



What an awesome God we have!

Anyone who knows Him understands what I mean. He was taking care of me even when my back was turned to Him. He was bailing me out when I was His adversary. What kind of love is this that would trade heaven's throne for a cross? It's the kind of love that words just can't convey.

My story isn't a very colourful "rocker hits the bottom" kind; I was raised in a southern Baptist home but didn't become an "authentic" Christian until I was going through an excruciating (is there any other kind?) divorce. The only woman I had ever been faithful to left me. It was a long and painful lesson, but God patiently and gently showed me what had gone wrong. I learned that I had been worshipping the creation (my wife) instead of the Creator.

In a very short time my entire world came tumbling down. My best friend, lover, and confidant became someone I didn't know – worse yet, my adversary. Anyhow, to make a long story short, it brought me to my knees and the only hand extended to me was

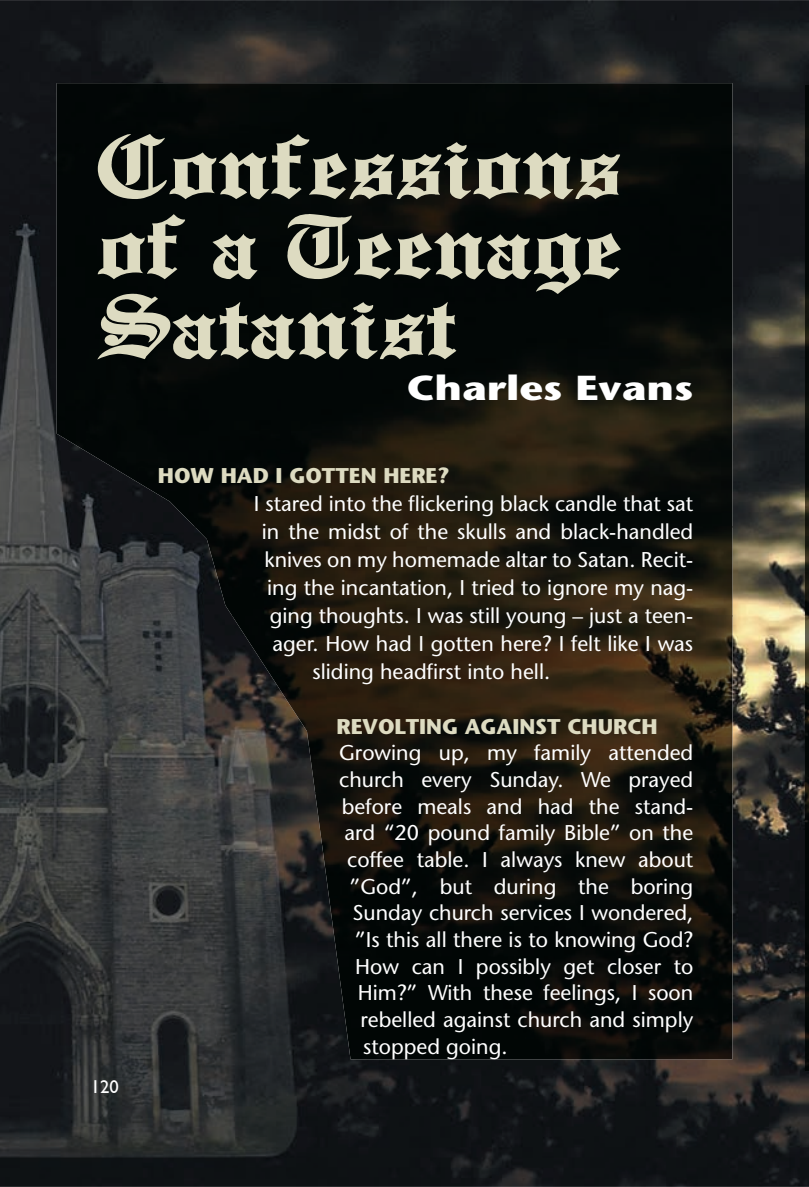


TOMMY ALDRIDGE WHITESNAKE

the hand of Jesus. He knew the pain because He has felt it. He knew the rejection because He knows it firsthand. He knew the loneliness because He has lived it. He knew all about what I was going through, and He extended His helping hand to me.

My life has undergone this almost indescribable supernatural transformation. He has changed me from the inside. I'm still Tommy, but I'm closer to the Tommy He created me to be. I am a better person (although I don't always feel I am), and I am a better drummer. He has taken what little I have and multiplied it supernaturally. He is transforming me, and with every passing day I get a little closer to being the person He created me to be. I am nothing without Him. What an awesome God we have! I encourage you to check Him out. He created excitement. He created music. He created everything that is. What a privilege to have a relationship with the Creator of the universe. I praise His name, and I thank Him for all He has done!

Thanks for reading this, and I pray God's very best over you/yours.
Tommy Aldridge, Whitesnake



Confessions of a Teenage Satanist

Charles Evans

HOW HAD I GOTTEN HERE?

I stared into the flickering black candle that sat in the midst of the skulls and black-handled knives on my homemade altar to Satan. Reciting the incantation, I tried to ignore my nagging thoughts. I was still young – just a teenager. How had I gotten here? I felt like I was sliding headfirst into hell.

REVOLTING AGAINST CHURCH

Growing up, my family attended church every Sunday. We prayed before meals and had the standard “20 pound family Bible” on the coffee table. I always knew about “God”, but during the boring Sunday church services I wondered, “Is this all there is to knowing God? How can I possibly get closer to Him?” With these feelings, I soon rebelled against church and simply stopped going.

HEAVY METAL

In junior high school, being part of the crowd meant being a devoted fan of rock and roll music. A neighbour introduced me to heavy metal rock, and I instantly liked it. Soon a single rock album grew into a large collection of rock albums. I had to listen to my music constantly. I skipped school so I could have it all day. I bought an electric guitar and tried to form my own rock band so I could be like my rock heroes.

WITCHCRAFT, VODOO, SATANISM

Then I noticed that all my favourite performers promoted the occult or satanic practices in their songs. This frightened me, but the music was stronger than my dislike of black magic. I wondered if this "god" of the rock bands was what I had been searching for! I wasted no time finding out. Soon I had a personal library on the black arts and a huge "circle of salt" on the basement floor at home. I bought albums only if they talked about witchcraft, voodoo, or Satanism. I drew an upside-down cross on my black T-shirt, which proudly proclaimed, "Satan lives!"

Finally, I began leading others into the worship of Satan. Teenagers would beg to join my "coven". As you can see, I was actively involved in my religion rather than simply sitting in a church pew for one or two hours each Sunday. My dread and despair seemed to grow more suffocating each day. Instead of finding the pathway to God, I was sliding headfirst into the depths of hell.

A CHRISTIAN PATIENT

About this time my dad had some routine surgery. Sharing his hospital room was a Christian patient who eagerly talked about the forgiveness of sin Jesus Christ offers by trusting Him as your personal Saviour. Although my dad had gone to church for

years, this roommate had something he didn't have. Soon my father trusted Christ as his Saviour and became a child of God... but there was a child of Satan back home! Picture this: Downstairs is a teenage Satanist son with a huge hexagram on the floor, an altar to Satan nearby, and rock and roll music constantly blasting from the stereo. Upstairs is a new Christian father who suddenly understands what is taking place in his home! It wasn't pretty.

HIS PRAYERS FOR ME

I could yell as loudly as my dad when we argued, but there was one thing I couldn't fight – his prayers for me, along with the prayers of all of his new Christian friends. After weeks of increasing despair, one day I confessed to my best friend, who studied the occult with me, that I wanted out of Satanism. He reminded me: Don't even think of leaving, or else... Soon however he admitted that he felt just as bad. We were helplessly trapped.

TO A SURE DEATH

That evening we drove to the Niagara River to end our lives. In a few minutes the swift currents would plunge us over the Niagara Falls to a sure death – and eternity in hell. Obviously we didn't do it, and all I know is that when I got home to my bedroom, I knelt beside the bed and poured out my heart to God.

FORGIVE ME

"Dear Lord," I said, "I'm not sure You even exist. And even if You do exist, I'm not sure You can help me. And even if You can help me, I'm not too sure that You will. But whatever happens from this point on, I want You to know that I am giving my life completely to You. Please forgive me for all that I have done wrong, and help me to love the way You love. Amen."

I EXPECTED SATAN TO KILL ME

I expected Satan to kill me that night because I had abandoned him, but instead I slept like a child, and the next morning I woke up as a new person! Jesus Christ filled my heart with a joy so strong that not even Satan could take it from me! I can't say that everything changed in a moment, but that night God delivered me from Satan and changed my life forever.

JESUS CONQUERED DEATH

You may not have rebelled as much as I did, but you still need Jesus! Your sin keeps you from God just as much as my sin kept me from Him. Jesus Christ is a real person – God in the flesh – who died for all our sins and then rose from the grave three days later. Jesus defeated death! Only He can offer forgiveness and eternal life to those who will trust in Him.

ETERNAL LIFE

A Bible verse I have known from childhood explains why Jesus died for us: "God so loved the world [you and me] that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Jesus also said, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him." (John 3:36)

YOU HAVE A CHOICE TO MAKE!

You have a choice to make my friend, just like I did – trust Jesus and follow Him to heaven or do nothing and face eternity in hell. No matter what your sin, if He can save a teenage devil worshipper like me, He can save you too. Trust in Jesus today!

/Charles Evans





Christian Metal links

GOOD STARTING SITE WITH LOTS OF LINKS AND INFO

www.metalforjesus.org (METAL FOR JESUS)

BANDS

www.antidemon.net	(ANTIDEMON)
www.boanerges.com.ar	(BOANERGES)
www.brianheadwelch.net	(BRIAN WELCH)
www.crimsonmoonlight.com	(CRIMSON MOONLIGHT)
www.myspace.com/officialcrimsonthorn	(CRIMSON THORN)
www.divinefire.net	(DIVINEFIRE)
www.myspace.com/exousiaband	(EXOUSIA)
www.golden-resurrection.com	(GOLDEN RESURRECTION)
www.herosweden.com	(HERO)
www.jerusalem.se	(JERUSALEM)
www.kentamplin.com	(KEN TAMPLIN)
www.laudamus.se	(LAUDAMUS)
www.leviticus.nu	(LEVITICUS)
www.roweproductions.com	(MORTIFICATION)
www.myspace.com/narniaofficial	(NARNIA)
www.pantokrator.com	(PANTOKRATOR)
www.myspace.com/riverabomma	(RIVERA/BOMMA)
www.robrock.com	(ROB ROCK)
www.saintsite.com	(SAINT)
www.seventh-avenue.de	(SEVENTH AVENUE)
www.myspace.com/shadowsofparagon	(SHADOWS OF PARAGON)
www.slavsimanic.com	(SLAV SIMANIC)
www.stryper.com	(STRYPER)
www.theocracymusic.com	(THEOCRACY)
www.tommyaldridge.com	(TOMMY ALDRIDGE)

WWW.THEMETALBIBLE.COM

www.tourniquet.net (TOURNIQUET)
www.ultimatum.net (ULTIMATUM)
www.venidomine.com (VENI DOMINE)

METAL SHOPS

www.soundmass.com (SOUNDMASS, AUSTRALIA)
www.nordicmission.no (NORDIC MISSION, NORWAY)
www.metalcommunity.se (METAL COMMUNITY, SWEDEN)
www.divinemetaldistro.com (DIVINE METAL DISTRO, USA)
www.maanalainenlevykauppa.com (FINLAND)
www.shaverav.com (SHAVER AUDIO AND VIDEO, USA)
www.roxxproductions.com (ROXX PRODUCTIONS, USA)
www.stephans-buchhandlung.de (GERMANY)

RECORD COMPANIES

www.rivelrecords.com (LILJEGREN RECORDS)
www.ulterium-records.com (ULTERIUM RECORDS)
www.retroactiverecords.net (RETROACTIVE RECORDS)

METAL MAGAZINE

www.facebook.com/pages/Heavens-Metal-Fanzine/47526875933
(HEAVEN'S METAL)

CHRISTIAN METAL FESTIVALS

www.elementsofrock.com (ELEMENTS OF ROCK)
www.brainstormfestival.com (BRAINSTORM FESTIVAL)

MISCELLANEOUS

http://thecmr.forumotion.com (CHRISTIAN METAL REALM)
www.christianmetalheadsinternational.com (CMI)
www.sanctuaryinternational.com (SANCTUARY INTERNATIONAL)
www.myspace.com/alcancesub (UNDERGROUND CHURCH)
www.hardrockhalleluja.de (HARDROCK HALLELUJA)
www.metalsanctuary.org (METAL SANCTUARY)
www.themetalbible.com (METAL BIBLE)
www.crashchurch.com (CRASH CHURCH)
www.angelicwarlord.com (ANGELIC WARLORD)



Prayer

TORMENTED BY DEMONS AND EVIL THOUGHTS

Jesus I come to you. You give me protection.
Thank you Jesus that you conquered Satan and all his demons by dying on the cross. I pray that your blood will cleanse me from all sin. Your blood, Jesus, gives me protection from all demons and wickedness.
Jesus I submit my whole life to you. I know you can take care of me. I want to obey you and follow your commands. The Bible will be my instruction book; help me to understand it when I read it. Open my mind so your Word will be living and strong in my life.
Fill me with your Holy Spirit!
Baptize me in the Holy Spirit.
I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.



Give the word of God *to the people around you!*

Bible for the Nations has designed New Testaments that fit perfectly into people's everyday lives. These are target group NTs that contains the entire NT, along with 128 full-color pages of powerful testimonies, written prayers, inspiring statements, moving interviews and other information.

We keep our prices low to make it easy for you to generously give the word of God to the people around you.

Bible for the Nations has also developed a special Jesus Storybook for children. It uses simple text and illustrations to explain God's plan of salvation and lead children into a personal relationship with Jesus. Join us in this enriching and rewarding ministry of giving the word of God to the people around you!

Bible for the Nations (BftN) is a Bible organization that started in Germany over 25 years ago. Bible for the Nations works in Europe and other continents to spread the word of God, especially among those who do not know who Jesus is. Bible for the Nations prints large quantities of Bibles and New Testaments in many languages.

In the USA, Bible for the Nations works closely with CLC Multi-Language Media. CLC Multi-Language Media handles the logistics and sales of BftN products in their web shop. There the Biker Bible is available in at least 20 languages. You can order target group NTs at www.multilanguage.com



Give the word of God

to the people around you!



FESTIVAL BIBLE

ISBN 978-3-946919-53-7 Article 1791.53.000

1-9 copies	5.50 USD
10-99 copies	4.25 USD
100 + ...	3.75 USD
250 + ...	3.25 USD



BIKER BIBLE

ISBN 978-3-946919-49-0 Article 1791.49.000

1-9 copies	5.50 USD
10-99 copies	4.25 USD
100 + ...	3.75 USD
250 + ...	3.25 USD



JESUS BIBLE

ISBN 978-3-946919-54-4 Article 1791.54.000

1-9 copies	5.50 USD
10-99 copies	4.25 USD
100 + ...	3.75 USD
250 + ...	3.25 USD



SURVIVAL BIBLE

ISBN 978-3-946919-55-1 Article 1791.55.000

1-9 copies	5.50 USD
10-99 copies	4.25 USD
100 + ...	3.75 USD
250 + ...	3.25 USD



STREET BIBLE

ISBN 978-3-946919-52-0 Article 1791.52.000

1-9 copies	5.50 USD
10-99 copies	4.25 USD
100 + ...	3.75 USD
250 + ...	3.25 USD

Orders can be placed at

www.multilanguage.com