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A Message from:

The Executive Director

Coming to the Lord

Recently I have had the privilege to talk to a few close friends and also some very good acquaintances regarding how we should come to the Father or to the Lord Jesus. The phrase “coming to the Lord” in my opinion has often been clouded by cliché and misinformation. Exactly what does it mean “to come to the Lord”? I’m sure there are more examples than what follows, but some say that “coming to the Lord” is:



1. Asking the Lord for help with one’s problems
2. Praying the one time sinner’s prayer
3. Frequently going to the church building for services
4. Receiving salvation – meaning that you have accepted Christ as your savior.

There is nothing wrong with coming to the Lord so that he can help one with their problems; praying the sinner’s prayer even though it is not in and of itself scriptural is not bad thing either; frequently attending church meeting (in the real sense of co-participation) is actually a good thing; or having accepted Christ as your savior. But the truth is none of these tell the whole story. Let’s briefly look at Matthew 11:28.

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."**

Let’s just look at the word “come”. The synonyms of this word correspond to the context: *approach; move toward; draw closer; get nearer; and come up to*¹. All

¹ Microsoft Word Thesaurus

of these are good and also true, but none of them tell the whole story - leaving it open to too much personal interpretation. However if one goes a little further and looks at the Greek synonyms, you’ll find that those synonyms which relate to “come” in this passage are: *follow me; or be my disciple*². There are fewer Greek synonyms for the word “come” and it’s simpler and open to less interpretation. And there is good reason for this.

Those words “*follow*” and “*be my disciple*” are clearer primarily because we have actual examples from the scripture as to what it means to follow and to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus. For example, Jesus said to Simon Peter and his brother Andrew “*follow me*” and they immediately followed him. Jesus shared a parable about tenants who rented land from a landowner. The tenants gathered together against the son of the landowner they said, “*Come* let us kill him



and take his inheritance” and that is exactly what they did – they came together and killed him. In another parable Jesus said, a king asked folks to “come” and attend the marriage of his son but people made light of the invitation. They made light of the invitation to “come”.³

Sadly, they didn’t “come”.

So looking back at our original reference Matthew 11:28, doesn’t it make sense that if we don’t come to Christ – that is to “to follow” Christ and “to be a disciple” of Christ in the way that Christ expects - we won’t get the rest promised here? And that should give us...

Something to think about...

refus

² Strong’s Greek Definition and Thayer Abridged Greek Lexicon for NT:1205.

³ See Matthew 4:19; 21:38; and 22:4.

September Highlights

After having August off due to the Ford Center's building maintenance, both the **4thFridays'** crew and attendees were raring to go. The night featured two very gifted women: Rapper – **Mahogany Jones** and Singer/Songwriter **Beth Stalker**.

Mahogany Jones

It had been a few years since we featured rap at **4thFridays**. When considering this genre of music, we look for artists who can engage the audience with understandable, relevant lyrics and a great melody underneath it all. **Mahogany Jones** managed to do all of the above. She brought excitement

and lots of energy to the 4thFridays stage. She kicked off her heels to get more comfortable and then delivered hip song - after song. She shared songs from her latest release – *Morph*. Her moves were smooth and she cleverly invited audience participation. She started off her set with the song – *Lose Control* – a song that spoke of her dedication and commitment to Christ. In between songs, she shared parts of her spiritual journey. A rapper B.C., she talked that she always wanted to use secular rap to teach people. Once she became a Christian, God showed her that she could use rap for his purposes. "Now I rock the mic with the rock – Jesus Christ," she said. Mahogany received a long standing ovation at the end of her set. We truly look forward to featuring Mahogany again. For more information about her ministry, visit: MySpace.com/MahoganyJonz



Beth Stalker

4thFridays was happy to welcome back **Beth Stalker**. Before she took the stage, the video shown discussed



her starting off as a little girl whose father notice she had a gift for singing. The video featured her singing back in the 80s a song called - *I am a Promise*. Beth shared great songs from her upcoming CD. She

proved herself to be quite musical this time around. A first for us for our show, she used tambourines, shakers and played guitar on a song. Some of her songs had an appealing Appalachian bluesy sound. She related her songs to Christ. One song called *Addicted* - talked about being addicted to Christ. Her next album is one to look out for. As always, **Jim Rawlings** – Beth's accompanist - performed masterfully. This was perhaps his finest performance yet. In all the differing styles he played, he was authentic. His performance included the looping technique and even slide guitar. He made each song was his own. Visit: BethStalker.com



rufus harris



The show opened up with **the House Band** (that is, **Jeannine Gardner-Washington** (drums); **Mo Jones** (bass); **Martin Stuart** (keyboards) and **Rufus** (guitar and vocals). They

did a great job. Rufus talked of being a little jealous of Sting writing the song *If I Ever Lose My Faith* for the reason, "It's a song he could have written". He mentioned that the ever present concerns of the state of the western church are a challenge, but he maintains his faith is not in the



church but in the Lord Jesus. The band performed: *Risen*, pressing the point that without the bodily resurrection of Jesus, our faith is worthless; *Love in What You Do* which got everybody moving and then they closed out the show with *No Compromise*; and *2BePraised*. Rufus explained why we are not to compromise because of God's mercy towards us; and that the Lord is to be praised even when things are not going the way we want. Why? Because the Lord is worthy! Visit: RufusHarris.com

Here's what's coming up *this Friday* October 23rd!

Fusion Rock Guitarist Waldon Reed, Jr.



Waldon has been a freelance guitarist, instructor, and composer in the Detroit area since 1982. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in guitar performance from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan (1989) and his Master of Music degree in composition from Wayne

State University in Detroit, Michigan (1992). His playing styles include classical, jazz, and rock; all of which are reflected in his eclectic compositional style. As a student he has received numerous awards for both composing and performing. Of these awards, most notably is the Music Teachers National Association Student Composition Contest (1989), where he won first place nationally for his composition Duo Fantasy for flute and guitar. His composition Blues Emporium was selected for the early mp3.com's 103 of the best songs you've never heard vol.2 compilation CD. His popularity on the internet has led to CD sales on every continent of the world. For more info visit:

www.myspace.com/waldonreedjr

Singer/songwriter/guitarist:

Brion Riborn

This singer/songwriter embarks on a solo trek across the musical landscape. Beneath the mellow grooves of his acoustic guitar lies a passion and urgency that



beckons the listener to journey alongside him and sing along. With a vocal style comparable to John Mayer coupled with compelling lyrics and clever licks on acoustic guitar, Brion Riborn brings a different flavor to the independent Christian artist scene and to 4thFridays. We're looking forward to featuring him once again at **4F** this Friday. Check out his website: MySpace.com/BrionRiborn

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 tote bag!

OTHER CAMP NEWS...

INSTITUTIONAL MINISTRY:

3rd Mondays in Milan - 3mm

This 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 6-8pm, the CAMP brings in gifted musicians, poets, comedians and speakers to this Milan facility. If you want to participate you don't have to be a musician and 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.

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Storytellers 2009 - During Arts Beats and Eats

The Storytellers event Labor Day weekend in Downtown Pontiac was fantastic. The event was sponsored by The CAMP and The Bridge Church. We featured seven artists including: Sarah Dalton, Rachanee, Not Our Own, Therese Maynard, William Reynolds, Paul Dozier and Rufus Harris. It was an absolutely beautiful day. Attendees enjoyed donuts, apple cider and lots of free literature as they listened to great music under the shade. See [Storyteller's Pics](#) (below).

The next **Storytellers** will⁴ occur Sept. 5, 2010.

MEDIA

JustRadio.NET

The CAMP has an internet radio station called

JustRadio.NET. It features diverse independent artists who are Christian. The station received an award for its uniqueness back in 2005. And we're still going strong. Many new artists will be added to the radio station this week. Log on to www.JustRadio.NET and hear great music by independent artists who are Christian while you work or play.

Internet Showcase

We are working on getting 4thFridays shows videotaped and aired on the internet. This is something we have been working on for a while now and we are finally very close. This would allow us to visually showcase independent artists and exposed them to the world. Our hope is to have it launched early in 2010. We'll keep you posted.

ARTIST RESOURCES

CAMP community

We are working on a new virtual community called CAMP community. It will feature opportunities for independent artists and those connected to the arts to network and help each other. Many independent artists run their own businesses. That's right. They have not quit their day jobs. CAMP community will showcase their businesses and encourage CAMP supporters and others to support them. CAMP community will also feature classifieds so that artists can recruit band members, sell equipment and find out about employment. Stay tuned for the launch of CAMP community where artists are connected, encouraged and inspired.

Ways to Give...

Donations are **way down** and we are facing a huge shortfall. Will you help support this ministry so that we can keep 4thFridays going? You can give financially to the CAMP,

via eBay, or by donating your used vehicle. Please help today so that we continue 4thFridays and other vital ministries.

Red Letter Downloads

We are happy to announce that the Red Letter Records downloads website is up and running and the Body project is now available. Red Letter Records is the sponsor of the CAMP. Visit [Red Letter Records](#) and download **the Body project for FREE - 15 songs by 11 artists**. And watch the video featured on YouTube. Featured artists include: **Beth Stalker, David Ivey, Kelly Eldridge, William Reynolds, Rufus Harris, Dan Mieczko, Sarah Dalton, Therese Maynard, Rhonda Welsh, Kim Margerum and Larry Hover**. Feel free to peruse the site and purchase music downloads for only .99 cents. Thank you in advance for supporting these fine independent Christian Artists.



red letter records
truth... intensity... spirituality
Available Now!

Storytellers 2009 Pics⁵



⁵ Pictured from left to right: Sarah Dalton; Sarah and Rufus; and Rachanee. On page 5 from left to right: Not Our Own (Jenny and Chris Kokenos); William Reynolds; Paul Dozier; Rufus and Therese Maynard.



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

www.theCampOnline.org

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

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

Board of Directors:

President - Denise Strong
Vice President - Michael Brewer
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Secretary- Mildred Sheats
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Other helpers:

Rod Sledge – sound engineer
Paul Kulik – lighting
Kim Strong – coffee brew mister's assistant
Marvin Sheats and Tony Amore – load-in / load-out



Credits:

Performance photos by: Denise Strong and Rufus Harris
Written and edited by Denise Strong and Rufus Harris

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