



theCAMP

Christian Artists & Musicians Project

Quarterly
Newsletter
January 09

The Official Newsletter Publication of Christian Artists and Musicians Project

Volume 8 Issue 1

Happy New Year!

We have many exciting things to share with you about happenings at **4thFridays** and the **CAMP**. But we would like to begin by thanking those of you who were able to so openhandedly support the CAMP financially last year. Because of your generosity, we are actually starting the year ahead of the game with the January show paid for. Praise God! We were also able to continue programs we thought we might have to cancel such as **JustRadio.NET**. So we thank you from the bottom of our heart.

This newsletter features: *Something to Think About*, Highlights of 2008, this month's 4thFridays show; and new activities at the CAMP.

A Message from:

The Executive Director



So often we read passages of scripture and we have the tendency to point our index fingers at others not remembering that three fingers point back toward ourselves. Let me give you one of those instances.

Ordinarily, one does not read the *Parable of the Farmer* in Matt. 13 and look at themselves and say, "That's me. I'm that hard ground where the devil comes and steals the word right out of my heart *because I don't understand it.*" Or, "Oh, that's me; I'm the rocky ground because *when I'm under pressure to do wrong I fail practically every single time.*" Or lastly, "Yeah, I'm the kind of ground that has lots of weeds (you know I worry and/or I'm deceived by riches) and *those things choke the word.*" But the truth of the matter is that we should look honestly look at that parable and see if we fit one, two or perhaps all three of them.

I believe the kind of ground one is governs two things; #1. The type of believer one is and #2. The type of believer that one can become. If one finds he or she fits one or more of these descriptions, then one should recognize it and turn to the Lord and ask the Lord for help and He will. Be determined to bear fruit on the Lord's terms and that's...

Something to think about.

2008 Highlights

OUR MONTHLY SHOWCASE: *4th Fridays*

4F featured 19 diverse artists last year. When we say diverse we mean: They were of all races; and many genres of music. We heard everything from folk to rock and from jazz to R&B and from pop to blues - as well as great comedy and poetry. We wrapped up the 2008 with folk artist – **Jan Krist** and poet – **Rhonda Welsh**. And of course Rufus and band performed masterfully. Both Jan and Rhonda shared new material with 4thFridays attendees.

Jan Krist



Jan was fantastic as usual – a great guitarist; vocalist and lyricist. Due to her husband's work she now lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana and traveled up to Michigan by herself to once again to grace our stage. She performed many new songs from her upcoming album and a number of favorites as well. Her songs were clever. She engaged the audience as she strummed the guitar and filled the room with her rich vocals. Something else that is great about Jan is that she always challenges her listeners to think. At times Jan is controversial (she rocks the boat) – which is something we've come to expect from her –

as she made strong statements about social change and injustice. She shared songs about her faith and then tender songs about missing her husband Alan – who patiently awaits her return to Indiana. Attendees intently listened as she unfolded her life's journey. We look forward to featuring Jan again.

Rhonda Welsh

Rhonda was fun and engaging. She too shared several selections we hadn't heard before including: *Midlife Crisis*, *Self Combustion* and *Bobbing Gray Heads*. She proved once again to be quite the storyteller sharing pieces filled with imagery and creativity. Her work spoke of various life experiences from childhood to present. With confidence, honesty, and humor, she delivered these amazing pieces that made the audience ponder and reflect on their own life.



We can't wait to hear her next project.

The House Band was of course great. They performed:

Paul McCartney's *Maybe I'm Amazed*; Sting's *If I Ever Lose My Faith*; and Rufus' *We Long to Glorify*; *Not Black or White*; and *Risen*.



INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY:

3rd Mondays in Milan – 3mm

Jesus in Matt. 25:35 said, "I was in prison and you came to see me". The CAMP in conjunction with Prison Fellowship began a monthly event at Milan Federal in a unique opportunity to minister to the church behind

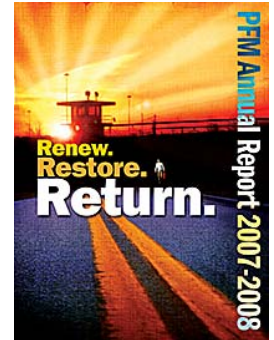


the walls. Every third Monday, we invited various artists to share with the men at Milan. Many CAMP artists accepted the call and came onboard including Rachanee, Mo Jones, Sonnie Day, and David Ivey. We

will be starting again beginning March 16th. If you'd like to get involved, let us know. You will be required to take a brief training class.

Rufus featured in Prison Fellowship's Annual Report

Rufus was honored to be featured in Prison Fellowship's 2007-2008 Annual Report. The report highlighted his prison ministry efforts at Milan Federal every third Monday. View the article featured on page 22 by pressing the graphic on the right.



In4Life

Back in April of 2008, the CAMP provided artists to be a part of this exciting opportunity to go into 10 prisons in 4 days. Sonnie Day, Rufus Harris, Denise Strong and a host of comedians and strongmen took the gospel behind the walls to forgotten men and women. It was a great experience for the inmates and well as the volunteers. We will be planning more of the same in 2009.

Come and Listen – Christmas concerts

Rufus shared songs from his Christmas CD entitled *Come and Listen* at various prisons including Milan Federal and Huron Valley Womens. Debbie Brown who is gifted in the area of drama performed a captivating portrayal of Mary, mother of Jesus. Over 300 men and women were reached with a message of hope at Christmas.

FESTIVALS/SPECIAL EVENTS

Storytellers 2008 – During Arts Beats and Eats

Storytellers 2008 was held in conjunction with The Bridge Church at The Lafayette Grande in Pontiac the weekend of Arts Beats and Eats on Sunday, August 31st. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day. Brion Riborn, Rufus, William Reynolds, Paul Dozier, Rachanee and Dan Mleccko were the artists who took the stage. We handed out doughnuts and apple cider to the attendees who at times packed our area. We will soon have a video with highlights. This year's the event will be held on Sunday, August 31, 2009.

From Dumps to Diplomas

The CAMP partnered with Harvestland Ministries in Clarkston to present this fundraising event to benefit kids in the Phillipines. The ministry feeds, clothes, and educates poor children who live in the city dump. The children have no possible way of escape except through education. The only way they can receive an education is through the Payatas Ministry. The CAMP provided artists for the event. Over 5,000 was raised that day to

help these needy children. Another festival is scheduled for 2009. Look for details this summer.

MEDIA

We explored a new internet network to visually showcase independent artists over the web. Our hope is to have it launched sometime in 2009. We'll keep you posted.

ARTIST RESOURCES

In the works is a new fellowship called **CAMP Community** where independent artists connect and are encouraged and inspired. Please pray for us as we pull this fellowship together.

Here's what's coming up this Friday Jan. 23rd

Paul Dozier



Featuring Paul is always a treat. He is one of the area's finest jazz guitarist with several CD projects under his belt. His skill and ease on the guitar never ceases to amaze us. Yet he always demonstrates humility. Paul Dozier is a talented

songwriter, composer and musician. He plays multiple instruments including guitar, bass, drums and saxophone. Paul brings fresh sounds and jazzy blends of instrumental as well as vocal arrangements, which seem to have no boundaries, ranging from Smooth Jazz to Contemporary Christian.

William Reynolds

William is a skilled singer, songwriter and guitarist with a desire to use his gift to encourage others to seek a more intimate; stronger relationship with God. His style is a unique blend of acoustic pop, funk, and rock with bluesy overtones. He'll



share songs from his latest release – a Motor City Saint and a few new tunes from upcoming project as well.

Coffee – The Coffee Brew mister invites you to stop by the coffee table to enjoy this month's flavor of the month.

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

Where two or more...

Jesus said where two or more are gathered in his name, he is in the midst. We took that scripture to heart and started a prayer conference call in the Fall of 2008. Since that time, we have seen God move in wonderful ways. Finances are better, the ministry is stronger, and most importantly we have been drawn closer to God. Every Tuesday night we pray for the CAMP. We pray for everything from 4thFridays to the many independent artists in Michigan.

If you are an artist and have a prayer request, please email it to us at info@theCampOnline.org

New artists

Look out for upcoming performances at 4thFridays by artists Sarah Dalton and Therese Maynard. Both have released great CDs. Sarah's project is called *Like a Child* and Therese's is *Faithful*. Find out more at www.RedLetterRecords.com. You can listen to music samples and download one song or the whole CD. Also check out Dan Mleccko's new CD - *The Last Call*. Dan performed at September's 4thFridays show. His mellow relaxing sound has great appeal for young and old. Therese Maynard has a CD release party planned for Friday, Feb. 6th at 8pm in Studio A at the Ford Center. Admission is free. Join us as we help promote this gifted artist.

JustRadio.NET

New artists have been added to the radio station. Log on to www.JustRadio.NET and hear great music by independent artists who are Christian while you work or play.

Ways to Give...

You can give financially to the CAMP, via eBay or by donating your used vehicle. Please help today so that we keep all of the programs going.



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

www.theCampOnline.org

And Red Letter Records: *truth, spirituality and intensity.*

www.redletterrecords.com

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)

Please make them payable to: "The CAMP"

Contact Us

248-872-1197

info@theCampOnline.org

Visit us on line at www.theCampOnline.org

Board of Directors:

President - Denise Strong
Vice President - Michael Brewer
Treasurer - Lawrence O. Strong
Secretary- Mildred Sheats
Board Member - Paul Kelley
Rufus Harris - Executive Director

Other helpers:

Rod Sledge – sound engineer
Paul Kulik – lighting
Tom Maynard
Kim Strong – coffee brew mister's assistant



Credits:

Performance photos by: Denise Strong and Rufus Harris

Written and edited by Denise and Rufus

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