



# theCAMP

Christian Artists & Musicians Project

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Newsletter  
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**A Message from:  
The Executive Director**

**Are We Looking for a  
Country of Our Own?  
*Or Do We Already Have One?***

In this historical and highly charged political season we as U.S. citizens are once again asked to make choices which are called and considered to be very important. We take sides and unfortunately these choices bitterly divide the church of Jesus. This is not good especially when Jesus said that we should be one even as he and the Father are one.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately we often don't strive for this oneness and we end up sowing seeds of discord ourselves. Perhaps what follows will help us.



Rufus Harris

There is a statement in Hebrews 11 (the famous heroes of faith chapter) which has recently come to my attention and is profound to me. It says:

People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own.

Hebrews 11:14 NIV

This passage makes me want to discover 3 things:

1. Who are these people?
2. What did these folks "say to show that they were looking for a country of their own?" and
3. What does it mean in practical terms for one to look for "a country of their own"?

The context of this scripture shows that the "these people" specifically were Abel, Enoch, Noah and

Abraham. So question #1 is answered.

The answer to question #2 is at the end of verse 13.

And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. (NIV)

They "admitted"; confessed; and/or acknowledged that they were aliens and strangers on earth. What would it mean to be an alien or stranger on the earth? An alien on earth would be an extraterrestrial being on earth. A stranger on earth would be a foreigner to our planet. An alien or a stranger would not call earth his or her home. Home would be somewhere else.

There are many other scriptures which concern themselves with this idea also:

... We wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

... Our ... 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.

Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Especially in John 17:22-23.

<sup>2</sup> Rom 8:23; 2 Cor. 4:17-18; 2 Cor 5:1; 6-8; Heb 13:14

All the scripture above indicates that there is more to come than what we ever could or should expect here on earth. The problem is we live as if this is all we have to look forward to.

In answer to question #3, in practical terms: What does it mean for one to look for “a country of their own?”

- We have a hope that is not based on the American dream but on God's ultimate promise.
- Somehow there should be an excitement that one day our bodies will be redeemed – that even this world will be redeemed.
- We should be “fixed” – very steady on the things that are eternal.
- We need to be confident and believe in the resurrection of Christ and also our eventual resurrection and life in God's kingdom. We need to grab hold of this as if our very life depends on it.
- We need to understand our faith to the point that we are like Paul torn between these two places: departing from his body or staying with the believers.
- That our choices would always mirror what we believe.

Even Abraham, when God gave him the inheritance of Canaan still looked forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God<sup>3</sup>. Interesting that Abraham was looking beyond just the land of Canaan – the land had promised to him and his descendants.

### ***Something to think about...***



<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 11:10

## September Highlights

*4<sup>th</sup> Fridays* in September was great. We featured two gifted artists: **Beth Stalker** and **Dan Mleczko**.

### Dan Mleczko

Dan was up first. Dan is a longtime friend of Rufus'. When Rufus introduced Dan, he told the story of their first gig together which involved calling Dan at about 5 in the morning and asking him to perform a string of concerts over the weekend in Pennsylvania. Dan asked his wife for permission. Rufus' plan was to pick him up at 6 or 7 *that same morning*. Since Dan didn't know the songs, he had to practice in the car all the way to Pennsylvania. And he learned every single song. Amazing! Rufus indicated how their friendship had endured. They served and toured together for years in the band **Jubal**. In Jubal Dan played bass and sang backup vocals.



Dan shared songs from his new CD – *The Last Call*. Accompanied by his brother John on guitar and backing instrument tracks, Dan shared with us a beautiful laid back mellow sound. His lyrics were engaging

and focused the audience on where the Lord wants to take us in our Christian walk. He encouraged listeners to keep their eyes fixed on Jesus and the mission He has for our lives and challenged them to not be swayed by whatever the world might throw their way. We hope to have Dan back again.



## Beth Stalker

Beth is a **4F** favorite having performed several times for the show. Her always sweet voice; solid lyrics focused on the Lord and other relationships; and her stage presence gently captured the audience's attention. She was accompanied by guitarist Jim Rawlings who is a fabulous musician who always demonstrates tremendous skill. Jim – this time – even sang tasty backing vocals.



Beth and Jim's banter between songs is always a fun time. Beth shared a number of new tunes off her soon to be released upcoming album. We also look forward to having her back next year.



Top picture: Left to right: Beth and Jim  
Bottom picture: Left to right: Martin, Jeannine, Rufus and Mo

## rufus harris

The house band (Jeannine Gardner-Washington; Mo Jones; Martin Stuart; and Rufus) delivered a great performance. They performed:

- How Do You Read It?
- 2BePraised

- Believe
- We Long to Glorify
- It's Not About...

**Here's what's coming up  
this 4<sup>th</sup> Friday - Oct. 24th**

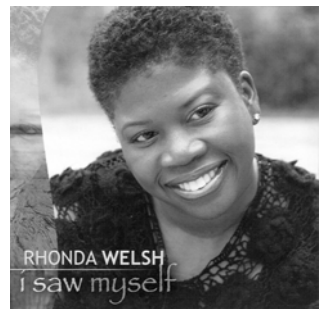
## Jan Krist

Jan is one of the busiest artists we know. She now resides in Fort Wayne, IN. She travels all over the country sharing her clever melodic tunes. She began writing and singing songs in Detroit-area folk clubs back in 1980. At the time, she was a young mother, and a graduate of Berkley High School who had grown up in Grand Haven. Over the years she began spreading her wings beyond the Metro area, winning praise at the nationally known Kerrville Songwriting Competition in Texas in 1991, and then releasing her first album of songs, *Decapitated Society*, in 1992. That album won praise from *Billboard* and other magazines, and Krist followed it up with 1993's *Wing and a Prayer*, which also garnered accolades. She was honored as Best Vocalist in the Acoustic Division at the Detroit Music Awards in 1995. In 1996 she celebrated the release of her latest album, the intelligent and polished *Curious*, with a show at the Ark in Ann Arbor. She soon followed that up with her release entitled *Wounded Me, Wounded You*. This project was called her finest moment, combining Beatle-esque pop, folk-rock and intelligent, thought-provoking songs of love and faith with nine Krist originals and a cover of *Walk Away Renee*. Her latest release, *When Planets Collide* talks about the collision of politics and religion, hope and fear, grace and judgment. Through it all Jan has raised her kids -- Amy, Ian and Michael. She married Alan Finkbeiner in 1995. "And that's why they call me Jan Krist," she says with a laugh.



## Rhonda Welsh

Rhonda will share poetry in our **Poet's Corner**. Detroit native Rhonda Welsh started writing poetry in third grade. Her love for language continued throughout her academic career and prompted her to graduate from Wayne State University



with a B.A. in English and a M.A. in Public Relations and Communications. In the past few years, she has married her passion for language with another of one her passions – her walk with Christ. The fruit of that marriage is her first book (unpublished) *Selah: Take a moment and let it sink in.* “The last few years have been filled with so many lessons. I’ve experienced death, amazing self-realizations, illness, confirmation of purpose, career challenges and on and on and on,” said Welsh. *Selah* was born from the awesome things that God taught me about myself and his love.” Three years ago she released her first CD featuring poetry entitled – “I Saw Myself.” The project combines spoken word, traditional poetry, and instrumental jazz. It deals with subjects like self-realization, relationships, and church life. In addition to 4thFridays, Rhonda’s work has been heard at the Museum of African American History, The Upper Room, Marygrove College, the Lafayette Grande, coffee houses, churches and a number of other southeastern Michigan venues.

**Coffee** – The Coffee Brew mister invites you to stop by the coffee to enjoy this month’s flavor of the month – caramel apple.

**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

## INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY:

### 3rd Mondays in Milan - 3mm

is a unique opportunity for the CAMP to work in conjunction with Prison Fellowship doing Prison Ministry at the only Federal Prison in Michigan. Every third Monday of the month from 6-8:30pm, the CAMP brings in gifted musicians, poets, comedians and speakers to this Milan facility. The October event featured recording artist David Ivey. If you would like more information, contact the CAMP at: 248-872-1197 or Prison Fellowship at 248-886-0881. You will be required to take an orientation in order to participate in this event.

### **Come and Listen** – Christmas concert

Rufus will be sharing songs from his Christmas CD entitled *Come and Listen* and several prisons and other venues. He'll also be doing special concerts to benefit Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program.

## FESTIVALS

### Storytellers 2008 – During Arts Beats and Eats

We told you about Storytellers 2008 that was held at The Lafayette Grande in Pontiac the weekend of Arts Beats and Eats on Sunday, August 31st. We didn't show any of the pictures. But we are working on a video we hope to have done soon. You will be able to see highlights from this festival online.

## MEDIA

A new internet network is in the works to showcase independent artists. Our goal is to have it launched by early 2009. We'll keep you posted.

## ARTIST RESOURCES

### CAMP community

Stay tuned for information regarding a new fellowship called CAMP community where independent artists connect and are encouraged and inspired.

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



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

[www.theCampOnline.org](http://www.theCampOnline.org)

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

[www.redletterrecords.com](http://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

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Visit us on line at [www.theCampOnline.org](http://www.theCampOnline.org)

**Board of Directors:**

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Rufus Harris - Executive Director

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



**Credits:**

Performance photos by: Cheryl Tompkins; Denise Strong and Rufus Harris

Written and edited by Denise Strong and Rufus Harris

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