



Quarterly  
Newsletter  
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**Message from:  
the Executive Director**

Last weekend Denise and I had an opportunity to minister in Jackson at the Parnall Correctional Facility along with Richard and Dawn Marie Mattson. We arrived ahead of time; were able to fellowship; and found the officers friendly. Chaplin Burrus was a spiritual man, who loved the Lord and the inmates. We breezed through security and it was an easy load-in - I basically had just my acoustic guitar with me. This was a real easy gig – absolutely no huffing and puffing. I believe we ministered effectively. But even greater than that was the spiritual condition of many of the inmates we met there.



Rufus Harris

About 70 men of different ages; races and backgrounds joined with us in a chapel on the grounds of the facility. Before we ministered the inmates opened with what they called “devotion”. There may be those you who might know what this means in reference to older style African-American Baptist congregations. But for those of you who are not familiar with this type of devotion let me explain just a little.

The devotion I reference is where the deacons at the beginning of a service will go before the congregation and sing several relatively slow old time spiritual songs (which can include lots of moaning and groaning). This, by the way, is usually interesting to me because I am amazed that these traditions are still conducted and perpetuated. So needless to say, I was expecting the same “devotion” that I had seen before, but boy was I surprised.

After a from-the-heart scriptural reading from one of the books of Chronicles, the reader asked for the song leader to come forward. The singer began the song *Can't Nobody Do Me Like Jesus*. The organist found the key; the drummer (who was blind) exploded in and the “devotion” was on! The inmates in the pews were both: the congregation and the choir! They sang 3 or 4 songs standing with their hands and voices raised! It was absolutely incredible!

I looked around and I couldn't believe what I saw and heard. I had to... pinch myself and ask, “Is this a dream?” There we were in the middle of a prison and there was joy. No, let me

correct that, there was JOY!!! It was JOY that was certainly not focused on their circumstance but which focused on the Father and His love for them through Jesus. The song leader did not have to coerce them – he just flowed and they (the congregation and choir) were with him. They knew from their hearts in who they believed! It was JOY that I have rarely seen anywhere. But here we were in prison. I was nearly provoked to envy.

These men were not “nearsighted”. These men spiritually saw the bigger picture. They looked at what God has done for us. These men (inmates in prison) really encouraged me. Please read: 2Peter 1:5-9.

***This experience gave me something to think about...***

*Rufus*



**October Highlights**

You know it is always bitter sweet when you're wrapping up the last show of the year. On one hand, your body is saying “yes!” there's rest for three months until the January show. But on the other hand, you know you'll miss the folks who come out to hug and encourage you throughout the year - especially those whose support is like that of Aaron and Hur lifting up the arms of Moses so that Israel could win the battle (Ex 17:11-12).

As many of you know ministry is very encouraging, but – alas - can be a bit disappointing at times. Take for example October's show. Fellowship as always was great, but attendance was a little light. It had rained that day; incoming traffic was a bit hectic; and it was also the last game of the

World Series. All of these things affected the 4F turnout.



Some of the folks in the audience received text messages and phone calls while others listened to the radio in one ear and 4thFridays performers with the other to hear the most recent score. Then, on top of it all the Tigers lost – so much effort and here it is January 2007 and we are the only one’s talking about it. However, it was still a great show!

### First up was Bassist - Mo Jones



**Mo Jones**

Mo plays it, his fingers would have to be incredibly strong. Yet you couldn’t help still but notice Mo’s humility. He had a calm, peaceful presence. That night, Rufus interviewed him onstage and Mo shared how he suffered from carpal tunnel which prevented him from performing but how one day the Lord miraculously healed him. He shared in detail how he felt heat in his wrists for 40 minutes and then the pain, the carpal tunnel was totally gone. It was a very moving interview. Mo then shared songs from his latest release entitled – *Mo Jones Bass* - which consisted entirely of bass and drums - no guitar. His music had elements of funk, but at the same time, you could hear classical melodies. Mo evoked emotions through his music. With sound of his bass, the audience was moved and inspired. We’ll keep you updated. For more info about Mo, check out his website: [www.mojones.net](http://www.mojones.net)



### Crisi

It’s always a treat to have Crisi from Grand Rapids. One of the really cool things about Crisi is how she works the crowd. Throughout the night, we saw her mingling – going from table introducing



**Crisi**

herself and talking to all the folks who came out that night. Her ministry-minded attitude and outgoing personality was obvious. Crisi shared songs from her latest CD - *Woman You See*. During her performance, she took time with the audience so that they knew exactly who she was and where she was coming from. She shared the story behind each song with clarity and honesty. She was very concise in her delivery. Her songs were compelling, full of energy, and thought-provoking. All the folks in her band – like Crisi - were friendly, warm, and professional. One could hear sophisticated songwriting with vocals that were powerful, raspy and accurate. It was also obvious as she played rhythm guitar that she was the band leader. She confidently took command of her guitar and “led” the band. We hope to have her back again. Learn more about Crisi by visiting her website at: [www.crisiband.com](http://www.crisiband.com)

### rufus harris

This being the last show of the year, the band played some of their most loved tunes. Rufus shared how important it is to do the right thing simply because it is the right thing to do. He shared how we must remember to truly follow Jesus and not to just talk about it. He and the band clearly delivered the message in the tunes that were shared.



**Jeannine Gardner**



**Sidney Howard**



**Charles Weldon and Rufus**



## The New Year' Eve Fundraising Bash

Most of you know that unfortunately we had to cancel the Bash because of lack of interest. This surprised and disappointed us a bit but as the apostle Paul said, “

...we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (NIV)

We were so looking forward to this event:

- It was going to be the major source of our CAMP funding and exposure for 2007.
- It was going to be a usually classy night out with like minded people around a great dinner and with the tremendous entertainment of [Zamar](#).

We would like officially thank those who supported this event by purchasing the advance tickets. We would also like to thank publicly those who emailed and told us just to keep the money even though we had to cancel the event. There are tentative plans in the works for a Spring event.

## Here's what's coming up this Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>

### Comedian -

#### Joe Gautier

Joe Gautier (Goshay) was born in Norfolk, Virginia on June 7, 1960. His mother said that he came out of the womb and said "Ookay, there was a priest, a rabbi and a preacher..."



He has entertained audiences in over 15 countries and has worked with comics and interpreters throughout Europe and the Middle East, inspiring and teaching in his very own unique style.

Joe joined The Sheffield Ensemble Theater and began writing with Buddy and David Sheffield (The Nutty Professor/ Saturday Night Live) in 1982. Joe and Buddy co-wrote, "Videosyncrasies" in 1982. This award-winning musical played over 300 performances, including annual runs at New York's 43rd Street Theater, The Broadway Children's Festival, dozens of colleges and universities and the 1982 World's Fair Expo, in New Orleans. At the age of 23, Joe found himself the center of much national attention and wrote "The Menace of Venice" for Walt Disney's Epcot Center.

At the invitation of the Department of Defense, Joe went back on the road in "Hello Dolly," performing in West Germany, Egypt and before the multinational forces stationed in the Sinai Desert. In 1984, Joe relocated to Washington, D.C. and was licensed as a Minister of the Gospel on Easter Day. In 1986,

he went back on the road behind the Iron Curtain for two years as an evangelist and worship leader with Terry Law Ministries.

Joe ministers regularly with Chuck Colson's Prison Fellowship Ministries and is a popular speaker at national and international youth conferences. Joe is also a regular performer and contributing author in the smash hit comedy "Triple Espresso", which is presently playing in San Diego, Minneapolis, Denver and Dublin, Ireland.

He has appeared with such notable artists such as Amy Grant, M.C. Hammer, The Pointer Sisters, Michael W. Smith, Debbie Boone, The Winans, Mark Lowery and jazz great, Larry Carlton. He has written for Pam Tillis, Ricky Van Shelton and Hee Haw alum, Lulu Roman. Joe has just completed work on a 3-D animated movie for Bruce Barry's Wacky World Studios entitled, "The Roach Approach" and he is currently appearing in his own one-man show entitled "Cowman, the Moosical" at theaters across the country.

Joe currently lives in Kingwood, Texas with his wife, Stacey and their four children, Bryce, Micah, Nicholas Tyler and his newest, Joseph Donovan. He is flying in Friday night to share his ministry with us.

### Guitarist - Andrew Hively

We are pleased to welcome back this gifted and entertaining guitarist from Brighton. Andrew writes, records, and performs instrumental acoustic and electric guitar music. He shared at 4F last year performing songs on his acoustic guitar from his



project - *Peacefully Blue*. Since that time he has released a new CD entitled - *The Awesome Immensity*. This project highlights his electric guitar playing and is chock-full of energy, creativity and lots of finesse.

Andrew believes in using music to connect with his audience and desires to be a part of communication that goes beyond words. He describes his electric style is melodic rock ala Joe Satriani and Eric Johnson and his acoustic style involves fingerpicking, tapping and loops. He plays in the band at Oak Pointe Church in Novi, Michigan as well as area coffee houses and special events. He has had the opportunity over the past few years to play all over the USA and in Germany with Campus Crusade for Christ as part of the worship band. He'll take the 4thFridays stage this Friday. For more info about Andrew, visit his website: [www.myspace.com/andrewhively](http://www.myspace.com/andrewhively)

**rufus harris** - will also share some tunes opening and closing out the show.

**Coffee** - The Coffee Brew mister invites you to stop by the coffee table and enjoy this month's featured flavor and the 4thFridays's house blend.

**4F Raffle** - With admission, you'll receive a ticket for our

raffle. The drawing is held near the end of the show. You can win music and coffee in a little blue jean tote

## OTHER NEWS

### Institutional Ministry

#### Christmas Concert for the Homeless

Over the Christmas holiday we had the honor of working with the band *Looking Up* and *The Sons of God* ministry to present a Christmas concert for the Homeless. The event was held at Grace Episcopal Church in Mt. Clemens. It was a wonderful evening and great opportunity to help those in need. If you would like to get involved with helping the homeless, please contact us. You don't have to be an artist to get involved. There are opportunities to serve food in the soup kitchen and help with clothing.

#### Ministry at Parnall Correctional Facility

As Rufus mentioned earlier, we recently took a team to Parnall Correctional Facility in Jackson for a special Saturday night concert. The event was held in a chapel on the prison grounds. There were about 72 men in attendance. God's presence was apparent. There were times we forgot we were in prison. It was an incredibly night!

### Media

Just Radio.NET – The CAMP's Internet radio station - was launched in January of 2005 and is still going strong. The radio station is heard in over 20 countries and is steadily growing in popularity. You can listen to great Christian music while your work or play 24/7 by logging on to: [www.justradio.net](http://www.justradio.net).

**Artist Resources** – The NSAI Michigan Christian Music Workshop has started up it's meetings for 2007. If you are a songwriter, you don't want to miss out on these meetings. Most meetings are held in Howell from 7-9 on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call Cheryl Wilson at 517-546-8446 for more info.

**Want to help?** – Hey if you like what we're doing at the CAMP and you would like to support it, you can do so in various ways. Proceeds will support 4thFridays shows, Institutional ministry and our internet radio station – JustRadio.Net. Visit [www.theCampOnline.org](http://www.theCampOnline.org) to get started. There are four ways you can help:

**Make a financial donation** – Your generous gift will help us reach our goal of promoting independent Christians artists while providing spiritual enrichment to the community through the arts. All donations are tax-deductible. **No amount is too small.** You will receive a letter from the CAMP stating that you donated to our organization. **Help us make a difference today!**

**Send Flowers and Help theCAMP** – The CAMP is happy to announce its partnership with **BloomDepot.com**. BloomDepot is an online-flower organization. When you send a gift of fresh flowers to someone special you'll be supporting us at the same time. Fifteen percent (15%) of your purchase will be earmarked for the CAMP payable to us from BloomDepot. Simply click on the BloomDepot graphic below to browse the site and purchase what you'd like to send that special someone.



If you are not comfortable buying via the Internet you can call toll free: 888-Bloom-06 (888-256-6606) mention that you are with the organization the CAMP and then make your purchase via the phone. Take advantage of this opportunity for Valentine's Day next month.

**Donate your used vehicle to Charity Motors** - Charity Motors is a non-profit organization that helps the underprivileged with transportation. When you donate your vehicle, not only are you helping a needy person, but you can also choose theCAMP to receive the proceeds from the sale. And of course, your donation is tax-deductible. To donate call: 313-255-1000 or 888-908-2277. Or click the key below to get started.



Charity Motors accepts: cars, trucks, motor homes, boats and motorcycles.

**Sell on eBay** – MissionFish helps you support the CAMP through trading on eBay! When you sell on eBay, you can donate a portion of the proceeds from your sale to the CAMP. See: [www.missionfish.org](http://www.missionfish.org)



**4thFridays is presented by the CAMP**  
(Christian Artists & Musicians Project)

The CAMP is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization  
Come check out 4thFridays

This month in **Studio A**

At the *beautiful*

**Ford Community & Performing Arts Center**

15801 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, MI  
between Southfield & Greenfield Roads

Doors open at 8pm/Show starts at 8:30pm

Admission: \$10 (checks and money orders accepted)  
\$7 for students (w/ ID) and seniors

Please make them payable to: "The CAMP"

Contact Us

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**Credits:**

October's newsletter photos by Denise Strong  
Written and edited by Denise Strong and Rufus Harris

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