

MELTDOWN

The First Thirty Years

This book contains a lot of memories for a lot of people. So many memories have been left out due to lack of space or lack of photographs. There are too many things to try and remember. Too much to document.

I wish to acknowledge all the hard work given to the ministry by Lynn Ellison who left the ministry in 2016. We formed the ministry together and she is always welcome at Meltdown.

Thank you Lynn ☺

I also thank everyone who has been on the Meltdown team at any time over the years.

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Foreword by Pastor Bob Beeman

It has been my privilege to be part of the Meltdown Conference through the years. This unique fellowship of like-minded disenfranchised Englanders has always been one of my favourite gatherings. Countless bands have taken its stage, many for their premier exposure. But nothing has been more exciting than the many life-long friendships that have been established.

I am thankful for the great work that Dave Williams and his crew have done these last 30 years. It takes a lot of work to put all of this together. Their love and dedication to the Rock/Metal community has been awesome. How much fun it has been to look back through the years and revisit such wonderful memories of this unique ministry ... Welcome!

For those of you who are just now being introduced to Meltdown and to those who have been part of it through the years, I hope you enjoy this wonderful trip down memory lane!

Foreword by Jeff Scheetz

I recall the first time I talked to Dave about coming over to perform at Meltdown. We hit it off right away. This was in the dark days before the fancy internet, so I had no real way of knowing exactly what Meltdown was other than from Dave's description.

In spite of not really knowing what I was getting into, I boarded a plane for a flight across the pond. As is written about in the following chapters, I was greeted at the airport by security guards with machine guns who took me to a room where I was later interrogated with a light in my eyes just like in the movies and two guys firing questions at me such as "What kind of car do you drive?" and after I answered they said, "Is that a nice car?" Of course, all the while they were telling me there was nobody named Dave Williams waiting for me. I remember thinking "Maybe I should have looked into this more." HA!

When I was finally released I walked up the stairs and met Dave and Lynn who had been there the whole time being interrogated themselves. I knew we were going to get along great when I told them I hadn't slept for about 30 hours, and Dave said "Alright, we'll get you to bed... but first we are going to stop by this pub where I have booked a show for you." So, we did the show, but on the way there I had my first official fish and chips from a truck parked along the roadway. It was wrapped in newspaper with the grease dripping through onto my pants. Now I was feeling properly English!

The ever-present vibe I got from that first weekend, and each subsequent time I have returned, is one of authenticity. I felt then, and have always felt that Dave is honest about trying to do the “right” thing with Meltdown. That doesn’t mean everything works perfectly, or there aren’t bumps in the road, but there is no ulterior motive about what he does. He is seeking to do what God would have him do next. As we all know, that isn’t always clear or easy to see in our own lives, let alone having a vision for a Ministry. However, Dave has soldiered through that enigma for 30 years.

30 years! That seems like a long time! The fact that we are talking about something that has been happening for 30 years is itself a testament to Dave as well as the overall concept and vision of Meltdown! If this wasn’t meant to be, it would have failed long ago - but it has persevered.

One of the things I have enjoyed the most about returning to Meltdown over the years is the amazing people who are involved. Some folks come and go as life dictates, but many of the same people are there year after year, supporting, working, encouraging and performing. That again attests to the honest and “community” nature of Meltdown.

I have been a guest at Meltdown many times. Each time I came home a better person. There are not a lot of things in this world you can say that about! I have talked to many people throughout the years who have sang the praises of Meltdown. Some say it helped them in a meaningful way, recharged their spiritual batteries, introduced them to new friends and turned them on to

some awesome music. I have also talked to folks who say in no uncertain terms that Meltdown saved their lives. That itself makes all the sweat, worry and work over the many years worth it. God has certainly used Meltdown in a myriad of ways, some we see clearly, and many that are not as obvious, but just as impactful.

As you read through this book and enjoy the stories included, remember that none of this is possible without the support and hard work of dedicated men and women who are seeking God's wisdom and being faithful to God's direction. Never forget what is possible when you put your heart and soul into building something worthwhile and sticking with it. Dave and Meltdown are a great example of that!

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My Testimony

It was a rainy day in central London sometime in the mid-1970s and I was visiting the city with my then girlfriend Teresa (surname is well forgotten), who was a practising Christian and a colleague at Dudley County Council where we both worked in the computer department. There is nothing worse than a rainy day in London and we found ourselves wandering around Oxford Street like drowned rats looking for somewhere to shelter when we devised a simple but expensive plan, why not go and see a show?



The first theatre we came across was presenting a production of the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*, so we purchased tickets and finally found a dry place to shelter from the rain.

Many years earlier when I was maybe nine or ten years of age, my mother decided that it was her responsibility to give me a chance to hear the Gospel message. So, every day for a whole week I was taken to a local church where a children's evangelist was running a week-long outreach fun club for local kids. She was convinced that this experience would give me a grounding in the Christian faith and I did not have the heart to tell her that it was the free crayons, small toys and many sweeties that came my way that really kept me going. But looking back at those meetings it is obvious now that a seed was planted that would be watered many years later in the theatre during *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

The rock opera fascinated me in so many ways and the Gospel message was presented to me in a modern and maybe at times a slightly inaccurate manner. The story of Jesus was told as seen through the eyes of Judas as understood by writers who were not practising Christians. Questions were asked by the characters that made me think about what I understood about Jesus. Was Jesus equal to the other religious leaders like Buddha or Mohammed? Did Jesus go to the cross willingly or was God forcing him to go? Why did the story end with the death of Jesus? Did the story really end with the crucifixion or is there more to it.

So many questions were going through my mind when I left the theatre. I had never really thought about Jesus so much before and the final crucifixion scene just did not make sense to me and the image of the actor hanging on the cross would not leave me in peace. The rain had stopped and we took a stroll up Oxford Street towards Hyde Park Corner popping into the odd shop as we walked and window shopped for things that we could not afford to buy. The wet footpaths glistened in the sunlight and the sights and sounds of the capital city once again began to draw my attention away from the challenging questions that *Superstar* had left me with. Eventually we reached the top of Oxford Street and we crossed the large traffic roundabout that took us to Hyde Park and to Speakers' Corner.



Speakers' Corner is an area where open-air public speaking, debate and discussion are allowed. Speakers here may talk on any subject, as long as the police consider their speeches lawful. It was a good day on the corner with the fanciful speakers outlining how their political leanings would cure the nation and the more serious thoughtful speakers who were telling how the Queen was really a lizard person from space and how all our corner shops were owned by the illuminati. One speaker in particular drew a large crowd by throwing his cap on the floor and diving on it shouting, "I have found it." I was one of the curious people who gathered around him to find out what he had found. After a while he lifted his cap to reveal a new testament. "I have found the truth," he shouted as he started to enthusiastically preach John 3:16 *"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."*

I stood and listened to what he had to say and after a short while into his message he looked directly at me and said, "It did not end at the cross."



I was dumbstruck. He appeared to know exactly what was bothering me and he answered the question by explaining how Jesus had died and rose again to pay for my sin. It was then that I noticed that an old lady in a wheelchair had drawn up alongside me. She introduced herself and asked if I would mind helping her get to her church meeting which was only a short distance away. For some reason it seemed to be a good idea and we found a taxi and helped her get to her church, accepting the invitation to join her (Teresa was

already a Christian) for what would be my first experience of a Pentecostal church. The meeting at Kensington Temple that evening was a special outreach meeting with a visiting evangelist. I sat riveted in my seat as the speaker explained the truth of the Gospel and how Jesus had died and risen again. The presence of God was so powerful and all the jigsaw pieces dropped into place, I had accepted Jesus well before the altar call was made. I accepted the invitation to speak with someone and found myself being prayed for by the evangelist himself. He prayed for me and during his prayer he received a word from God for me. He told me that there was a specific work that the Lord would have me do. It would at first appear to be a strange thing for him to ask but if I was faithful and followed his leading many people would be reached for his Kingdom. The entire trip to London looked like an elaborate series of events that would lead me to Salvation and the first steps to the formation of MELTDOWN.

Local Concerts and Touring

I spent the next ten years learning and growing in my Christian faith and after around five years in the Methodist Church I moved to a small evangelical free church where I was baptised and given responsibilities with the youth.

It was sometime around 1985 when the very first seeds of what was to become the Meltdown ministry as it is today began to grow. A small group of us began to stage



outreach rock concerts in the local community venue.

They were small concerts that in the beginning would see maybe 40 people attend but after the first few shows the audience figures began to rise until we were seeing much larger numbers attend. Because of these

concerts, we began to make contact with people within the Christian music industry and our concerts began to feature big names from within the British CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) scene at that time. People who had really made an impact in the UK scene such as Bryn Haworth, who was not only a big name in the CCM industry but had appeared on TV shows like *The Old Grey Whistle Test*, and Garth Hewitt known for his work with third world charities. Our concerts were beginning to draw the attention of churches outside of the Halesowen area (the town where we lived at the time) and this meant that we had new contacts to

expand our small concerts to community centres in other local towns. Our concerts had another affect, that of encouraging local youth to form new bands and it was not too long before we had a small number of local bands that played for us on a regular basis. One of our local bands, but not one that came of the work we were doing, was a band called Stairway and the band are still playing together with the same line up and recording new albums all these years later. It is refreshing to see that the Meltdown ministry is not the only work of God from the 1980s that is still active.

The American Connection

While we were busy staging our small concerts, working with local and not so local UK based bands, there was an exciting development taking place in the United States. Albums were beginning to appear from Christian bands claiming to be “Heavy Metal” bands. Record labels that specialised in Christian or “White Metal” bands began to release some seriously good heavy metal music that clearly proclaimed the Gospel to a new target audience. God had begun to reach out to the mainstream heavy rock and metal scene with real quality Christian heavy music. But the really exciting element of what quickly became known by secular heavy metal magazines as the white metal movement was that it appeared to have its foundations firmly planted in Scripture complete with its own Pastor. Pastor Bob Beeman and his Sanctuary Church was reaching out to secular metal fans while at the same time mentoring and pastoring the members of many of the new bands that were making their mark in the world of metal music.

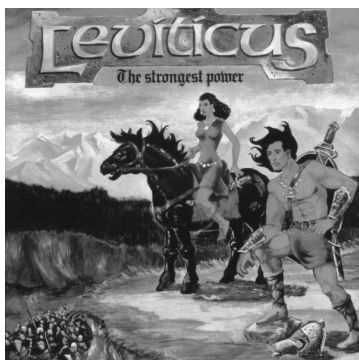
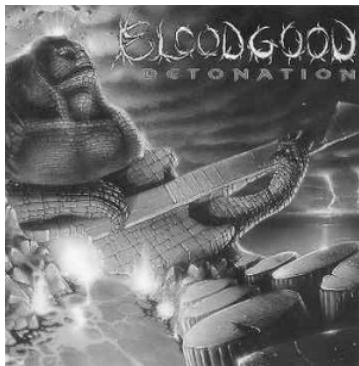
The Church very quickly picked up on this new movement and out of fear and a misunderstanding of what God was doing some announced it to be a satanic movement that was targeting our young people. Websites, magazine articles and books began to appear condemning the Christian metal ministry and controversy was rife. Bands like STRYPER, BLOODGOOD, BARREN CROSS, WHITECROSS and dozens more were making a huge impact with the music magazines and were even making it to the covers of some of the biggest heavy metal publications in the world. The Lord was about to use us to bring this ministry to the UK.

Matthew 25: 22-23

And he who had the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master."

Our concerts had gained popularity and we were seeing results. We had proved to be faithful to the Lord and He was ready to entrust us with something bigger. Our contact at a UK Christian record label and publishing company began to import American metal CDs and the bands began to gain popularity with the British Christian metal fans and they wanted to play in the UK and tour. Over the next few years we toured many bands from the USA and our shows with UK bands began to see larger bands playing for us. We staged concerts for bands like Bloodgood, Whitecross, Altar Boys and two tours for the Swedish metal band Leviticus, one of which was a double headline tour with Bloodgood.

The tours were a great success and with the record label backing the new white metal movement the next step was obvious. They wanted UK bands to follow suit and record quality metal albums for them to sell in the USA and in other worldwide markets. Stage 3 was about to begin.



Seventh Angel and The Church

After our first few tours with American artists had been completed it was time for us to form our own Christian metal band. Working with Ian Arkley and a few other guys the first British Christian thrash metal band Seventh Angel was formed. I acted as manager for the band and it was my connections with John Paculabo at Kingsway Music that enabled me to obtain and negotiate their recording agreement. Kingsway were wanting to record UK Christian metal albums in partnership with the US label Pure Metal Records. The albums would be distributed in the UK through Kingsway and in the USA through Pure Metal with mainstream distribution though Under One Flag Records, a division of Enigma Records.

The Rodney Matthews Connection

The album deal was signed and the first Seventh Angel album went into production. What was needed next was a good album cover. Asking the band what kind of cover they wanted it was suggested that a cover in the style of that by world renown fantasy artist Rodney Matthews would be perfect. I recalled reading an article in Kerrang! magazine with Rodney and in the article, he was asked about his Christian faith. Why look for a similar artist when maybe we could get Rodney himself? I reached out to Rodney and to my surprise he responded and asked about the band and what it was we were doing. He was very interested in the idea of Christian heavy metal albums and invited us to visit him at his house and studio in Wales. Rodney was really well known for his album covers and his portfolio included

covers for Magnum, Yes, Asia and many more. Rodney was very particular about who he worked with and he took his time reading the band lyrics and asking questions. To our delight, Rodney offered us album cover rights to one of his pieces of work that was based on a passage from the book of Revelation.

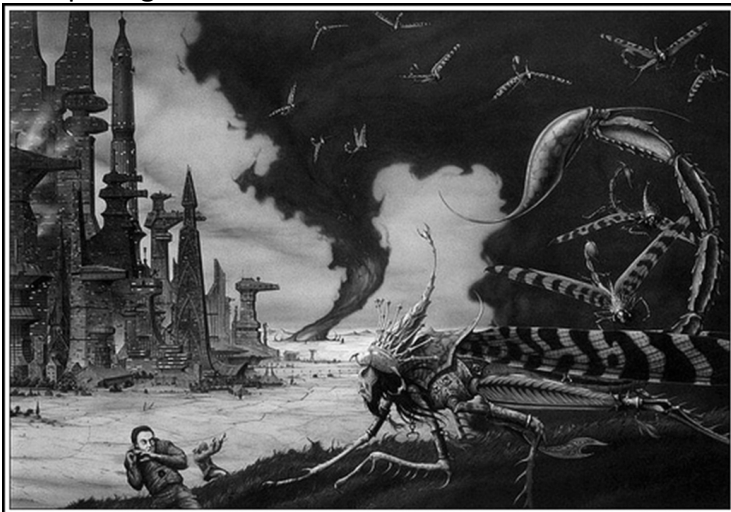


Image used for "The Torment" album cover

Rodney has remained a great friend of Meltdown and our paths regularly cross. He has blessed us with album covers for some of the bands that have been managed by Meltdown over the years including Veni Domine and Gethsemane Rose. Rodney's album art has also adorned albums by Detritus, Stairway, Paul May and more.

The Seventh Angel album was completed and it was released in December of 1990. Seventh Angel *The Torment* was the first true Christian heavy metal album to be released in the UK, although some people would consider the album by a band called 100% proof to be the first. However, 100% proof claimed to be a Christian

hard rock album, not heavy metal, and I would agree. It was not long before Seventh Angel were playing music festivals and making television appearances. I parted company with Seventh Angel before the recording of the second album. So, the UK now had our own Christian metal bands and the only thing that was missing was a dedicated teaching retreat for our home grown Christian metal bands.

Opposition to our work from churches was continuing. A typical example was during the first tour we did for Bloodgood. This took place shortly after their appearance at the Greenbelt festival. They played the mainstage and in those days the band wore some very elaborate stage costumes. The charges laid against the band by the church youth leader were that (a) The band wore unsuitable costumes and (b) They sang songs about demons. In reality there was nothing wrong with their stage costumes and the song was a song called *Demon On The Run*, a song about the victory that Jesus won for us over the demonic by His death and resurrection.

There's a lesson waiting to be learned
A proud person dying to be burned
A baby ready to be cleansed
And a harlot trying to make amends
Anger in a young man's heart
With a vengeance breaking apart
A wild dog bleeding inside
For a piece of someone's hide
But remember when the curtain tore
The enemy began to roar
Thinking he had won the fight

Not knowing the power of the Light
But He rose up in three days
After overcoming the grave
Now the wild dog bleeding inside
Has to run and has to hide
Demon on the run
Demon on the run
Demon on the run
Demon on the run
The Lord has taken command
The Kingdom of God is at hand
He lives in you and me
Oh the Lamb has set us free
By the power of His grace
Only He reserves a place
For each and everyone
Who believes in His Son
Demon on the run
Demon on the run
Demon on the run
Demon on the run
Demon, demon you've been screamin'
He's got ya on the run
Demon, demon you've been beaten
By the Son!

Can you see anything wrong with these lyrics? I rest my case. The really sad thing about the complaint by the youth leader was that when he was 'rebuking me' for the sin of working with the band while he was wearing a Marilyn Manson t-shirt!

The Church was responding out of fear. Fear of what they imagined heavy metal fans to be like and the fear

of what they were being told by some prominent Christians in magazine articles and paperback books. Some of these paperback books were full of lies and speculation. One particularly well known book made such outrageous claims that it would be fair to say that the only truth in the book was the publishing date. Because of this, new Christians who had come to Christ through heavy music ministries and bands were being refused admission to churches. They had no teaching, no fellowship and no Christian family to feel a part of. These things are essential for Christian growth and so in 1990 we staged the first METAL MELTDOWN residential teaching and music weekend for fans of hard, heavy and alternative music. The situation with the Church only got worse. The Meltdown conference was a success and we were seeing people saved and requesting baptism but even though the fruit of the ministry was obvious, the fact that we were using heavy music to reach out for Jesus was too much for them to deal with. They were convinced that what we were doing was wrong and that we should stop. I had letters (huge long ones) from people in the Church explaining to me how I was using the Devils agents to pretend to reach out for Jesus. How the whole Meltdown team was out of God's will and propagating something that is unwise to propagate. Even after meeting the guys from Bloodgood and seeing how genuine they were made no difference. I was removed from my work with the youth and it became very difficult to continue attending the church. Lynn and I finally invited the leadership to meet at our flat for a chat. We told them that all we asked for from the church was that they prayed for us and for the ministry. They refused. To even pray for us. When a church refuses to pray for you and stands in condemnation

over you for preaching Jesus to people they are not able to reach out to then the time has come to move on. I left the church.

Matthew 10:14

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

The First Meltdown Retreat

It was November of 1990 when we staged the first METAL MELTDOWN retreat (then called a conference.) But before staging an event as big as a residential weekend conference, we needed to lay down some foundations on which the event would be based. The first thing we needed to do was to find out what the Lord wanted for this new event. What was required?

It was felt that in order for the weekend retreat to work and to be something that people would want to attend, it had to offer comfortable sleeping, good food, good music and a foundation of good Bible based teaching. JESUS had to be firmly at the centre of the event. We began to search for suitable conference centres that would not only be able to offer our food and accommodation needs but somewhere that would allow heavy metal bands to play. On top of this, we wanted a Christian venue so that even the venue was a place that had been dedicated to the Lord's work. After a lot of searching we found a place that we felt would be suitable.

The venue was a small but very well equipped Christian youth centre called The Gaines.

The centre was based in the Whitbourne area of Worcestershire. There were bedrooms capable of sleeping a maximum of 54 people, an excellent meeting room which doubled as a music venue and the venue provided good food.



The Gaines Christian Youth Centre

There were four unique things about the Gaines that Meltdown has not had since. It had a really cool Go Kart track in the grounds. We staged track racing for the guests on Saturday afternoon resulting in a Meltdown Go Kart racing champion. Of course, there are always people who take advantage and while the main leadership team were overseeing things indoors one of the guests took it upon himself to charge the guests £1 per lap and pocketed the money on the premise that he was keeping record of track times for each contestant.



The Gaines had a really nice indoor swimming pool which we used to baptise people who requested baptism. It could, of course, also be used to for a quick swim between seminars or for an early morning dip before breakfast.

One of the best features of the centre was that it had converted the cellar into an amazing coffee bar.

Complete with small corner stage for acoustic artists, it also housed a variety of table games like pool, table top skittles, table tennis and a dart board. We used the room for the first Meltdown coffee bar and we called it *The Dive*. It was the best coffee bar facility that Meltdown has ever had.

The fourth memorable thing was the bunk beds in the bedrooms. They had to be the squeakiest bunk beds in the world. No doubt in the refurbishment of the venue that took place after we changed venue, the beds would be the first thing to go. The Gaines was a superb venue.

Having found our venue, we needed to think about promotion and image. We needed a logo for the retreat. For this we turned to our artist friend Rodney Matthews. Rodney was fully behind our work with Christian metal music and he kindly designed our logo for free. It looked like this:



Our first ever guest seminar speaker was provided for us by Kingsway, the Christian publisher. Barry Taylor

gave his life to Jesus while he was a roadie for AC/DC on their Highway to Hell tour. He had just written his first book and happened to be in the UK at the time of the conference. It was the second seminar at the first ever Meltdown and we were hosting an ex roadie from AC/DC!

We saw many people accept Jesus at the first Meltdown after Barry had shared his testimony. It was a great start to the Meltdown conference ministry and even though the event was planned as a one off to see how things would go we had rebooked the Gaines for the following year before we left.

A STRANGE MELTDOWN EXPERIENCE

One of the Meltdown Retreats staged at the Quinta centre had a very unusual guest. A guy appeared at reception on the Friday and told us that he had not reserved a place but that God had told him that if he turned up on the door, we would let him in FREE of charge. He told us that he was broke and he needed to connect with God at Meltdown. After discussion, we granted him a free place. During the weekend, he set up a table and offered to cut peoples hair with SHEEP SHEARS for £5. To our surprise some people paid and allowed him to cut their hair! Oh, and he walked around the venue with one bare foot and one foot in a slipper. On the Sunday when we arrived home he messaged us to tell us that he was staying in a hotel – a VERY expensive one.



Our First Venue Change

Meltdown remained at The Gaines for just two years before we were forced to move on to a new venue. Attendance rose above the number of beds available and we had to find a bigger place to stage the retreat. Finding a venue with suitable sleeping accommodation and at a decent price is not easy. For some reason, Christians who enjoy rock and metal are not willing (or able) to pay a commercial rate to attend an event like Meltdown and so keeping the costs down was essential.

Meltdown provides six hot meals to our paying guests and the food, apart from Friday evening hot buffet, is served to the table. There is always ample food and at a high quality. This means that our guests have no cooking or washing up to do. The catering provides unlimited hot drinks during meal times and for some meals added extras like fruit or yogurt to complement the main meal served to the table.

Let's assume that six hot meals purchased in a restaurant with table service would at today's rate cost £60. Add to this two nights' accommodation in a basic roadside motel at £35 a night. This would make the very basic cost of food and accommodation to be £130. Add to this the costs of flying in guest speakers from the USA (average now around £900) plus the costs of hiring the venue and paying for guest hospitality, fuel and promotion and you can see that a single place at Meltdown for the weekend is easily worth much more than the £125 charged at today's (2017) rate. The cost of a place at Meltdown 2018 is £125 per person full

board in shared luxury six berth caravans. You can see that the ministry relies on gifts and the provision of God to survive. This is why we needed to find a conference centre cheap enough yet well equipped to stage an event like Meltdown.

We searched and after a while found a conference centre near to Oswestry in Wales. The Quinta conference centre was our choice. The centre was divided into two separate venues. One was a large 40 room house complete with dining area and large seminar room and lounge while the other, called the *Severn Lodge and Annexe*, was set back from the house and split over three buildings. One building housed the bedrooms and dining room/kitchen, one the seminar room and one for us to use for the Coffee Bar. It was the



Severn Lodge

Severn Lodge and Annexe that we decided to use. It was in many ways a much better venue for us than the Gaines. It had many more bedrooms and the event could be

spread over more than one building which gave the event a feeling of being much bigger than it was. However, the venue provided us with an enormous problem and one that was not resolved fully until 2011. The problem was that we had to prepare our own food in a commercially equipped kitchen and then do the washing up – for around 100 people. This was a nightmare. We needed people who were capable and

professional enough, with hygiene certificates to prepare food to a tight timetable. We then needed to wash up for a two-course meal for an average of 100 people in time for them to catch the next seminar. Our only option due to not having the financial resources to hire caterers was to ask for volunteers. We would need maybe two or three people to cook the food and we thought that offering free places to people who would join the staff on washing up rota. This was the only option we had to make the event work at the chosen venue. Over the years at the venue we got through three or four sets of cooking volunteers including two excellent army chefs who were accustomed to cook for the army under operational situations. These were the only two volunteers that managed to get the food on the table at the right time all of the time. They ran like clockwork with military precision. The washing up situation was equally frustrating. The volunteers were put on a rota so that they would not be needed all of the time and after every meal. Most of the volunteers were amazing and did their washing up without any issues while a minority did all they could to avoid going anywhere near the kitchen. The catering system clearly was a real problem for us but our hands were tied since hiring caterers would mean that the event became unviable. This was an issue that remained a problem for us until we moved to our fourth Meltdown venue. It was a good few years later that the Quinta staff asked us to consider moving Meltdown into the main Quinta Hall in order for them to accommodate a group who really needed the Lodge and Annexe buildings.

The hall was a large house with shared bunk bedrooms and a few twin rooms. It had a large meeting room but nowhere to stage a concert – unless we thought outside of the box and used the large lounge for the evening music programme. The centre had a few portable



Quinta Hall

staging blocks and we moved them into the lounge and set up the sound and lighting systems and staged the gig. The room created a great atmosphere for rock bands to play and

the gigs were staged in the lounge throughout

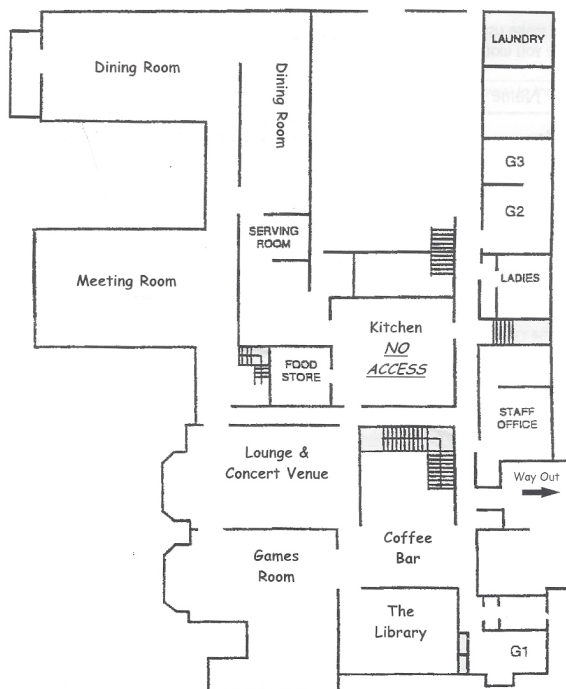
our stay at the Quinta. We remained at the Quinta for 18 years before moving away to our current (2011 and onwards) venue.

Meltdown needed a fresh location and the ability to grow. The Quinta did not permit any growth to take place or for us to solve our main problem, the event catering. It was time for us to move.



The Quinta Lounge

Quinta Hall Ground Floor



Dei Gloriam Ltd presents

REZ IN CONCERT

A TWENTY YEAR CELEBRATION CONCERT

Saturday, October 16th

Maxwell Hall, Salford University, Nr Manchester



£10 in advance

£12 on the door

(Doors open at 6.30pm)

The Rez Concert

Meltdown 1993 saw us stage one of the largest Christian rock concerts ever in the UK.



Resurrection (Rez) Band was one of the early pioneers of Christian rock music. They began in 1972 as a part of a Christian community called Jesus People USA that would set up Christian rock revivals in towns and cities all over the south and Midwest United States. They released their first album in 1979 and continued playing Christian rock music through 16 albums and over 25 years. Known predominantly for their hard rock sound led by husband and wife duo Glenn and Wendi Kaiser, they also incorporated heartfelt ballads, gritty blues, and even some experimental electronic music. Rez toured all over the world, playing rock & roll and preaching the gospel; breaking down conventional prejudices against hard

rock music in the traditional church. They helped to open the doors to countless musicians who can now express themselves and their relationship to God in all manner of musical styles... Grr Records.

The 1993 Meltdown retreat provided us with a few logistical challenges when we decided to stage a concert with REZ at Salford University on the Saturday evening. This meant that we had to transport a very large PA and lighting system from Quinta to Salford on the afternoon while things on site at Meltdown were proceeding as planned according to the timetable. Lynn Ellison (my wife at the time) had to provide packed lunches for the people attending Meltdown and get them into two hired coaches for travel to the concert. All this while having to look after our 5-week-old baby Tim. Many times, I hear from bands that they can't play a show or they can't continue doing the Lords work because they have a baby. This always makes me think back to Lynn as she continued in ministry, baby in arms, with a whole conference full of people to get in coaches complete with their lunch. Some people obviously have more staying power and more dedication to the Lord's work than others. While Lynn was holding the conference together, I travelled to Salford with the band only to find two new problems emerge. Having been told that the venue stages concerts regularly, it is only natural to assume that the main hall has electrical power suitable for a concert to take place. But no, there no way we could stage a show of this size with the power available at the venue.

Behind the main hall, we found a commercial kitchen that was equipped with three phase power. After some

long-distance cabling, we managed to provide power to the stage only to find that REZ wanted to use their own equipment, which was 110v rather than our UK standard 240v. We had to find a way to either replace all the bands gear or find a way to drop the venue power to 110v. A team member raced around Manchester and at the last minute before the shops closed found a commercial mains dropper that we could



hire. We could finally set up the show, but it was a close call. I had visions of two coaches of conference guests together with the door sales all turning up to an acoustic evening with Glenn Kaiser rather than a full-blown rock show with two bands. It was the biggest show to date that we have ever staged with a 10,000w front of house sound system, a 2,000w on stage fold back and a 132,000w lighting rig complete with 16 aircraft landing lights in a V shape behind the drum kit. The concert looked and sounded awesome. Glenn delivered the Gospel in such a powerful way that many people came to Jesus that evening, some for the first time and some re-dedicating themselves. It was hard for anyone not to respond with preaching so powerful.

On a financial level the show was a disaster. The cost of flying in 9 people from the USA, hiring the venues, sound, lights and coaches meant that we needed many ticket sales to cover our costs. The show was very well attended but not enough to see us in the clear. We were £1800 down after the show with no way of recovering the costs. But without us making huge appeals for money, people at Meltdown started

approaching us telling us that God was telling them to give us really substantial gifts. One person I recall donated their holiday money. By the end of the weekend we had covered all the costs and with enough left over to secure the Quinta for the following year. But God was not finished. When we paid the remaining balance into the bank we discovered that even after counting the money many times when filling in the bank paying in slips, there was more money than we had accounted for. God had almost doubled our remaining funds while we were standing at the bank counter. A modern-day loaves and fishes experience. God is good.

REZ DISCOGRAPHY

All Your Life - Released: 1973

Music to Raise the Dead - Released: 1974

Awaiting Your Reply - Released: 1978

Rainbow's End - Released: 1979

Colours - Released: 1980

Mommy Don't Love Daddy Anymore - Released: 1981

D.M.Z. - Released: 1982

Live Bootleg - Released: 1984

The Best of REZ: Music to Raise the Dead - Released: 1984

Hostage - Released: 1984

Between Heaven 'n' Hell - Released: 1985

Silence Screams - Released: 1988

REZ: Compact Favourites - Released: 1988

Innocent Blood - Released: 1989

Civil Rites - Released: 1991

XX Years Live - Released: 1992 (*OUR GIG was part of this tour*)

Reach of Love - Released: 1993

The Light Years - Released: 1995

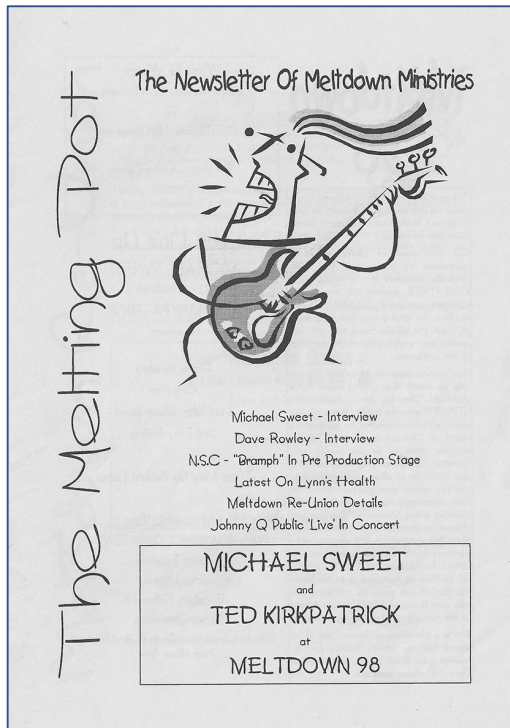
Lament - Released: 1995

Ampendectomy - Released: 1997

Music to Raise the Dead 1972–1998 - Released: 2008

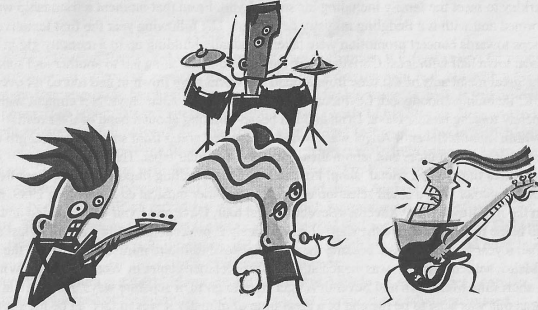
The Melting Pot

During our time at the Quinta centre, we started sending out regular newsletters in the form of 8 page stapled booklets. The newsletters kept everyone up to date with what was happening with the ministry and who would be at the following year's Meltdown. Today all this is done via the internet. We managed to find some of the old newsletters and we thought some snapshots of the covers would be nice to include in this book.



The Melting Pot

Newsletter Of Meltdown Music Ministries



‘Meltdown’

The First Ten Years

In-Tune 99

Meltdown 99

Michael Sweet - New Album

Prayer Requests

and

All the latest news from Meltdown Music Ministries.

The Christian band shown on the cover of this edition folded due to being so hideously ugly. Also, a tambourine never really worked with metal music ☺.

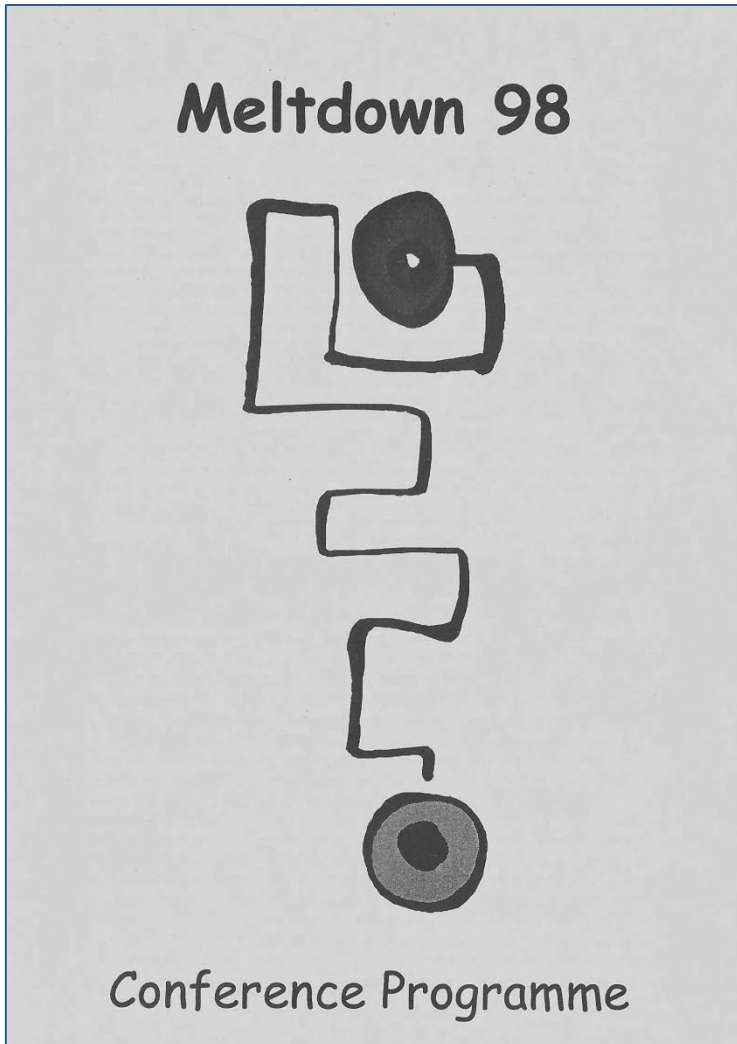
The Melting Pot



**The Melting Pot Goes Audio
New NSC Album
Meltdown 99 Latest
Studio News
and
A Lost Friend**

Yes, I know, we had some really crazy cover designs. Fortunately, things did get much better 😊.

But the cover of one of the weekend timetables is maybe the weirdest cover we have used for Meltdown ☺.



Just what is that I wonder and WHY did we use it?

The Melting Pot

The Newsletter of Meltdown Music Ministries

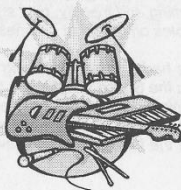


Meltdown Team Visit Seattle

CAREY “Kosher” WOMACK

At MELTDOWN 2001

Meltdown In Seattle
Studio Fund Raising News
Our Next Album Project
The Meltdown Web Site
MELTDOWN 2001



Carey donated his head to the Meltdown auction and it was purchased for £25 by Mo Sullivan from the band KOSHER. He decided to shave it bald. Carey complied. Good man.

Meltdown 2001

Booking Form

Friday 9th November - Sunday 11th November

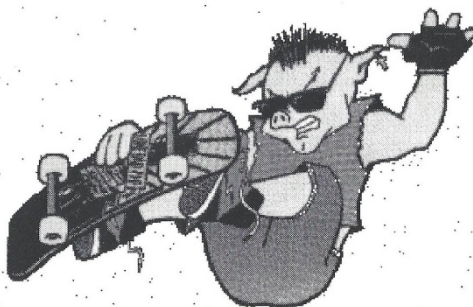
In

QUINTA HALL

With

Carey 'Kosher' Womack

(ONE BAD PIG)



Please reserve _____ places at MELTDOWN 2001. I enclose a none refundable booking deposit of £20 per person, a total of £

Name _____

Address _____

Hand in at Meltdown 2000

Or send to

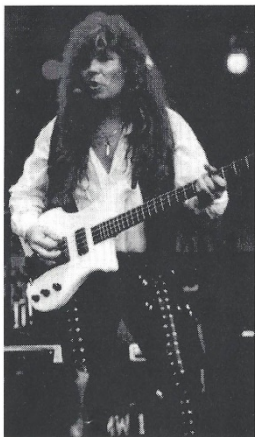
Meltdown 2001
74 Witley Avenue
Halesowen
West Midlands
B63 4DW

Telephone 01384 230795

Cheques made payable to 'Meltdown'.

One Bad Pig played with Seventh Angel at the Greenbelt Festival in a hard music show in the Big Top. The band put on an amazing show and postponed their signing session in order to stay and watch Seventh Angel play.

Meltdown 2000



**Michael Bloodgood
Oz Fox**

Crucifer
Unwritten
Paul May
Dave Rowley
Fire Fly
Space Monkey 3
Cephas
Skellig

The 11th annual
Meltdown
teaching and music
conference.

Programme & Timetable



When Mike and Oz joined us for Meltdown 2000 we took them to Oxford after the retreat for a tourist trip. We found ourselves having a meal in a well-known Oxford eatery when Mike and Oz stood in the centre of the room and sang acapella versions of a few Beatles songs.

The Meltdown Logos

Meltdown has changed its main logo four times since the ministry began. Let's take a look at them.



This was our first logo. Designed by Rodney Matthews when the event was called *Metal Meltdown*. It was a great logo and we still bring it out from time to time today.

This melting guitar logo was another design by our good friend Rodney Matthews. It came about due to us dropping the 'Metal' and becoming just Meltdown.



Our third logo was just the word Meltdown using a font called Decrepit. It looked like this:

MELTDOWN

It was nothing elaborate or with any designer input but we liked it and it stayed with us for quite a while. Occasionally it rears its head but we have no intention of using it much in the future.

Our current logo has many different versions all based around either the word Meltdown or just the letter M. We had asked an American designer to come up with our new logo. What he came up with was not quite what we had in mind. The first looked like a logo for a surf shop, the second like something from a medieval jousting tournament and the third like a street sign from the world of Harry Potter. We were getting nowhere. So I met up with Meltdown team member Matt McKay and together we came up with a rough design of our current logo and asked the American dude to use it as a basis for the final design. This is what he came up with.



The background paint splats are in a bright red but can easily be changed if we ever wanted to change it. He also used the letter M to for a ministry emblem. The letter M version of the logo is great for using on certain merchandise items such as mugs, caps, keyrings, zipper pulls, clocks or car stickers. We are really pleased with our current logo and have no plans to change it anytime soon.



MELTDOWN



Our In-Tune teaching ministry also needed a logo. We will be talking about In-Tune later in the book 😊. Again we tried many different logo designs but were getting nowhere. It is never easy to design a logo that all the team members like but a designer from the online *Fiverr* website designed us a really cool logo for just £5.

Again, the background splatter is in red to match with the current Meltdown logo. It will be used on all In-Tune books and future videos.





In 2018, Meltdown will be staging our first UK tour for a very long time. The tour, hopefully a first of many, will be undertaken under the *Blood On Our Hands* tour name. These are our newest logo's ready for use for the first time after the 2018 Meltdown Retreat.

STRANGE MELTDOWN MOMENT

We had a wonderful room for the coffee bar when we were staging Meltdown in the Lodge and Annexe buildings at Quinta. It came with a serving hatch, suitable tables and chairs and a pool table. It also had a large freezer where one of our Meltdown team placed trays of canned pop. The pop froze and what happens when you put cans of pop in a freezer? They explode, and they did!



Our Guest Speakers

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1990 | Barry Taylor and Dave Williams |
| 1991 | Jeff Scheetz and Dave Williams |
| 1992 | Michael Bloodgood and Prince Yinka Oyekan |
| 1993 | Glenn Kaiser – REZ Perform in Salford |
| 1994 | Les Carlsen and Jeff Scheetz |
| 1995 | Jeff Scheetz, Monty Colvin and Tim Bushong |
| 1996 | Glenn and Wendi Kaiser |
| 1997 | Doug Van Pelt and Dan Fritz |
| 1998 | Michael Sweet and Ted Kirkpatrick |
| 1999 | Pastor Bob Beeman and Tony Palacios |
| 2000 | Michael Bloodgood and Oz Foz |
| 2001 | Carey “Kosher” Womack |
| 2002 | Doug Van Pelt and Monty Colvin |
| 2003 | Jeff Scheetz, Jim LaVerde and Pastor Bob |
| 2004 | Pastor Bob, Steve Speakman, Marc Ellison |
| 2005 | Kemper Crabb and Steve Speakman |
| 2006 | Pastor Bob |
| 2007 | Pastor Bob, Jim LaVerde and Andreas Larsen |
| 2008 | Pastor Bob and Jim LaVerde |
| 2009 | Michael Bloodgood and Jim LaVerde |
| 2010 | <i>NO conference in 2010, we took a year off</i> |
| 2011 | Jeff Scheetz |
| 2012 | Danny Adams |
| 2013 | Mike Reynolds |
| 2014 | Tommy Green and Ed Jervis |
| 2015 | Les Carlsen and Pastor Ian Dunphy |
| 2016 | Chad Johnson and Andy Waddams |
| 2017 | Ray LeGrand and Dave Williams |
| 2018 | Andy Waddams and Matt McKay with Jeff Scheetz |

Before we tell you who all our past seminar speakers were, let's take a look at two airport incidents.

JEFF SCHEETZ 1992 – AIRPORT HELL

Jeff has been at Meltdown many times but his first visit was like something out of a fly on the wall TV show. I arrived at the airport with Lynn in good time to meet Jeff off the plane but the plane emptied and there was



Jeff Scheetz

no sign of Jeff. That is when you start to panic and wonder what has happened. We waited and waited for what felt like a whole day worrying that either our first American guest had not bothered to board the plane or that he was somewhere else or maybe we had the flight time wrong.

Eventually the airport public address system made the following announcement, *“Will the person meeting Mr Jeff Sheetz please pick up the customs telephone.”* That was our man. I found the telephone and answered the call only to be bombarded with questions about why Jeff was trying to enter the UK. Some of the questions were just plain stupid:

Customs: What does Mr Scheetz do for a living?

Me: He is a musician.

Customs: Why does he have a guitar?

Me: He is a guitar player.

Customs: So why the guitar?

Me: So, he can play it (DUH), he is a guitar player.

Customs: Does he have relatives in the UK?

Me: I really don't know. I don't think so.

Customs: Does he have relatives in the USA?

Me: Yes (obviously,) but I don't know anything about them.

Customs: Does he make a living playing the guitar?

Me: Yes, he is a guitar player and music teacher.

Customs: Thank you for your help.

When the very relieved Jeff was allowed into the UK he told us that he had been taken to a room guarded by police armed with machine guns and interrogated about his visit to the UK and what his intentions were. This was the first time we had met a guest speaker at the airport and we were hoping that this was a one-off experience.

Fortunately Jeff was not put off by this and he has visited Meltdown again without any problems. He has become a great friend of the ministry, recording jingles for us and even producing the debut album for the band Conduit and for the Maddy Leigh Blues Band.

During one of his other visits to Meltdown, Jeff wanted to visit Scotland. The only way to do this on his schedule for the flight home was for him to use a coach service.



This meant an overnight stop-over in Glasgow coach station. This experience caused him to write a song about the wonderful experience on his next Jeff Scheetz Band album. I figure that an overnight stop-over in this particular coach station is not recommended. But Jeff survived and will be back with us at Meltdown in 2018.

PASTOR BOB BEEMAN – NO!

Meltdown 2008 gave us one of the biggest problems to solve and was the only retreat in the history of Meltdown when the advertised main speaker could not attend. When Bob landed at Stanstead airport he was questioned by customs and refused entry into the country. The reason for this is not



really clear. Bob had been in the UK a few weeks before attending an event in London we thought that maybe his come and go activity was a red flag to immigration or they could have

thought that we were paying him a fee. This would be illegal without a special visa. So, he had to fly home and miss Meltdown. I had to stand in and teach the seminars with no time to prepare. It was a sad Meltdown but everyone in attendance understood and we had a good time. Bob has not been able to return to Meltdown since but we hope to see him again one day. He is a wonderful man of God and always a real blessing to have him on site at Meltdown.



Pastor Bob, Jeff Scheetz and Dave Williams

Both Jeff and Bob have contributed a huge amount to the success of the Meltdown ministry and we are pleased to have Jeff back with us at Meltdown 2018. Hopefully we will see Bob again someday.

Who were our guest speakers?

Barry Taylor: Received Jesus while he was working on the road crew for AC/DC during the *Highway to Hell* tour.

Jeff Scheetz: “Is very much a musician's musician whose name may not be bandied about by the hoi polloi but whose dazzling guitar work has for years earned him the reputation among the cognoscente as one of the world's greatest rock guitarists.” *Tony Cummings*

Michael Bloodgood: Founder member of the Christian hard rock/metal band BLOODGOOD who are considered to be one the big four Christian metal bands of all time. Mike is also a church Pastor in Seattle.

Glenn and Wendi Kaiser: Founder members of one the world's biggest Christian rock bands Resurrection Band later to be known as REZ. Glenn Kaiser is known as one of the greatest Christian blues guitar players of all time.

Doug Van Pelt: Founder and editor of the first and best Christian heavy metal magazine in the world *Heaven's Metal*. He has also published some excellent books and was a member of the cult Christian band Lust Control.

Dan Fritz: Singer with the Christian band Johnny Q Public. Not a band that really made too many waves because they vanished off the scene way too quickly. An excellent band and Dan was a superb seminar speaker.

Michael Sweet: Frontman with Christian metal giants STRYPER. Also known for fronting BOSTON and for his solo albums.

Les Carlsen: Frontman with Christian metal giants BLOODGOOD. Now still performing with Bloodgood and presenting one man drama performances of the life of John.

Monty Colvin: Member of the very successful band The Galactic Cowboys and solo projects under the name Crunchy.

Tim Bushong: Known in the Christian metal scene for his bands Lovewar and the Channelsurfers. Also known as a Christian apologist

Carey “Kosher” Womack: Frontman with the most well-known Christian punk band of all time One Bad Pig.

Tony Palacios: Guitar player with the very successful Christian band Guardian. In 1998, Palacios released his first instrumental guitar solo album entitled *Epic Tales of Whoa!* on Cadence Records.

Ted Kirkpatrick: Drummer and band leader with Tourniquet. Considered by many to be one of the best drummers in Christian metal.

Jim LaVerde: Bass player with Christian metal band Barren Cross. Jim is also an excellent worship leader and now you will see his name in the credits for many big Hollywood movies as one of the set riggers.

Steve Speakman: A very close friend of Meltdown who runs two church groups in Neath and own the Freaks, Geeks and Autograph store in Swansea.

Marc Ellison: A past member of the Meltdown team responsible for our school's outreach work in Oswestry. A blues guitar player and recording artist.

Kemper Crabb: Is an American musician. His style is reminiscent of 'Olde English', and his music has been described as "Celtic, Medieval, intelligent and sacred." He has produced over 8 albums, with *The Vigil* (1982) selling over one hundred thousand copies on vinyl. He is also an Episcopal priest.

Mike Reynolds: Guitar player with Christian hardcore band For Today before leaving to undertake missionary work in the Middle East.

Tommy Green: Frontman with hardcore band Sleeping Giant, bible teacher and founder of Revolution Reality Ministries.

Ed Jervis: Founder of Inpresence Records, band manager and occasional member of the Meltdown worship band.

Danny Adams: Vocalist with melodic hardcore band Conveyor. Danny was a last-minute stand in when our booked speaker had to cancel on health grounds.

Andy Waddams: Pastor of Gallery Church in Birmingham city centre. Andy will be returning to Meltdown in 2018.

Matt McKay: Member of the Meltdown management team and a part of the UK branch of Revolution Reality Ministries. Matt will be speaking at Meltdown 2018.

Chad Johnson: A&R representative at Christian record label Tooth and Nail Records. Founder of Come & Live ministries.

Ian Dunphy: Elim Pentecostal church Pastor.

Ray LeGrand: Former vocalist with Oblivion Myth, the Nashville based power/prog metal band. Recently called to minister for a short while in Germany with the metal community. Pastor at Sanctuary International.

Oz Fox: Guitar player with Christian metal giants Stryper and when available second guitar player with Bloodgood. Frequently voted in the top ten Christian guitar player polls and ranks very highly in mainstream polls.

Interesting Info - Speakers who did not make it:

I am often asked if there have been any people invited to speak at Meltdown who turned us down or did not show up. There have been three:

Eric Gregson: Eric accepted our invitation but due to health issues closer to Meltdown, he had to cancel. We may see him at Meltdown sometime in the future 😊.

Mattie Montgomery: Mattie was invited and after prayer he felt that it would not be right for him at that time to accept. We fully understand and accept his decision. We support his ministry 100% 😊. Mattie is a

great servant of Jesus and we hope to meet him some day at a Meltdown event.

The other speaker was willing but asked for a £500 fee (Reduced for us from £750) for preaching which we were not willing to pay. We have a policy at Meltdown that we have operated since day one. The body of Christ work together in ministry for the fulfilment of the calling to reach the world for Jesus. Meltdown have always covered the international travel costs of our speakers but we do not pay for preaching and never will.



Michael Bloodgood and Matt McKay - speakers at In-Tune 2013

Time for a few photo's



*Dave
Williams,
Lynn
Ellison,
Baby
Jasmine,
Marc
Ellison
Marilyn
and
Michael
Bloodgood*



Raphael Merriman and David Nuttall - The Meltdown Auction

The Meltdown Auction is a fun way we use to raise funds for the ministry during the retreat weekend. Guests donate stuff to sell and we auction it, simple 😊. We have auctioned some very strange things at Meltdown. Carey “Kosher” Womack auctioned his head, dirty socks, chocolate bar wrappers, CD’s, T-shirts, signed merchandise, a band sold their band name, a

rare Iron Maiden tour crew T-shirt, botty air in a bag 😊 and ANYTHING that is donated. It is a really fun and most people are buying in order to give and support the ministry but every now and again an item draws a lot of interest and a good amount of money is raised. I believe that the Iron Maiden crew T-Shirt raised around £125. Meltdown needs financial support and this is a great way to raise money in a fun and entertaining way.



© Marc Lungley 2014

Messenger from Sweden at Meltdown

Amazing dedication to ministry

Messenger together with their family, including children, drove from Sweden to Meltdown. Directly after coming off stage most of them left site to drive home! We insisted that the family with children stayed on site overnight and provided a room and food. A BIG

thank you to Messenger, amazing dedication and service.



Back Pocket Prophet at Meltdown



Conduit at Meltdown



Peter118 at Meltdown

Some of the photographs in this book were taken by Marc Lungley who has been a great supporter of Meltdown for a very long time. Thanks Marc 😊



Jeff Scheetz at Meltdown



Saving Strike



Matt McKay (and his Teddy)



Danny Adams



Malokai

What happened to Meltdown 2010?

Meltdown 2009 saw a turning point for the ministry and one that was unexpected. For maybe a good three or four years I had felt very strongly that we should move away from the Quinta centre and relocate to a new venue. One venue kept coming to mind and that was the Cefn Lea Christian holiday centre near Newtown in Mid Wales. I spent many hours looking at the Cefn Lea brochure but could not see how Meltdown would fit into the venue. It was a totally different type of venue



for Meltdown and in my mind, I could not see it working. There were a few VERY big advantages for moving to Cefn Lea, the biggest being the catering. Cefn Lea provide full board, half board or self-catering options and this would mean that our biggest headache would be solved. Instead of a large

house with bedrooms and meeting rooms all under one roof, Cefn Lea provided either chalets or caravans with the meeting rooms contained in one central building. This was new to Meltdown and I could see some possible issues. So, I ignored the feeling that Meltdown should move and continued at the Quinta Centre. Now I am not saying that the Quinta was perfect for us because that would be far from the truth. I had known for a few years that it was time for us to move but we had settled into the Quinta had it had been the home of Meltdown for 18 years. You get settled when you know that something works and moving to a new venue felt like starting all over again. The Quinta however had no

room for growth, they had no licences such as PRS or Christian worship licences. They could not provide meals for us that were to our liking and at a cost that we could afford. It was obvious that we should move but I stayed firm and continued to use the venue for Meltdown. I was maybe afraid of making such a big move.

During the 2009 retreat I heard VERY clearly from the Lord that I was to shut down the Meltdown ministry! I knew that continuing without God's anointing and



support would be pointless and I made the sad announcement from stage that Meltdown 2009 was to be the last one. There were people who had attended for years in tears as I made the announcement. The Meltdown team were in shock but I knew that it had to be done. Sadly, we

packed away for the last time and did not reserve the Quinta for 2010. We could not believe that a ministry of over 20 years of age could be shut down so quickly.

We went out for the day on the Monday with our guest speakers Jim LaVerde and Michael Bloodgood but we were sad that this would be the last time.

It was Jim who gave us the light at the end of the tunnel. He told me that my apprenticeship was over and that the ministry would expand and grow into new areas. After prayer, much thought and chat with team members we decided that God had closed down the event because we were still at the Quinta. We set off

and drove to Wales to visit Cefn Lea and to take a look at the venue and to chat with them to see if Meltdown could work. We were amazed at what we found. The venue was perfect for us. It has everything we need to make Meltdown work and the staff and owners are really amazing Jesus centred people who put ministry before anything else. Cefn Lea was for us. So, we booked the venue for 2011 in May, which was another big change for Meltdown because it had always been staged in November.

Meltdown was back. YAY 😊

It is important that when God speaks we obey even if we do not personally understand why He is doing what He is doing. He knows what the ministry needs and we need to trust Him in all things and allow Him to do things His way. It is easy to get complacent and to rely on what you know rather than to operate in faith. God is always pushing us to operate by faith and when we do that is when we see God move through His ministry (HIS ministry, not OURS) and see people come to faith. Meltdown has always been a ministry based on a foundation that is Jesus and nothing else. We began to get comfortable at Quinta and our comfort was restricting God through His work at Meltdown.

Isaiah 55:8

Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so

*are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts
than your thoughts....”*

So many times, God has shown us that He knows exactly what
He is doing and all we need to do is obey and follow.

Cefn Lea 2011 Onwards

The Cefn Lea website describes the centre like this:

“Cefn Lea Park is one of the largest Christian Conference Centres in Europe, owned and run by the Morgan family and located in the beautiful, tranquil country side of Mid Wales. With over 30 years’ experience of hosting clients’ meetings, conferences and away days, we have the perfect conference centre and meeting venue for your event. However big or small your event, we would welcome your enquiry and tailor your quotation to your exact requirements.

The ever-enlarging main complex currently comprises of a main hall that can hold over 600 people with full A/V support available, 15 other conference rooms, 600 seater restaurant, 2 sports halls, indoor children’s play room, Dolby surround sound cinema and other recreational areas.”

I have to agree. Cefn Lea is superb and at this time perfect for the Meltdown Retreat. Accommodation was the biggest change for the guests, they were used to rooms in a large mansion house with the conference rooms all contained in the same building. Now we would be using large six berth caravans. This was the main reason for moving Meltdown to May so that the weather would be warmer. My main concern with using caravans was that the fellowship within the ‘house’ would be disrupted but in reality, the caravans have worked out very well for us.

Let's take a look at the general layout of the caravans:

Leisure
Homes...

Leisure Home

The above diagram is illustrative and may vary between leisure homes

| LEISURE HOMES No. 1-19 | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| BEDROOM | SLEEPS |
| 1 | 2 (Double Bed) |
| 2 | 2 (Twins - 1 Shorter) |
| 3 | 2 (Twins) |

We also make use from time to time of the Bungalow:

Bungalow...

| Bungalow | |
|----------|----------------------|
| BEDROOM | SLEEPS |
| 1 | 4 (2 Bunk) |
| 2 | 3 (1 Bunk, 1 Single) |
| 3 | 3 (1 Bunk, 1 Single) |
| 4 | 3 (1 Bunk, 1 Single) |
| 5 | 4 (2 Bunk) |
| 6 | 5 (2 Bunk, 1 Single) |

Bungalow

The conference centre provides us with 6 cooked meals from Friday evening through to Sunday lunch. NO COOKING OURSELVES and NO WASHING UP. But the main attraction for me at the Cefn Lea centre is the staff



and their attitudes. Nothing is too much trouble for them and they do everything they can to make Meltdown a

success. In my opinion, after speaking to or using various centres over the years, Cefn Lea is without

doubt one of the very best Christian conference venues in the country.

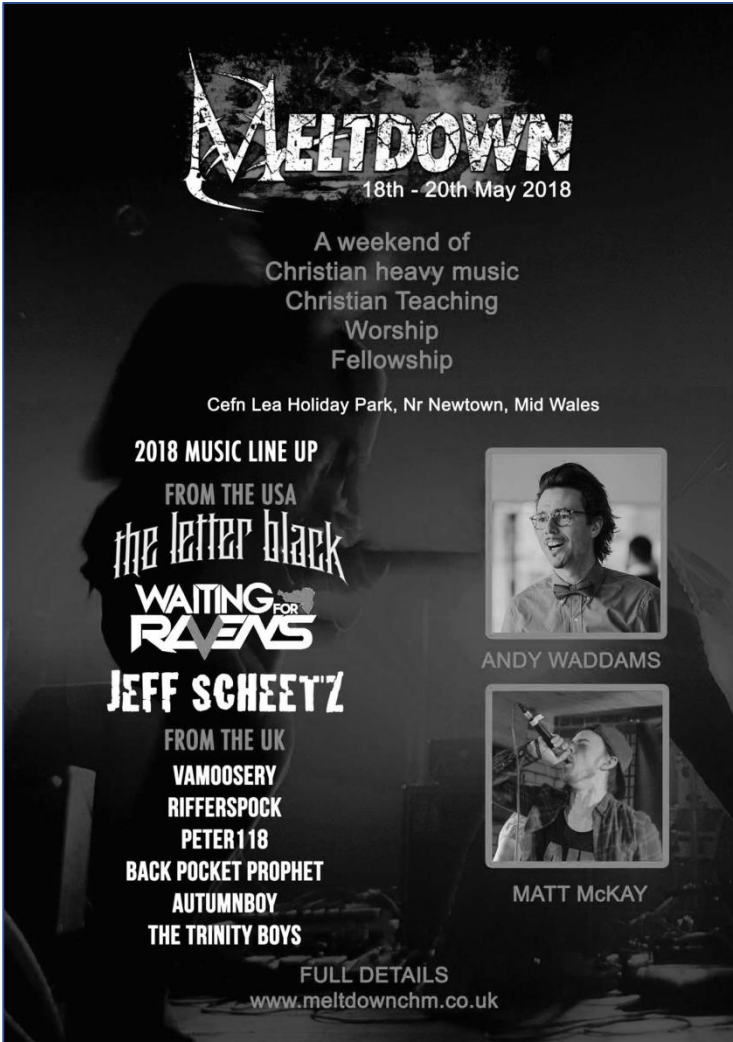
There is a possibility (not a definite) that in 2019 we will move Meltdown back to November. This will mean that our retreat will not clash with any of the major events that take place during April, May and June. Neither will it interfere with college and university exams. Our worries revolve around the accommodation because we would need to move into the chalets, which have bunk bed rooms. This is currently a matter for prayer and consideration by the Meltdown team. We want to stay at Cefn Lea for a considerable amount of time and allow Meltdown to grow and expand. It all boils down to accommodation and price. But I love this venue and it blesses us each time we use it.



Cefn Lea main centre

As I type this I am working on the next Meltdown Retreat in May of 2018. We have a great line up of bands with a challenging seminar programme ready to go. Because of Cefn Lea I can relax and arrange the event and leave the hospitality and food for our guests

to them. They do an amazing job, Cefn Lea truly is a Jesus centred ministry.



MELTDOWN
18th - 20th May 2018


A weekend of
Christian heavy music
Christian Teaching
Worship
Fellowship

Cefn Lea Holiday Park, Nr Newtown, Mid Wales


2018 MUSIC LINE UP

FROM THE USA
the letter black
WAITING FOR RAVENS
JEFF SCHEETZ

FROM THE UK
VAMOOSERY
RIFFERSPOCK
PETER 118
BACK POCKET PROPHET
AUTUMNBOY
THE TRINITY BOYS



ANDY WADDAMS



MATT MCKAY

FULL DETAILS
www.meltdownchm.co.uk

The 2018 Meltdown breaks new barriers for us. It is the first time that we have had American bands play at the Meltdown venue and the first time that our speaker line

up is fully British. We hope to give more of the teaching to UK people from this point onwards.

STRANGE MELTDOWN MOMENT



There used to be a band in the UK called The Irrelevants and they had a dancing fluffy elephant that took part in every show. Well, when they played Meltdown their elephant dude could not make it. So... in stepped our good friend Dougle McMysteron who volunteered to don the elephant suit and dance

around and stage dive – onto his shoulder breaking his collar bone! It was an elephantine moment.



Saving Strike at Meltdown

FREAKY MELTDOWN CUSTOM

For quite a few years at Meltdown there was amongst many of the guests a custom to eat Sunday lunch without knives and forks and with hands behind their backs. The sight of dozens of Christian metal fans all with their faces in a plate of potato and gravy was all the proof that we needed to know that a quick getaway was essential if things turned zombie.

FREAK OR UNIQUE COMPETITION

One year at Meltdown we staged a competition called “The Freak or Unique Competition”. This required guests to demonstrate a skill that they may have that was in some way unusual. The people in the room watching would hold up a card saying either FREAK or UNIQUE. Double jointed people, people belching the alphabet or people fire eating all joined in. The winner was the son of Stryper vocalist Michael Sweet. The prize was a Toblerone chocolate bar weighing 10kg.



Max Cook - Meltdown sound engineer

Jalapeno Drums

You may have noticed that in almost every photograph the drummer is playing a Jalapeno drum kit. This is because one of the Meltdown management team members is the owner of Jalapeno drums and he hand makes each and every drum kit. David Nuttall has supported Meltdown for as long as I can remember and his drum kit provision for the Meltdown weekend is always a real blessing to us. This is how David describes his drum kits on the Jalapeno website.

In a world full of mass-produced drums, Jalapeno Drums stand out as a shining jewel, offering the customer complete customization combined with hand-made individuality. Now in its tenth year of trading, each and every drum is still lovingly hand-crafted, to order, by drummer / craftsman David Nuttall: an Englishman who is as passionate about building drums as you are about playing them!

Using only the finest quality Finnish Birch plywood, solid brass lugs, and tone-enhancing oils, combined with construction techniques which maintain the natural sound properties of the shell, the fullest-toned, most resonant and responsive drums are achieved. David's philosophy is simple: "aim to please."

Many 'custom' drums in today's market are simply mass produced shells with your choice of finish added. With Jalapeno Drums, your drum is hand-made from scratch for you. With choices of plies, colours, finishes, depths and diameters, you get to choose exactly what you want. Plus, you get the opportunity to talk through your ideas, enabling a fully informed choice that will ensure that the sound you want is the sound you get. As they say; 'the world is your lobster...'

Jalapeno gives you:

- More response, more resonance, more tone, more volume.
- Professional quality.
- Hand-made individuality.
- Complete customization to customer specifications.
- Premium-grade Finnish Birch shells.
- Vertical grain construction for increased response and sensitivity.
- Exclusive design solid brass lugs.
- Choices of snare drums, drum kits / drum sets, toms, bass drums, frame drums, orchestral drums, marching drums & shells.
- Easy ordering: all major credit / debit cards are accepted, and international shipping is available.

So, any drummers out there should seriously consider talking to David before investing in a new drum kit. You can find his drum website at: www.jalapenodrums.co.uk

In-Tune

During my 30 years in ministry I have witnessed some remarkable behaviour from bands and speakers who make demands that are ridiculous or act in a manner which does not reflect their claims to be a Christian band. Let me share a few with you, without mentioning names of course.

The band who insisted on playing headline position because they are the “bigger band”.

The band who agreed to play for free at a festival and upon arrival insisted on payment or they would not play.

The person who removed two disabled people from their room and moved in because it had en-suite facilities.

The band who, while the majority of people in the seminar room were on their knees before God, thought it funny to fire paper pellets with elastic bands at people’s backsides.

The band who insisted on overplaying their set length and then moaned when we turned off stage power and removed them from stage.

The band who turned their back on the Christian ministry who were supporting them when they thought they had a chance to secure a secular recording deal.

The band who thought it funny to wear a scream mask at 3am and knock on caravan windows.

The band who requested aircraft seats for their guitars.

The potential speaker who wanted strawberries and cream before he preached.

The band with a drummer who told someone to “****” because he was packing away his drums. The person wanted to ask about Jesus.

The band member who was taking alcohol into a caravan where a young recovering alcoholic was staying.

I could go on and on with stories about Christian bands that would make your jaw drop to the floor. The majority of Christian bands are made up of wonderful people with a desire to reach people for Jesus. Some of the bands however have not put enough thought into how a Christian band should operate and behave.

Meltdown decided to tackle this issue back in 1999 when we staged the first IN-TUNE training day. We invited Christian bands to attend a day of training and to re-evaluate their calling to music ministry. Since then, every few years we stage an IN-TUNE day and they are usually well attended and cause our band members to think through how and why they do what they do. The IN-TUNE training days have not been



staged on a regular basis but rather every few years when we feel that we need to stage another. The In-Tune training syllabus covers all aspects of using music to proclaim the Gospel message. It covers eight subjects in depth and is based entirely on the teaching of Scripture and on thirty years' experience of working with bands at festivals, on the road, in local venues and in recording studios. The subjects covered by In-Tune are:

Why music?: Is there a Biblical precedent for using music in God's work? Where is music in scripture?

Discerning your calling: Should you be involved in music ministry? Being a musician may or may not mean that the Lord wants you to use your talents through music. Worship or contemporary?

Responsibilities: We have responsibilities when in music ministry. Who to? What happens if we don't take our responsibilities seriously?

Integrity: A Christian band without integrity in all things not only has no credibility but is a hindrance to music ministry for other bands.

Submission: The importance of submitting to what GOD wants for your band rather than moving forward guided by your own desires and ambitions.

Your anointing: Are you anointed as a band? If not why not? How do you secure the Lord's anointing for your band?

Service: Who are you serving through your ministry? Is service to other people important? How do you serve in music ministry?

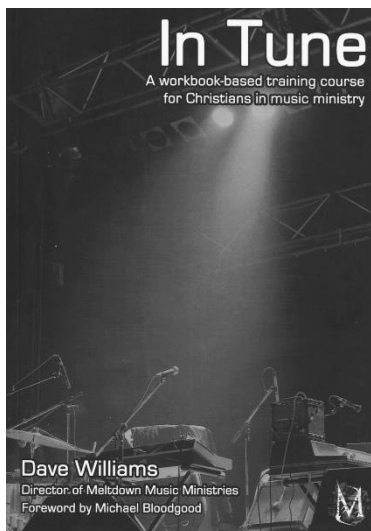
Success: What is true success in music ministry? How do you measure it?

For a few years, The Lord had been pressing me to write a book for musicians teaching them how to be successful in music ministry. I was way too insecure in my abilities to write a book to even get started on such a project. At Meltdown in 2013 a well-known Christian author booked a place in order to talk with me about writing a book. He was really helpful. He told me how to go about writing a book and how to structure it. He encouraged me to do what the Lord was asking and warned me that if I did not do it then someone else would and that God would rather have me write it than go to someone else because I would not even have a go.

It was obvious to me that I had to write this book so I set about the task and followed the advice given by the author Raphael Merriman, a good friend and a qualified copy editor. He agreed to work with me on the project. Six months later and the book was ready to go to print.

It was finished, written, edited and with the cover artwork in place. It was then during a last-minute conversation with Raphael that the Lord made it very clear to both of us that the book was not finished. It was to be turned into a training course complete with a workbook that could be downloaded to complement the book. A workbook that band members could complete and use as a ministry statement and an

agreement between band members as to how the ministry would be run. Back to writing and a few days later a 40-page workbook was completed. The book is now on sale and available through Meltdown events and through Amazon online. Both hard copy and a Kindle version is available.



As I write this we are working on a new audio version of the book which will come complete with a bonus DVD with interviews and introductions for each chapter by the author. This is a big task and we hope to have the new version available by Meltdown 2018.

We also plan our first residential weekend long In-Tune conference. This will allow us to work through parts of the book with a small number of bands in a conference setting where we can pray into their calling and ministry with the aim of refining and developing what they do under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

A few weeks ago, Meltdown purchased a new vision mixer for three video cameras. The unit has a USB output of the mixed video for projection or live streaming. This means that we can stage a conference in the UK and live stream it to anywhere we wish via the internet. It is hoped that we can maybe one day stage

In-Tune in the UK and stream it live to an In-Tune event organised on our behalf by CMI in Sweden. Much to think about 😊.

MELTDOWN TRADE STANDS

In 1997, we needed to raise funds for an airline ticket to fly in Doug Van Pelt from HM magazine. We booked a trade stand at the annual Greenbelt Festival and Raphael Merriman was asked to man the stand for us. This is his testimony of how the stand performed and what happened:

“In 1997, our special guests from the USA were Doug Van Pelt, editor of HM (formerly Heaven’s Metal) Magazine and Dan Fritz, lead singer with the exciting new band, Johnny Q Public.

In order to raise funds to buy Doug’s airline ticket, our good friend Rodney Matthews donated some of his posters, post cards and badges for us to sell at a stall we hired at the annual Greenbelt festival. Our target was to raise over £1000 to fly Doug from Dallas, Texas to the UK.

Another good friend, Paul May, had recorded an album of acoustic worship songs which he was happy for us to give away to worship leaders for no charge.

Permanently staffed by two Meltdown team members, one of whom was me, with invaluable support from two friends of the ministry, the stall attracted a lot of footfall and interest despite its out-of-the-way location, and sales seemed to be slow but steady. After an exhausting weekend, we packed up and came home. Dave Williams and I counted the cash raised and we concluded we had £471.81.

This was disappointing as it wasn't even half of our required total, but we thanked God for His provision, and Dave duly phoned the travel agent the following day to book the tickets, not knowing how Meltdown's finances would cover the shortfall, but entrusting it to God.

The travel agent quoted Dave the expected price but, after a short pause, then informed him that there was a deal for THAT DAY ONLY whereby the ticket could be bought for... £471.81!

We have always known that God can achieve the impossible, but sometimes it seems He likes to do it with a flourish!" *Raphael Merriman*



Matt McKay manning the Meltdown stand at The Gathering youth event.

Meltdown needs to go on the road more in the future in order to find those people who need our ministry. We did just that a few years ago at an Elim youth event

called The Gathering. Matt McKay, Seth Becker and Marc Lungley manned the stand for us.



The Meltdown stand at The Gathering



Richard Clark, Jim LaVerde, David Nuttall, Marc Ellison

Meltdown Album Recordings



Paul May

Over the years, the Meltdown ministry has provided free of charge recording studio time for bands who were dedicated to ministry. This could not have happened without the support and hard work of my great friend, album producer and amazing guitar player, Paul May. Paul had provided his time and studio to Meltdown on many

occasions for the recording of our albums. Paul's most recent projects are his Atkins May albums with Al Atkins, founder member of Judas Priest.

Some of our albums



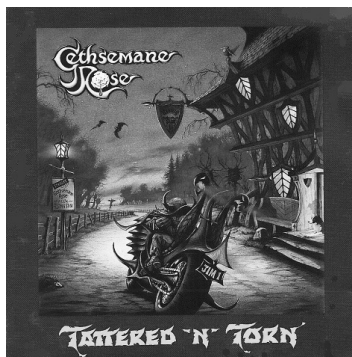
The debut album from No Second Chance. The album title of *Wasp In A Jam Jar* came because of a review in Cross Rhythms magazine by Tony Cummings. He said that their guitar sound sounded like a wasp in a jam jar. The artwork shows each band member in the guise of wasps hand drawn by Meltdown director Lynn Ellison. The original survives to this day and was gifted to Ashley Taylor, the band leader and guitar player to put on his wall. The band had an awesome ministry reaching out to young people and playing shows in prisons.

The second and final album recorded by No Second Chance. It was a pleasure working with this band.



We met the Swedish band Veni Domine during their album recording. Lynn helped make sure their English translation was correct and at that time we took on the role of UK management for them.

We got to know Gethsemane Rose during the early days of the ministry. They were known as the Christian Guns 'n' Roses. This was an excellent album produced by Paul Hodson at a



recording studio in Wolverhampton, the same studio where *The Torment*, Seventh Angels' debut album was recorded.

Over the years Meltdown have been involved in many album recordings which are now out of print and lost without any images being available on the internet. It was good to work with these artists. I would also mention IF ONLY, SARAH PROTHERO and DAVE ROWLEY. One band that we have to mention simply because it would be criminal not to so is the fun spoof metal band CRUCIFER. Crucifer played at Meltdown almost every year in the early days. They were a real fun band and included metal cover versions of YMCA and *I Should Be So Lucky*.

In 1998, our guest speaker was MICHAEL SWEET, the front man with Stryper, the biggest and most popular Christian metal band in the world. The band were broken up at this time and Michael could find time between his solo projects to visit Meltdown. Crucifer were headlining the Saturday evening music line up and they had practised doing a cover of Stryper's *To Hell With The Devil*. Even though Mike had not performed the song for a few years he jumped up on stage and fronted Crucifer pulling off a vocally perfect rendition of the song.

I know this is not the best quality photograph but we had to include it in the book. This was the first time that Michael's son had witnessed his dad fronting a band to sing a Stryper song.

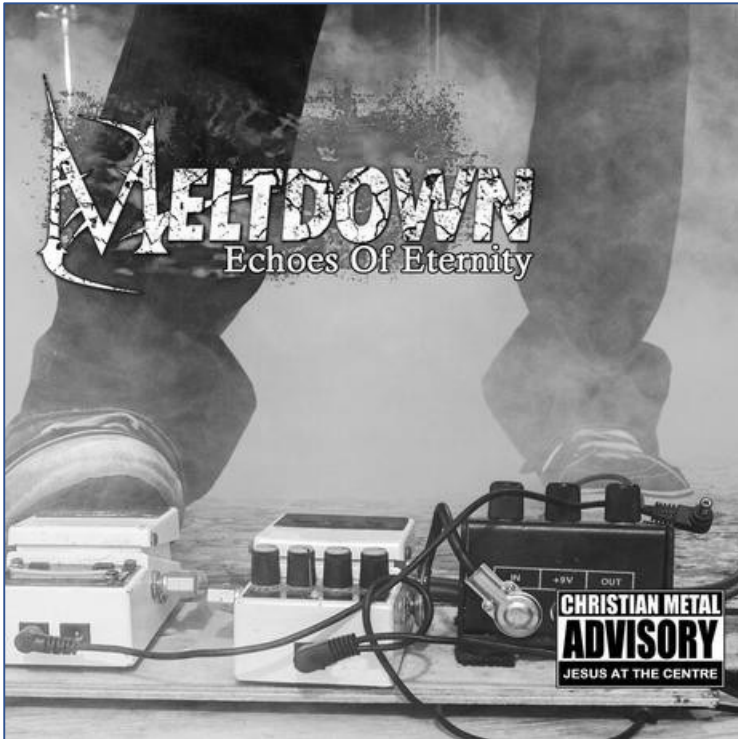


Michael Sweet fronting CRUCIFER.

Stryper later reformed and are still playing today. A little-known fact about Stryper is that the name of the band has a meaning. It is an acronym For **S**alvation **T**hrough **R**edemption **Y**ielding **P**eace **E**ncouragement and **R**ighteousness.

Our latest CD

When Christian Sullivan joined the Meltdown team he was tasked with finding bands willing to donate a track to a new compilation CD. Sixteen bands donated and this meant that we could release our new album. We are currently asking bands to help us put out volume 2. It amazed me how many bands, (including British bands who had been blessed by Meltdown) who refused to donate a track. The same bands are the first to accept free studio time and our help and services. Our bands need to learn that it is ALL about Jesus and the ministry. ONE track is all we asked for. I hope that Christian is met with the same enthusiasm for album number two and that our own home based bands take part.



The track listing is as follows:

1. *The Rose* - Fades Away
2. *Revolution* - Pantokrator
3. *Like a Corpse* - Soul Embraced
4. *Vivente* – Aggelos
5. *The Change* - As We Are
6. *My Hope* - Because of Me
7. *It Is Finished* - Ambassadors of Shalom
8. *Pounded* - Ancient Prophecy
9. *The Trail in the Snow* - Immortal Souls
10. *The Lions Teeth* - Every Knee Shall Bow

11. *The Madness of Nebuchadnezzar* – Pantokrator
12. *What Is Rock For* - X Sinner
13. *Medos* - Doomsday Hymn
14. *Inferno* - Skald in Veum
15. *Salvation Ark* – Oskord
16. *Self Portrait* - See the Rise
17. *LD50* - Saving Strike
18. *Refresh* - Final Surrender

Cross Rhythms magazine reviewed the album in February of 2017:

One of the highlights of the Greenbelt festival in its Cheltenham days was the Meltdown showcase, consisting of about four young metal bands all crammed into one high-energy, sweaty, rapid fire set. Even better when there were two of them in the same weekend. This album comes from the same people, who believe that metal is not only not the Devil's music but that it can be used to glorify God and build faith in young Christians. It's got all you'd want: riffs, power chords, soaring vocals, riffs, heavy drumming (how many double bass drum pedals does it take to make a great album?), screamed vocals, strummed bass lines, riffs, guttural vocals and more riffs. Lyrically it reflects the ethos of Meltdown described earlier. As with most samplers it doesn't have one overall style (despite being solidly metal) but does showcase the genre well and actually holds together better than most. I'd normally list bands the album reminded me of, but the list here would just be far too long. Just assume that if you have a favourite metal band, there'll be someone here who'll play

something that reminds you of them, without being too directly derivative. Oskord even bring a flute to the party. It's very well written, played, performed and recorded - there's not a duff track here. My only criticism would be that there's no let-up as you'd find on a "normal" album, where you draw breath before piling back in again, but it's a minor quibble really. Standout tracks for me were "The Rose" by Fades Away, "Vivente" by Aggelos (for the simple but infectious keyboard line and Nightwish-esque chorus), "The Change" by As We Are (more American pop rock than metal but holds its own), "Pounded" by Ancient Prophecy (which reminded me of Amaranthe with a lovely Moore-era Thin Lizzy styled middle eight that was an unexpected delight), "Salvation Ark" by Oskord (for the Celtic influences), "LD50" by Saving Strike (for the jangly guitars which gave it an indie metal feel) and "Refresh" by Final Surrender (for definitely the best intro on the album - a hummed tune that made you sit up and listen, wondering what was coming next: Helloween-style speed metal is the answer). Suffice to say that I will be checking more of these bands out, which is the point of a sampler really..... 8/10

The CD is available on iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music and many more online music stores for download. You can buy CD's from Meltdown directly or from Amazon.

Hopefully we will be releasing volume 2 of the "Echoes" series of compilation CD's sometime soon. What disappointed me was how *some* of our home-grown bands refused to donate a track. American and European bands were more than willing. The same UK bands were more than happy to take free of charge

various services and support from Meltdown. I think our Christian HM scene in the UK still has a lot to understand about ministry, responsibility to the Lord and working in unity for one purpose.



Crave - playing the Meltdown stage at Greenbelt

We wish to say a HUGE thank you to the people who have gifted Meltdown a new mixer desk in time for MD2018. Meltdown has no regular income and it



depends so much on people giving gifts and supporting our ministry. There is a gift button on the Meltdown website for those who wish to donate.

THE GREENBELT YEARS

At one time, I used to be a huge fan of the annual Greenbelt Festival and I attended right from the very early years of Greenbelt up until a few years ago. Greenbelt at one time was the place to go for Christian bands of all styles. It was where I first saw many of my favourite Christian metal bands play on the mainstage or in the Big Top. I recall watching Leviticus, Jerusalem, 100% Proof, Rez, Guardian, One Bad Pig and Johnny Q Public.



As the festival went into the late 1990s there were less and less rock and metal bands being booked to play and the festival became something far less attractive for me. In 2004 Meltdown and Greenbelt had an informal meeting at a motorway service station near Oxford to discuss the possibility of Meltdown running our own stage. Greenbelt wanted someone to run a hard music stage and we wanted to take our style of music back to

the festival. It was agreed that rather than us putting bands on a Greenbelt Stage, we would call the Meltdown slots “The Meltdown Sessions” and the stage was run entirely by Meltdown staff but with the event stewarded by Greenbelt. This meant that we could run the stage according to Meltdown’s ethos of proclaiming the Christian Gospel with an option of altar calling the crowd. Our first year at the festival was a tense experience for all. The Greenbelt crew did not know us and we did not know them. We immediately hit it off with the Greenbelt team who were managing the venue we used (stage 2). Andy Labrow the guys in charge of the stage was a really great guy and the GB and MD teams worked very well together. The stage was a great success. Every performance by every band caused the venue to fill to the point of having to turn people away. We were pulling 400-500 people to every show.



Paul May at Greenbelt

As we continued to run the Meltdown Sessions the crowds got bigger. At one point for a band called My Spoon we had to turn away almost 800 people. Maybe the highlight of the stage over the years was a performance by American guitar hero Jeff Scheetz and a rocking metal show by Paul May and Dave Rowley. The stage at Greenbelt ran from 2005 through to the last stage in 2011. The stage came to an end because

Greenbelt called time on it stating that too many youth wanted to get into the sessions and that we were only booking hard music bands. I thought this was a strange reason to give. Of course, you want youth to have somewhere to go and bands to listen to at a large festival and the whole concept of the stage in the first place was that it was a hard music stage. But all things come to an end. Our stage at Greenbelt was a very popular attraction and it was a real shame that it came to an end. Maybe one day Meltdown will do the same for another Christian festival.



The Origin at Greenbelt 2011



Myth of Ben at Greenbelt 2011

Time for some jokes 😊

How do you tell if the stage is level?

The drummer is drooling from both sides of his mouth.

How can you tell if a drummer is at the door?

The knocking speeds up.

What's the last thing a drummer says in a band?

"Hey, how about we try one of my songs?"

What do you call a drummer that breaks up with his girlfriend?

Homeless.

What's black and blue and lying in a ditch?

A guitarist who's told too many drummer jokes.

How does a lead guitarist change a light bulb?

He holds it and the world revolves around him.

What did the blues guitarist's tombstone read?

I didn't wake up this morning.

What's the difference between a lead guitarist and a terrorist?

You can negotiate with a terrorist.

How do you get a guitar player to turn down?

Put sheet music in front of him!

What is the difference between a guitarist and a Savings Bond?

Eventually a Savings Bond will mature and earn money.

What did the drummer get on his I.Q. Test?

Saliva.

What's the similarity between a drummer and a philosopher?

They both perceive time as an abstract concept.

What do you call a guitar player that only knows two chords?

A music critic.

How can you tell when a singer is at your door?

They can't find the key, and they never know when to come in.

Adam and the frog

Adam was spending the day naming all the creatures in the garden when he realized he was alone as a human being. Then came the very last creature and he named it "frog". He spoke to the frog in his loneliness and asked it if it had any ideas as to how he could not be so lonely. To Adam's surprise, the frog opened its mouth and replied, "Rib-It!", the rest is history.

THE CHRISTIAN HARD MUSIC EVENT OF THE YEAR

Meltdown

17TH - 19TH MAY 2013

Guest Speakers:
From the USA
ERIC GREGSON
 Guitar Player with:
Sleeping Giant

From the UK
ALEX GREIG
 (Vocals : **MāloKai**)

£110 PER PERSON!
 (Concessions for younger guests)

Full Board Accommodation
 Challenging Christian Teaching
 Christian Hard Music Fellowship
 Hard Rock Praise and Worship

Ticket hotline : 01785 606035
www.meltdownmusic.co.uk

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Eric Gregson never made it to Meltdown due to illness at home. Danny Adams stood in for him at the last minute.



Dave Williams teaching at Meltdown

On a personal note, I have a great desire to teach Christian bands, regardless of genre, how to be effective in ministry. This is why I wrote the In-Tune training course for those in music ministry. I am available to speak at any event that you think would benefit from my teaching. I am an evangelist at heart and the Lord has used me many times to teach the

Word and to lead outreach events at churches and music festivals. I am always willing to help if I can.

Video Filming

My son, Tim “Fonzie” Williams holds a degree in TV and Video production and on many occasions, he has used his talents to bless the Meltdown ministry.



Filming a video for Conduit



Tim filming Conduit

Tim has filmed for sixteen Christian metal bands, including Rainbow Rock, filming in Stockholm for BLOODGOOD and HYPERSONIC. Tim was the official video producer for the first ever Rainbow Rock festival and his videos can be seen on the Meltdown YouTube Channel.

Tim’s most prominent video to date was for Paul May and Judas Priest founder Al Atkins when he filmed the official video for the band’s song, *Fight*. Maybe Tim will film more for Meltdown in the future.



Paul May, Tim "Fonzie" Williams, Al Atkins

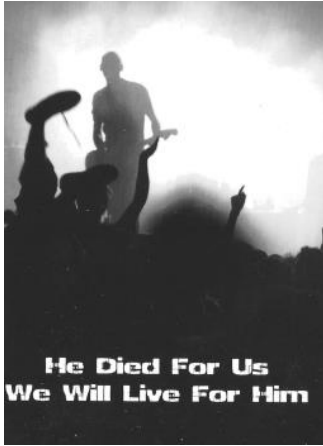


Sam Williams
when things have been difficult.

This is a photograph of my youngest son Sam. Sam has been at almost every Meltdown and with Tim always helps out behind the scenes with stage building, van unloading and anything that needs to be done. Both Tim and Sam have been very supportive of Meltdown and have always stood by me

The Meltdown Gospel

Meltdown have partnered with The Pocket Testament League to produce a gospel of John (NIV) specifically for people from the hard and heavy music community.



There has always been a lack of material for a UK Christian band to take on the road. We wanted to address this but the cost of printing was too much for us to be able to commit to.

Eventually we managed to print 5000 Meltdown Gospels completely free of charge. This Gospel is available for UK bands to take on the road

with them to hand out at shows to those who want to know more about Jesus.

The inside front cover speaks directly to metal music fans and encourages them to look at Jesus regardless of their taste in music. It is not about what music people listen to, it is about a relationship with Jesus who died for us. Many metal fans consider them to be unwanted by the Church, which in some cases may be true. But Jesus died for EVERYONE and turns no-one away. Our connection with The Pocket Testament League enabled Meltdown to arrange for a Gospel specifically for the town of Stafford where some of the management team live.

European Metal Ministry Leaders' Convention

**MELTDOWN MUSIC
HOSTS THE 2017
EUROPEAN METAL MINISTRY
LEADERS' CONVENTION**

14th - 17th May in the UK

SEMINAR SPEAKERS



Dave Williams
(Meltdown)



Steve Speakman
(Sanctuary)

and
input
from
YOU

An opportunity to get together
with European metal and hard
music ministry leaders.

- Re-evaluate our calling
- Establish networks
- Unify together in one purpose
- Receive advice and guidance
- Listen to God
- Refresh our anointing

WHO IS THIS FOR?
Anyone who reaches out with
the Gospel to fans of heavy
and hard music.

FULL BOARD
Sun 14th - Wed 17th May
£100 per person

VERY SPECIAL OFFER
The Meltdown hard music retreat
takes place between
Fri 12th - Sun 14th May at the
same venue. Why not attend
BOTH events - experience
Meltdown AND the EMLC
conference.
Special Price £200

Every two years one of the European metal music ministries stage a weekend convention for the European leaders to get together. It is a time when the leaders can keep updated with what is being done in Europe, it gives us time to pray together in person and it gives time for teaching to take place.

The 2015 conference was held in Sweden and it was the first time I had attended in person. The previous conference was attended by Brian Bassingthwaight and Marc Lungley representing Meltdown. This took place in Switzerland.

It was the turn of Meltdown to stage the 2017 conference and we used the venue we use for Meltdown to stage the event. It was also decided to stage it directly after the usual retreat which meant that our European friends could fly in and experience Meltdown as well as attend the leaders' convention.



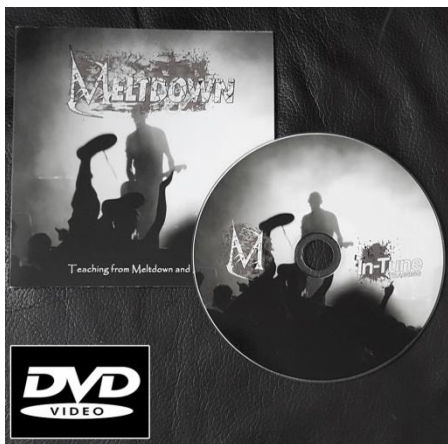
Some of the leaders at the 2017 convention

It was a great weekend and all who attended were blessed in some way or another. It was time for people to unload some weight and guilt and to dedicate themselves afresh to the calling that the Lord had given

them. We really hope that this bi-annual convention continues to run and to bring together those people who have been called of the Lord to minister to the metal and hard music scenes within Europe and the world.

We were especially blessed at the 2017 conference because we had a guest visiting from the USA. Tom Denlinger from the American power metal band Sardonyx & LightShine Ministries attended and he was a great encouragement to everyone at the event

Meltdown Seminar DVD's



Meltdown teaching DVD

Meltdown have a selection of our past seminars available on DVD from our online store. We have just invested in much better filming equipment and the videos from 2018 onwards will be filmed in full HD.

Our website is where to go to buy your tickets for our Meltdown Retreats, to buy our merchandise and to donate to our ministry. Meltdown needs all the financial support that we can get and in just a short time Meltdown will be a UK registered charity. This means that your giving will be to a

charitable organisation which will use your gifts and profits from purchases to expand the outreach work of Meltdown. We really do need your support.

Time for some more jokes 😊

What's the difference between a bass and an onion?

Nobody cries when you chop up a bass.

What do you call a beautiful woman on a bassist's arm?

A tattoo.

A boy came home from his first bass lesson. His dad asked him how it went. "Today we learned the E string." The boy came home from his second lesson and dad asked him how it went. "Today we learned the A string." The boy came home from his third lesson. Dad asked, "So did you learn the D string today?". "Nope. Today I had a gig."

A little boy sees a live band, and is mesmerized by the feeling of the lows coming from the bass player. It's all he talks about for days, until he tells his parents "I want to grow up and become a bass player!!!!" His father says "Son, you'll have to make a choice, you can't do both."

How many Boy Bands does it take to change a lightbulb?

We don't know - lightbulbs last longer than most Boy Bands!

School Outreach

During our time at the Quinta centre it occurred to us that we had all the resources on site to stage some youth outreach work while the Meltdown conference was running. The nearest town to the centre was Oswestry a large market town and it had a very large high school and a good number of churches.

Our plan was to send a small team of school outreach workers into the local school where they would teach in the Religious Education lessons and sometimes in the music lessons. Since we are not permitted to propagate the faith in a school lesson all we could do was talk about our faith and why we believed. In the music lessons, we could talk about starting a band, album recording and anything music related including playing in a Christian band.

The team went into the school on Monday and took the RE and music lessons through to the end of the week. Five days in the school meant that the school students got to know the team and were interested in attending a Meltdown concert in their school on the Friday or Saturday evening. We moved the bands and the equipment from the conference centre and the entire conference moved into the school hall. The concerts were very well attended with anything up to 200 kids queuing at the door to get in. The Gospel was presented and we almost always saw a positive response with young people accepting Jesus. One of the young people who responded at one of our concerts went on to join a local church and after attending for a while became a

youth leader and began running Alpha courses. Another young person stayed with the faith and became an employee at the conference centre as a youth conference co-ordinator. Due to church co-operation issues, we had no option but to withdraw our schools work which was a shame but everything has a season and the three or four years that we did the outreach we saw great results. Jesus told us to go into all the world with the message and Meltdown loves to take every opportunity to do so. Only a few years ago we offered the same service to local schools in Stafford and via our home church we sent a Meltdown team into local schools. The guys from the Saving Strike Christian band went into schools and followed up their work with an outreach concert in the church on the Saturday evening.

Peter Willoughby and Paul Everard

We cannot write a book about the 30 years of Meltdown without mentioning two people who supported the ministry 100% and who passed away very suddenly.



*Pete Willoughby with Les Carlsen
(Bloodgood)*

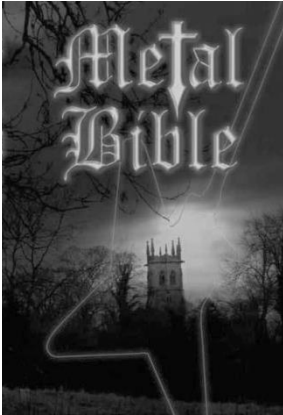
Paul attended Meltdown for years and died while on holiday in his hotel room. Peter was about to sign up to become a Meltdown charity trustee when he tragically

took his own life. It is so sad to lose people who are such good friends. Both

Peter and Paul are very much missed by Meltdown. R.I.P

The Metal Bible

The Metal Bible is a Bible specifically for people who listen to heavy metal music. It is a New Testament that contains testimonies from people who either enjoy metal music or play in metal bands, including some VERY well-known celebrity metal people like Alice



Cooper and Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden). Our Meltdown co-Director Brian Bassingthwaight is the UK representative for the Metal Bible and this gives us a strong connection with Johannes Jonsson who runs the Metal Bible ministry. This is a great ministry that Meltdown fully supports.

To describe this publication correctly, let's go directly to Johannes:

"Being a Christian and a Metalhead myself, it's just natural for me to combine these two identities. However, in the Metal scene it is unfortunately common to have a negative attitude against the Bible and Christianity. Many metalheads for example think that the Bible is a boring book and therefore don't give it a try. I think this attitude is very sad and that is something I want to change with the Metal Bible, so more metalheads give the Bible a try and checkout what Jesus has to say.

The history of the Metal Bible started way back in 1996

when I started to get a strong longing for a special Bible edition aimed at everyone that enjoys Metal. But back then I could however never dream that I would be the one putting it together. At that time, it was also not God's time to get started, so the project had to rest for several years.

But then in the Summer of 2002 I met a journalist called Urban Thoms at the newspaper Dagen. We talked and he said that now there are Biker Bibles, Football Bibles and other special Bibles but still there is no Metal Bible. At the moment, he said that I strongly felt God speaking to me that NOW was the time to get started with this project and put it together.

So, I got in touch with Roul Åkesson at Bible For The Nations and right away he said that he thought it was a great idea to make a Metal Bible. So we started this project. Then next step was to contact all the metalheads that was to be featured in it. It has not been



Johannes and Ulrika Jonsson

an easy road; however, it's truly been a jungle to find the correct mail addresses! I have also had to wait a long time for most of the

texts, for example I had to wait over 6

months for Nicko McBrain's text! So, it has not been an easy project and it has taken its time to come into existence. But step by step God has put the pieces together and after 3 years of hard work and much

prayer the first edition of the Metal Bible was finally released in Swedish in June 2005. A Dutch version was then released in 2007. 2011 it was released in English and German and 2012 in Spanish and Polish. The purpose of this special Bible is to break down prejudices and misconceptions that many metalheads have about the Bible and help people to realise that the Bible is not a boring book but an interesting and living book that has a lot to tell us today. My prayer is that many



Henrick Larsson, Ulrika Jonsson, Jeanette Larsson, Johannes Jonsson.

metalheads through the Metal Bible will realise that the Bible is a cool book and that its timeless message is something for them too.” Johannes Jonsson

Over the last few years Meltdown have made ministry connections and great friendships with Jeanette and Henrik Larsson at the Christian Metalheads

International Ministry (or CMI for short) and with Johannes and Ulrika Jonsson at the Metal Bible and CMI. Our work within Sweden and in partnership with CMI has begun.

Christian Metalheads International and Rainbow Rock

In the new world of social media, it is important that there is a way of connecting Christians and reaching out to non-Christians. The largest social media website in the world allows users to create 'groups' that have a specific subject interest where people can join and communicate together. At the time of writing this the CMI group had 11,319 members. These are people who are either interested in Christian metal music and are practising Christians or are people who are not Christians but have a curiosity about Christianity and Christian heavy music. It is a place where like-minded Christians can chat and learn from each other, ask questions about their faith or ask for prayer. The leadership and administrators occasionally post bible lessons and challenges for the members to grow closer to Jesus. The aim of the group is to show Jesus to the members and to be a place where they feel loved, wanted and respected. These people are all in one way or another connected with ministry and have an interest in metal music. I have been one of the admin staff for a few years now and I believe that the CMI group is a vital tool for connecting people together and to minister to those who move in the metal scene around the world. The activity of the members is overseen by a team of dedicated admin people.

The CMI online group is the largest group of Christian metal fans chatting together online in the world today. CMI also provide an online prayer request site and a site

where people can donate money to support Christian metal ministry leaders who are in need.

The CMI have a great team of people overseeing the ministry. Jeanette and Henrik Larsson are the main leaders of CMI. Johannes and Ulrika Jonsson are also leaders of CMI. Brian Bassingthwaite and I are co leaders with different roles. One of the things that the Lord is doing amongst the metal ministries around the world is bringing us together in unity so that we can move forwards united and equipped to fulfil our callings.



Jeanette and Henrik Larsson

Jeanette and Henrik are very close friends of mine and our two ministries will work together from time to time to see the expansion of God's kingdom. One of the times that Meltdown worked with CMI was in April of 2017 when CMI staged the first ever RAINBOW ROCK festival.

Rainbow Rock is a Christian heavy metal festival that takes place in Sollentuna, Stockholm. Meltdown helped with website design, flyer design and on the Rainbow Rock weekend my son filmed the bands. This is the first time that our two ministries have co-operated in an event and I have to give credit to CMI for staging such a great event in difficult circumstances since Stockholm suffered a terrorist attack the same day the festival started. CMI are currently working towards next year's

(2018) festival. The Lord put ministries together to complement each other and to work together in order to expand his kingdom. I feel that our connection with CMI and with Metal Bible is a step forwards towards a move of God throughout Europe in the Christian metal scenes.



Bloodgood at Rainbow Rock 2017



Johannes Jonsson, Henrik Larsson, Ray Legrand, Dave Williams and Jeanette Larsson at Meltdown 2017

Credibility and the Future

Matthew 7:15-20

You Will Know Them By Their Fruits

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them.”

It is important to me that the calling that the Lord has placed upon me through Meltdown is undertaken with integrity and with Jesus firmly at the centre. There is nothing more important than seeing souls saved and so many times we get side-lined by things that the world throws at us. We respond to hurt and attack with our humanity rather than with our spirituality. We are too quick to judge and too slow to see the best in people. We see people and their sin through our eyes rather than through the knowledge of how Jesus sees them. We grade sin and condemn while we forget that while WE were STILL SINNERS, Christ died for us. For a ministry to be useful for the Lord to use we need to be credible within the boundaries of HIS teachings. By our fruits, you will know us and where we stand with Jesus or by our fruits you will see our ego, our selfish ambition, our sinful humanity rather than the glory of His Son. I pray that Meltdown will always glorify JESUS through our words, our actions and our teachings.

Meltdown are members of the UK Evangelical Alliance and we are currently undertaking the conversion from a limited company to a charitable limited company.

Please pray for us and for us to remain on the path that the Lord has set before us.

**Ten thousand thanks to Jesus
Whose life our ransom paid
Whose blood a full atonement
For all the world has made
Let every heart adore him
Let every creature sing
Ten thousand thanks to Jesus
Our Saviour and our King
(words by Matilda C Day)**

Special thanks to the current Meltdown team:

*Brian Bassingthwaighe, Max Cook, Raphael Merriman, Oliver Lane,
Neil Raybould, Kerry Cook, David Nuttall, Rich Styles,
Jeanette Larsson, Christian Sullivan, Matt McKay
and Sharna Ann Stevens.*

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Luke Webb, John Carthew, Andy Vernon, Chris Wright, Tony
Cummings, The Meltdown coffee bar team over the years,
Cefn Lea Holiday Park, Pastor Ian Dunphy and
Pastor Gary Taverner, Kingswinford Christian Centre and
Stafford Elim Christian Centre. Special thanks to Tim, Sam, Lynn and
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