

DISPATCH

THE CCX GAMING NEWSLETTER

The 25

Greatest Christian Rock Albums Of All Time

By Foxrock66

Clarence Interview

CPT-SUICIDE/ARRON H.
HERO ZONE

Ask Necho

Clarence's
Questions

ISSUE #2



...and much more



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**Lord & Master,
Reason and Focus
For All Our Efforts:
The Father,
The Son, and
The Holy Spirit**

**Our Mission:
To enrich and
engage the
membership of the
Chrisitan Crew in
new and exciting
ways, to strengthen
our fellowship and
bring the Gospel to
ever more of those
in need.**

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Welcome!

Our new newsletter got some great comments on it's first edition, and all of our staff and myself thank all of you for the compliments and excellent feedback. I'm hoping this one will be even easier to view, as it was constructed a little larger, and in higher resolution.

I would again like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to see their writing, poetry, photography, or other submissions in print in our Dispatch. Every article doesn't have to be completely Bible or Christ centered, you can share lots of things with us, as long as they are of interest to the community in some way.

I would VERY MUCH like to thank all of my current contributors for their hard work. Almost across the board, the individuals who have so far helped in publication are busy in their own lives, yet still find time to put together some great stuff for our magazine! Some of these folks work a lot, some are smack in the middle of school, but they always come through with some great stuff!

The newsletters current limitations are mostly my own. I have some great ideas and even some great submissions I have not yet been able to use, simply not having enough time before our deadline to put them altogether. If you DO want to help or add to our publication in any way, let me know, and I can share with you some ways that you can make the process of submitting your work easier, and more efficient for me to include. An example would be Foxrock's FANTASTIC article for us this month...The 25 Greatest Christian Rock Albums of All Time... Fox prepared this article exactly how he wanted it (minus the background graphics), and sent everything to me in Photoshop PSDs, so I spent FAR LESS time preparing those pages, other than some finishing touches. (THANKS FOX!)

Please enjoy this month's Dispatch and be as vocal as you wish with suggestions, critiques, or other comments, it's YOUR newsletter!

With love, Brothers and Sisters,

NeoJABEZ

CPT-SUICIDE/AARON H.

NERD ZONE

Welcome to the second edition of the Nerd Zone! This month we will be reviewing, League of Legends, an RTS developed by RIOT Games. Also, I will be showing everybody how to custom order their own PC.

The Review: League of Legends

Background: League of Legends does not have much of a back story. But the game as a whole has a deep, and rich history. Long before LoL was Warcraft 3, some modders created possibly the most popular WC3 mod called DoTA or Defense of The Ancients. This in itself was a shell of what LoL is today. Eventually the original development team of DoTA gave the project away, and began development on LoL. This new project was very similar to DoTA, but offered some new twists, such as 3v3 matches, many more champions, summoner spells, and better rewards for being offensive.

Gameplay: 4/5

Pro's

- Many Champions to support all playing styles
- Hundreds of item combinations to further customize the users experience
- Great teamwork based play style

Con's

- Point and click movement with mouse scrolling camera can sometimes make it difficult to move the view around the map.
- Buggy skill buttons
- Newer Champions are usually over powered for a while
- New players have a hard time getting into the game and understanding the concepts

Visuals: 3/5

The game has a very cartoonish style. Not saying that its bad, but the graphics in this game are by no means next gen.

Family Friendly: 4/5

This game has no foul language(although other players tend to be vulgar at times.) and there is little to no blood. The only problem would be if there were problems with violence at all, because obviously the point of the game is to kill the other champions, and destroy their nexus.

Overall: 4/5

A very great game to play with your friends. Its a little difficult to get used to at first, but once you get the hang of it, you will be scoring kills in no time.

Tech Side: Building Your Own PC

Before you begin to think about building your own PC, you need to know where you're going to get it from. For me, the best places to look are Tiger Direct and NewEgg, (I'll link to both throughout this segment). Its always good to have at least two places to shop at, because prices tend to fluctuate between websites. Once you have your shopping sites you're ready to go. I will be building an uber PC, but you since this is just a demonstration you can obviously build however you like.

First things first, you need a case, cases come in all different shapes, sizes, and styles so there are plenty to choose from. I've chosen a cheaper case, but it looks awesome.

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=4540656&Sku=A406-1117>

Cost = \$50

Next, since our case didn't come with a power supply, that should be the next thing on our list. I've chosen a 650 watt power supply

<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16817371015>

Cost = \$80

Now lets move on to our motherboard. We are going to want an ATX form factor, and preferably one that has a large amount of max RAM.

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=5519&Sku=B69-4233>

Cost = \$500

Note that our motherboard came with an Intel i7 processor. So we do not need to worry about finding a processor. (Unless an i7 isn't powerful enough for you.....). So we will be moving on to RAM, our motherboard supports up to 24gb of DDR3 RAM. Since, I'm not actually buying this PC (Wish I could...) I will be "spending" a very large sum of money. We are going to max out our RAM, so 24gb of 1600mhz RAM. (Always be sure to make sure the RAM you're buying will work with your motherboard).

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=6572445&CatId=3361>

Cost = \$930

Our PC is almost finished! But we're leaving something crucial out. We're going to need a disc tray to install games/watch movies with. Again we're going expensive...So lets get a Blu-Ray player.

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=6044531&CatId=2537>

Cost = \$139

We still need a sound card, so we're going to lay back on the sound card a bit. Just going to get a cheaper 7.1 surround sound.

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=4459743&CatId=2771>

Cost = \$30

We still need an HD to store everything on. I've picked a simple 2tb HD

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=5239129&CatId=139>

Cost = \$250

Now its time for the best part, the video card. We want something with power, lots of it! Self cooling is always a plus. I have selected this beast of a card. 4Gb GDDR5 of pure video memory.

<http://www.newegg.com/Product/Product.aspx?Item=N82E16814150500>

Cost = \$1,200

Now, all that's left is something to keep this baby cool! I like it expensive, so I'm going to go with some liquid cooling. It will do a good job, and possibly allow me to overclock my system.

<http://www.tigerdirect.com/applications/SearchTools/item-details.asp?EdpNo=3302740&CatId=499>

Cost = \$145

There is our PC, our total specs come up to:

- 2tb of storage space
- 24gb of RAM
- 2.8 Quad core processor
- 4gb video card
- Liquid cooling
- Awesomesauce included

Total price = \$3324

If you don't have an OS you get licenses at both websites I've linked to.(tigerdirect.com and newegg.com)

Hopefully this has been helpful so some of you people, and hopefully you enjoyed it! See you all next month!

Cpt-Suicide/Aaron



Editor's Note: The above photograph is NOT Cpt-Suicide. But it sure is a 1337 gamer!

THE ONE

THE EVIL INSIDE IS TEN LEAGUES WIDE
FIVE LEAGUES WIDER THAN THE GOOD CAN HIDE
STRONGER EVEN THAN APATHY'S TIDE
SOMETIMES THE BALANCE IS DENIED.

A DELICATE ECOSYSTEM OF LOVE AND HATE
THE EVIL DESTROYS, THE GOOD CREATES
ETERNALLY LOCKED IN FUTILE DEBATE
UNTIL A DEATH ORDAINED BY FATE.

FOR EVERY ACTION, OPPOSING REACTION
TWO SIDE TO SIDE WARRING FACTIONS
STRUGGLE FOR POWER, FIGHTING FOR TRACTION
ADDITION OF PAIN, NEVER SUBTRACTION.

THIS WAR IS FOUGHT, BUT CAN BE WON
BY A UNIQUE LOVE FROM A SPECIAL SOMEONE
HIS POWER, IT SHINES BRIGHT AS THE SUN
HE'S MY SAVIOR, I CALL HIM "THE ONE."

POETRY: NEOJABEZ



Ask Naeheo

What is the complexity of Owls?

First, it is important to have a basic understanding of what Computer Scientists call "Big-Oh notation". Suppose we have two mathematical functions, $f(t)$ and $g(t)$. $f(t)$ is said to be "order $g(t)$ ", written " $O(g(t))$ ", pronounced "big-Oh of $g(t)$ ", if and only if there exists some constant N such that, for a sufficiently large value of t , $N * g(t) \geq f(t)$.

In layman's terms, that means that (eventually) some variant of $g(t)$ will always be larger than $f(t)$. For example, let $f(t) = t$, and $g(t) = t * t$. For a sufficiently large value of t (in this case, $t \geq 1$), $g(t)$ is always larger than $f(t)$. In this case, the function t is said to be $O(t^2)$.

It is important to note that t^2 provides a sort of 'upper bound' to the function t . So, if a function $f(t)$ is $O(g(t))$, we say $g(t)$ is an upper bound of $f(t)$. We could find an even tighter upper bound than this: in our case, $t = O(t)$ is the tightest bound we could come up with.

Complexity Theory, in its most basic form, is the study of finding tight upper bounds for functions. A 'smaller' order function will likely run faster than a 'larger' order function.

Returning to the original question, in order to find the complexity of Owls, we must find a mathematical equation describing Owls. Assuming $Owls(x) = Hoot(y) + Flap(w) * Lolcats(D)$, $Owls(x)$ is $O(got_me(x))$.

I hope this was informative.

Editor's Note: Well, YOU ASKED! (ack!)

What do you think most people sell their soul for?

This is a deep question. Let me begin by explaining a belief I hold. Bear with me.

It seems to me that very few people ever do what is 'wrong' in their sight. As Christians, we certainly know that people sin and do what is objectively wrong (in fact, we believe that most people sin more than they do good things). However, what is objectively wrong and what seems wrong (or is subjectively wrong) will often differ. While people do objective wrong every day, I believe that it is rare that someone will do what is subjectively wrong in their eyes.

The reason? If I thought something was wrong, why would I do it? I only do something because I can justify it as right in my eyes. Whether it actually (objectively) is right or wrong, I see it as right, and do not feel guilty doing it.

Why the tangent? Because I feel that most people selling their souls don't view it as selling out, but as indulging themselves and doing what is right in their eyes. The person who spends hours and hours watching TV has decided that this is OK and right to do. The politician who seems to say anything for another vote is only doing it because winning is right in his eyes, and lying to do so is not wrong. The bully at school does not care for others, only for himself - he tortures others to feel better, because his own self-worth is right in his eyes.

So I think people don't sell their soul - they keep it to themselves. They try to hoard it, along with everything else they own on Earth, and it eventually rots away, leaving a dead, empty shell.

It is the Christians who have sold our souls to God. Have you ever heard the phrase, "God bought us with the blood of Christ"? In fact, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says "You are not your own; you were bought at a price." The price that God paid was the life of His own Son, because He, in His divine wisdom, found us more precious to Him than anything. His love for us is so strong that he bought our souls, that we might not perish, but persist eternally in communion with Him.

So, in the best sense of the phrase, I hope you will consider your soul sold. I do!



Clarence's Questions

Every month, our very own Clarence will challenge us all with 15 questions, on particular Biblical themes. These won't always be EASY questions either! You'll learn a TON just by researching to find the answers. He isn't sharing the answers with the editor or newsletter staff, so they are also allowed to play!

He challenges you to answer all 15 questions, correctly.

PM Clarence with your answers, and whoever is the first to correctly answer all 15 gets bragging rights for the next month, as well as credit for winning in the following month's Clarence's Questions! Answers will also be revealed in the following issue. Good Luck! This month's theme is:

Three Days That Changed The World

1. What did John note about the cloth that had been around Jesus' body and the burial cloth that had been around his head?
2. When Jesus greeted the disciples on the evening of the day He rose from the dead what were His first words?
3. At what point did Mary realise that Jesus was the man in the garden?
4. The disciples that met Jesus in Emmaus did not know it was him until when?
5. Thomas had to wait before he saw Jesus. How long did he wait?
6. Who did Jesus say are the blessed people when he was talking to Thomas?
7. At the last supper, what are the disciples arguing about?
8. What did the women say about the angels' message and why?
9. What is missing? "He explained to them what was said in all the "xxxxxxxxxx" concerning Himself."
10. What was offered to Jesus as He was on the cross?
11. What did Jesus say to the thief ?
12. What was the name of the High priest who condemned Jesus?
13. What crime did the Sanhedrin find Jesus guilty of?
14. What was the punishment for the crime that Jesus was found guilty of according to Jewish law?
15. How were Annas and Caiaphas related?

We would very much like to congratulate our first Clarence's Questions Winner:

EDAC

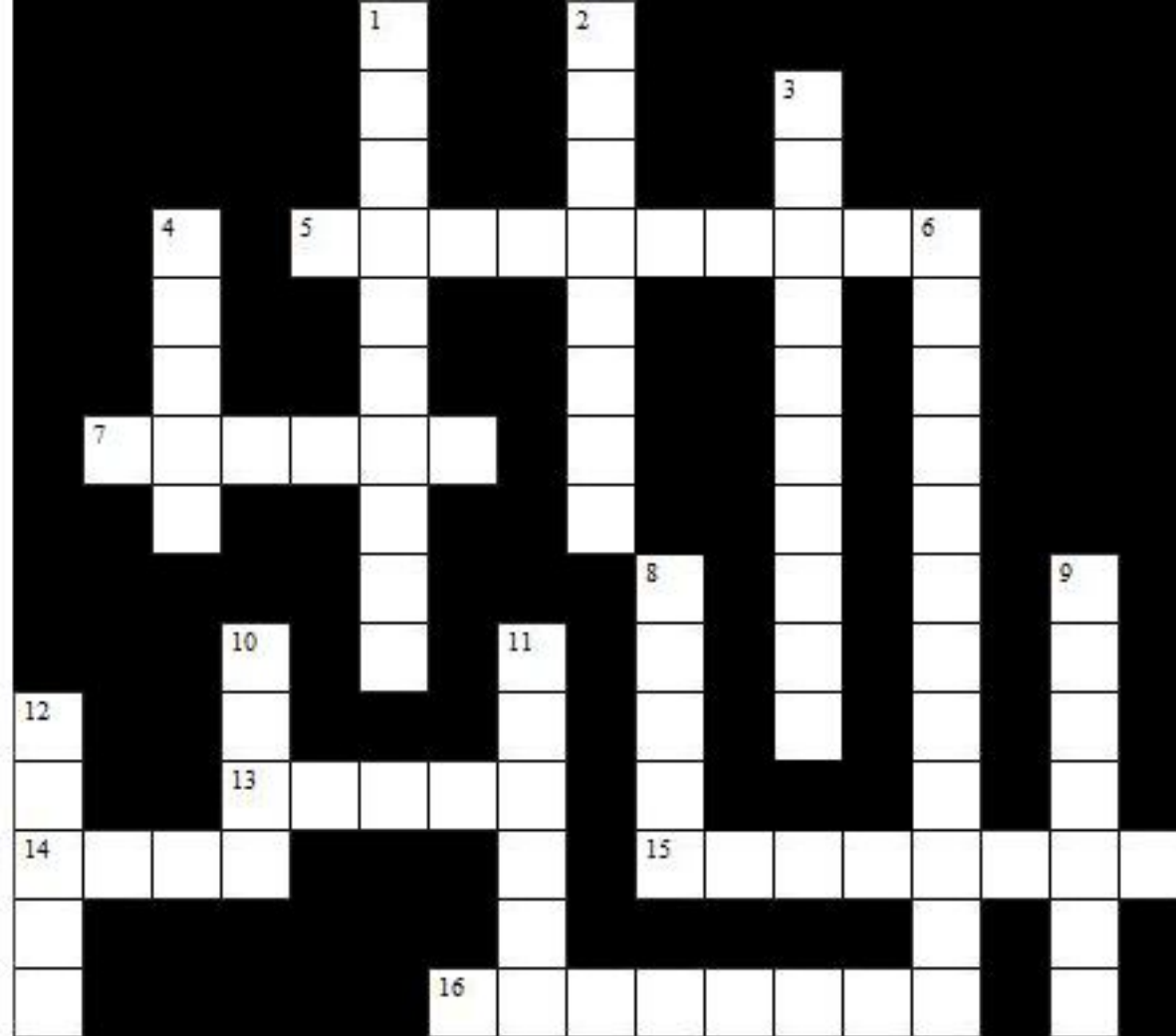
As well as an honorable mention to BIARITZ, who only missed a SINGLE answer!

EDAC now has the title for winning Clarence's Questions, on it's very first edition! This has no prize other than bragging rights and maybe a winner avatar if he'd like to use it:



And now, for the correct answers that EDAC (and very nearly Biaritz!) found last month:

- 1. To the widow of Nain who was about to bury her son.**
- 2. Dropsy**
- 3. The feeding of the 5000**
- 4. John 3:16**
- 5. Zacchaeus**
- 6. Marks Gospel**
- 7. True**
- 8. To a woman who had been suffering from bleeding for twelve years.**
- 9. The miracle took place outside of Palestine in the region of Tyre and Sidon**
- 10. False, there is no record of such a meeting**
- 11. Nicodemus**
- 12. John's Gospel**
- 13. Jesus was twelve years old, the first time he went there was when he was eight days old but it wasn't during the Passover**
- 14. Cana**
- 15. True (Mark 10:47-48)**



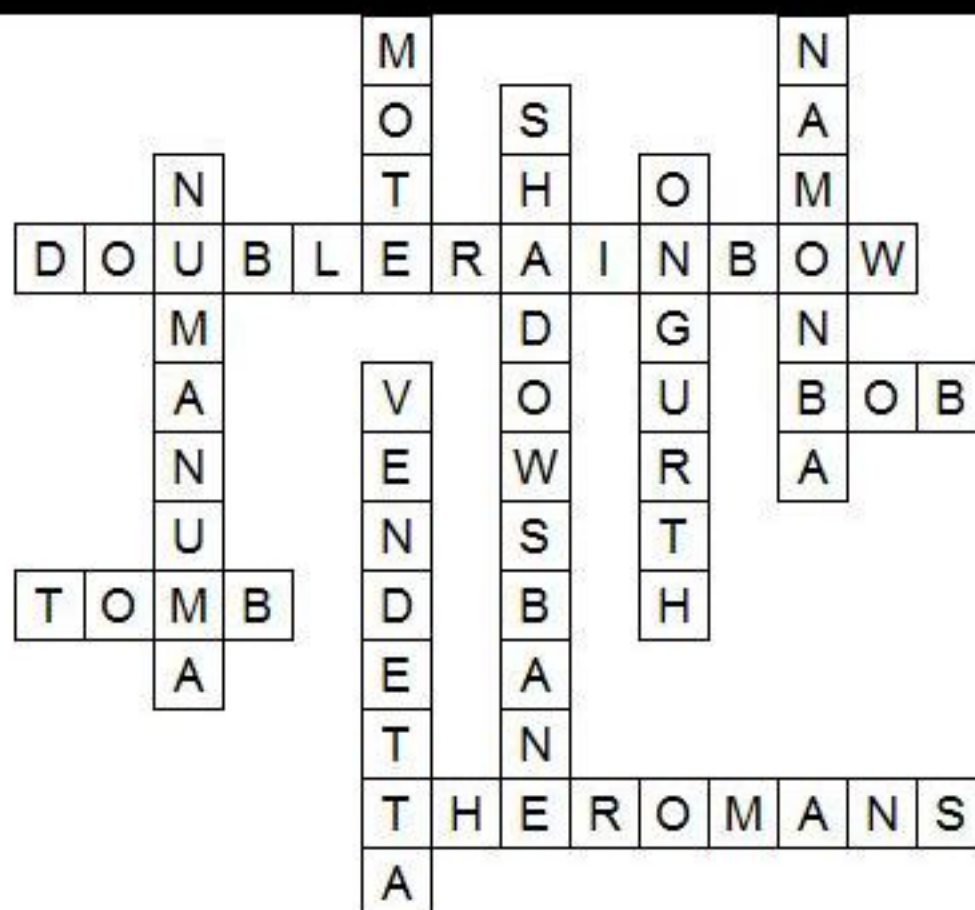
ACROSS

- 5 Garden of...
 7 The rock in a watch
 13 "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"
 14 Cuda's Military Service Branch
 15 Relativity Scientist
 16 ACE artist, musician, CC Support Member

DOWN

- 1 Book of the Four Horsemen
 2 Letters, (like Paul's)
 3 Pistol pair in CS:S
 4 Founder of the Christian Crew
 6 To every thing there is a season
 8 The first truly 3D game
 9 She's girly, but she'll still kick your tail!
 10 Marcum's Military Service Branch
 11 ..and the Technicolor Dreamcoat
 12 And _____ was his name-o!

Last Month's Answers



NEW +<CC>< MEMBERS!

Please welcome the newest members of our community! The people listed here are now part of the fellowship of believers in our community, and so we open our hearts to you all!

Forums:

prozac
LION --
ESPETITEE1988--
super_mario_man--
Steelbilly
Warren
MikeHorvath
Lars
4Him

GameName:

LION SA
ZERBAREBETTER
PenguinMario

We, the members of "The Christian Crew", stand united in our effort to provide the on-line gaming community with a clean environment, of fellowship and exciting game play. Our members will conduct themselves with integrity and decency, reflecting true Christian Character, in order that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, might be honored and glorified.

We are committed to the ministry and growth of our community for the Kingdom of God, presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the fundamental truth of God. Finally, we pledge to never forget that we are Christians first, and fellow gamers second.

LEADERS

I N T E R V I E W S E R I E S

The Christian Crew has been around since 2003, first enriching the lives of a few friends and relatives, and then expanding exponentially as more and more people found the clean game servers, busy forums, and the great spirit of fellowship within them both. In this series, we'd like to take an opportunity to better get to know the leaders who keep our community relevant in ministry, working efficiently, and exciting for our members. Our leaders aren't just Council Members, but Admin Advisers, Forums Moderators, and our fantastic Support Team.

This month we welcome Clarence to the table! Clarence is our Forums Minister, and is a wise, humorous and valued voice for the Word in our community. He is a very serious Defender of the Faith, and is recognized as a teacher in our community. He is also a forum admin and in-game admin. Clarence has a wonderful way with words, and a valued sense of humor and is someone anyone can approach with anything personal or spiritual. Clarence has been posting "Word of the Day" posts in the Clarence's Corner section of our forums every day for over 5 years, and finds every way he can to uplift and enrich our community. He is another of our leaders who exemplifies what Christian Leaders should be per the Book of Titus in the Bible, as he has been married for years, has wonderful children and grandchildren, and is even a member of a business-led Ministry in his home in Great Britain.

Editor: Welcome, and thank you for joining us Clarence! We'll start with the usual first question: How did you first find the CC, and what do you remember about it most?

Clarence: I first started playing back in 2004 and I could not believe the filth that was on the forums I went on

to. I was also extremely nervous of playing against 'real' people. Anyways I found the 'Lord' clan and I asked about becoming a member and they said that I had to be good at the game and would start as a 'Peon' and I didn't fancy being known as a peon, not at my age anyway. I did get into trouble with them because of my name or the image I used to depict my name. I used to be called "Clarence the Cross-Eyed Lion" and I used brackets and the period-- something like this but I will only do one eye, (don't want to get into trouble here as well). (.) You might understand why I got into trouble. I started to search through the servers and I found the CC so I went into the Custom server. I actually read the MOTD, (get up some; people read them, well I do), and I was MEGA impressed with it. I remember watching cos again I was too nervous to play. I even remember who I was watching, it was Fisher, and I'm thinking whoa this guy is goooooood!!! So, I just watched for a long time. Eventually I joined in and didn't understand why people talked about me so much, things like "that Clarence lags a lot", and I could hear them. I didn't even know what lag was then, DOH!

Anyways, I know I am rabbiting on here, it's my age, but you asked!

Eventually I found the forums and registered. Took me a while to get to know all the protocols of posting and such but I decided it was time to get involved, and applied to join. We didn't have a questionnaire back then we got an Email off Tykur, (I still have mine) asking some questions and for a testimony and I was asked to join. I remember seeing how much fun everyone was having and that I didn't have to be good to join all I had to do was love Jesus, well; how could I not apply?

Editor: What CC Member (or leader, or visitor) has had the greatest impact on your time with the CC, and why?

Clarence: It is difficult and unfair to choose one person, so many have impacted on my life since I joined this community; Deacon for his knowledge, commitment and love to serve this community, Snails, such a wise head on so young shoulders, AD I love to read his responses to some of the more difficult posts, and of course my dear friend Globy, honest and straight as an arrow his dedication to this community is wonderful. One person who hasn't been around for some time is ERock. I read up on his rise to fame and anyone who confesses Jesus on prime time television has my utmost respect.

Editor: If you could own any one weapon from CS:S or TF2 in real life, what would it be, and why?

Clarence: Like I said last time it would be a HE grenade, because it is the only one I don't need to aim with plus it goes round corners.

Editor: Your favorite food?

Clarence: Mexican, I cant get enough of it!

Editor: What is one message you would most like to give our members? (Bible Verse, Advice or Wisdom, specific information or lesson from your own life, etc.)



Clarence and his grandson

Clarence: A couple of Christmases ago I got a 'X Factor' cup and I just thought 'I hate it; it is tacky, poorly made and to top it all I hate the programme, (it just started again DOH!). But it is the message that is written on the side of the cup that has been drawing me to it lately. Too often we get a 'feeling' to do something that will glorify God and we feel that it is to big or to difficult to do. I am like that too, but the cup is God's reminder that He is it with me also. Oh the message on the cup 'I got what it takes'.

Editor: Pie or Cake? Ninjas or Pirates?

Clarence: Gotta be Pie FTW Meat and Potato, man I'm slavering already.

Pirates, cant be doing with all the constipated screams those Ninja's do (sticks fingers in ears)

Editor: Clarence, we can't thank you enough for sharing some time with us, andswering some questions, and just allowing everyone to get to know you better!

Thank you for the wisdom you've shown as part of our Council, sharing your sense of humor, your Faith, and more with all of us...We value you more than you know, and love you deeply, Brother!



THE **25**

GREATEST CHRISTIAN
ROCK ALBUMS OF ALL TIME*



*AS REVIEWED BY FOXROCK66

Before we begin this list of what I consider to be the best Christian Rock of the last decade, allow me to quote Hard Music Magazine...

"There is a flaw in the label 'Christian Rock.' We've all known this forever, right? There are four popular explanations of what defines a song or album as 'Christian Rock.' They are :

- 1) the song features lyrics that tell the Gospel story;
- 2) the song features lyrics that, while not necessarily conveying the "Gospel Message," are shaped by a Christian worldview;
- 3) the song is performed by and/or written by Christian musicians (including instrumental music or "secular" lyrical themes);
- 4) the song is considered "Christian Rock" by many Christian people or, for lack of a better term, it is "of interest" to Christians

I myself tend to gravitate toward this last definition. As such my list may contain albums that are not strictly Christian. However, all albums represented on this list I do consider to be beneficial listening for Christian music lovers. All albums represented are also family friendly, totally free of foul language or sexual overtones.

Disclaimer : foxrock66 does not claim responsibility for injuries sustained while head banging or singing along too loudly to the following albums. Neither does he claim that any of the following releases are the "best" in sales, popularity, or other such mundane definitions of greatness. The following albums are simply what the author considers - in his own musical tastes and views - to be the best of the last ten years.

25. Acceptance --- Phantoms



Acceptance is no more. After their debut "Phantoms," the band called it quits. That doesn't stop "Phantoms" from being a phenomenal, if little known release. Catchy alt-rock from guys that went on toin groups like Anberlin and Search/Rescue. Great hooks and beats permeate this release, and while the lyrics aren't the most spiritual out there, they're definitely well written. Songs like "Permanent" and "Glory/Us" are best experienced rather than described. 4/5 stars.

24. Ruth --- Secondhand Dreaming



Another group a lot of people have never heard of, "Ruth" - named after lead vocalist Dustin Ruth, but also an acronym for 'Return Us To Him' - remained fairly unknown despite a superb live show and a tour with Relient K and Switchfoot. Their debut was one of the sleeper releases of 2007. Nearly a masterpiece, every track is filled to bursting with heartfelt vocals, catchy tags, and simple-yet-brilliant lyrics. Standout tracks are "Mr Turner" and "You Are". 4/5 stars

23. MUTEMATH - MUTEMATH



MUTEMATH is a difficult group to describe, as is their debut. Rising from the ashes of his former group "Earthsuit," vocalist Paul Meany and Co. crafted a debut that was as sonically diverse as it was cryptically poetic. Spawning hits like "Chaos" and "Typical" it catapulted the group into the spotlight and still sounds better than any of its peers. Aside from the aforementioned tracks, give "Stare At The Sun" and "Control" a listen, but don't ignore the rest of the album. 4/5 stars

22. Relient K --- Mmhmm



Veteran punk-rockers Relient K returned in 2004 with a veritable bomb. Not only was most of their previous punk-pop sound absent on “Mmhmm,” but the album was also blatantly edgy, and noticeably less spiritual in scope. Lots of experimentation went on with this album, with screams, guest vocalists, and even a piano ballad thrown into the mix. Luckily, it all paid off, with “Mmhmm” turning out to be the groups’ best record to date. Tracks like “Life After Death And Taxes” and “More Than Useless” will get stuck in your head for days. 4.5/5 stars

21. Stereo Motion --- Stereo Motion



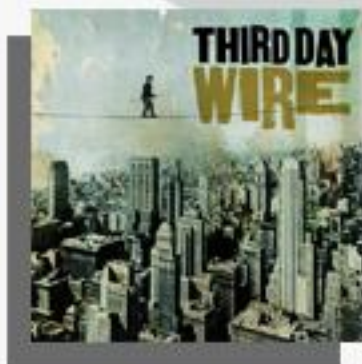
Everyone loves it when one of those cookie-cutter boy bands reinvents itself into something truly special. What? You’ve never seen it happen? Well it did in 2003 when Phat Chance called it quits and then returned in the form of rock ‘n rollin’ Stereo Motion. Brining to the table a superb mixture of classic rock, grunge and just enough pop sensibility to make every song a catchy piece of ear-candy, these guys dropped a debut unlike anything in the market at the time. Tracks like “Tip Of My Tongue,” “Revolution Times,” and “Rise” beg to be played loud with the windows down on a summer drive. My only regret is that they never released a sophomore effort. 4.5/5 stars

20. Hawk Nelson --- Smile, It's The End Of The World



Easily HN’s best effort. “Smile...” found the group easing out of its comfort zone with tracks like “The One Thing I Have Left” and “Zero.” This was where Hawk Nelson made the jump from being just another Green Day clone to a true rock group. Still a regular in my stereo today, “Smile It’s The End Of The World” should be a mainstay in any rock or punk collection. If you can catch these guys live, do it. 4.5/5 stars

19. Third Day --- Wire



An interesting point in Third Day’s career. “Wire” holds some of Third Day’s edgiest and softest material. A lot fans thought it was so-so. A lot hated it. A lot thought it was Third Day’s best, and still think it is. I’m of the latter camp. None of the group’s other material compares. Rocking, thoughtful, worshipful, and at times even downright bluesy. Third Day doesn’t get any better than “I Gotta Feeling” or “Innocent” 4.5/5 stars

18. 12 Stones --- 12 Stones



Creed has nothing on these guys. Heartfelt lyrics, gut wrenching screams, and roaring guitar solos. Post grunge does not have a better song than "Crash" or "Back Up" 4.5/5 stars

17. Pillar --- Where Do We Go From Here?



Hands down Pillar's best. None of their work before or since compares to "Bring Me Down" or "Hypnotized." Vocalist Rob Beckley's screams sound positively sublime and the dueling basslines and guitar licks stand toe-to-toe with metal's best. 4.5/5 stars

16. Jars Of Clay --- The Eleventh Hour



Jars Of Clay has never released a weak album. But for me, this one stands tall above everything but their debut. "Disappear" and "Revolution" are some of my favorite songs of all time. Don't even get me started on "The Edge Of Water" or "Scarlet". 4.5/5 stars

15. Copeland --- You Are My Sunshine



Perhaps not strictly a rock album, but "...Sunshine" earns its place in uniqueness alone. Graceful, yet urgent. Melancholy, yet strangely upbeat. There's nothing like it, and you'll find yourself lost amidst the timid guitar lines and Marsh's angelic falsetto. 4.5/5 stars

14. Falling Up --- Captiva



Falling Up may be no more, but their magnum opus Captiva will be a regular in my playlist for a long time to come. Haunting, melodic piano lines, driving guitars, and plenty of great synth work make up the bulk of this album. Frontman Jesse Ribordy's signature lyricism is abundant and poetic as ever. Don't miss "How They Made Cameras." 4.5/5 stars

13. Sherwood --- Qu



While still a relatively new release, "Qu" earns a spot here for its near-perfect version of pop-rock. Every track will get stuck in your head at one point or another, and songs like "Worn" and "Hit The Bottom" will get those wheels in your head turning. 4.5/5 stars.

12. Project 86 --- Picket Fence Cartel



I'll probably draw a lot of flack from P86 purists for placing this above "Songs To Burn Your Bridges By" Hey, stop living in the past. "...Bridges" was good, but "Picket Fence Cartel" is leaps and bounds above it. Every song is a battle-cry, and the title track is probably the most unique worship song ever written. 4.5/5 stars

11. Underoath --- They're Only Chasing Safety



This was the one that made UO what they are today. This is the king of screamo albums, and I doubt it will ever be dethroned. Even folks who were appalled at the thought of "scream music" were singing along to "Reinventing Your Exit" before long. A true classic. 4.5/5 stars

10. As Cities Burn --- Hell Or High Water



Again, ACB purists may disagree with me on this one, but "...High Water" is a masterpiece. Superb instrumentation, extremely emotive vocals, and unflinchingly honest lyricism. Just try to listen to "Made Too Pretty" without feeling just a bit guilty. 5/5 stars

9. Ivoryline --- Vessels



Best album of 2010 and one of the best Tooth And Nail Records has ever released. Brutally honest with some of the best hooks around. "Walking Dead" is the best wake-up call Christians have had in a long time. 5/5 stars

8. Skillet --- Comatose



"Collide" found Skillet edging toward a more anthemic rock sound, "Comatose" found them perfecting it. "Rebirthing" and "Whispers In The Dark" will have your head banging and your fist pumping while tracks like "The Older I Get" will provide some food for thought. 5/5 stars

7. Family Force 5 --- Business Up Front, Party In The Back : Diamond Edition



There's only one way to describe this album. Pure, unbridled, southern-fueled FUN. Mix some rap, rock, hip-hop, and plenty of pop catchiness and you've got "Business Up Front..." I still haven't found an album that has this kind of energy. To quote "Peachy," "These are great musicians this singer's got. And he writes his own songs. I guess you could call him a musical genius!" 5/5 stars

6. Flyleaf --- Flyleaf



These guys - and gal - may duck the "Christian Band" label, but their lyrics proclaim their faith more boldly and with more conviction than most so called "Worship Bands." Tracks like "Cassie" and "All Around Me" are not easily forgotten. 5/5 stars

5. House Of Heroes --- The End Is Not The End



If the Beatles had formed in the 2000's, this likely could have been the result. To put it plainly, this album would be worth the purchase were the price tag fifty dollars, its quality is superb. Uniqueness, immense. An amazing release from a relatively unknown group, surpassing most if not all mainstream releases in the genre. Alternative rock at its best, entirely unique, and yet extremely accessible. Pick this one up. Period. 5/5 stars

4. Brand New --- Daisy



Not strictly a "Christian Rock" album, but still superb. Everything from soft ballads, to explosive screams, to Nirvana style guitar solos - often in the same song. Brand New will have you relaxed by jazzy drum beats and floating guitar lines one moment, only to forcibly yank you out of your sense of peacefulness with a barrage of dissonance and face melting yowls. Challenging lyrics abound, especially on track like "At The Bottom" and "Noro." The way album bookends with an old hymn is genius, and provides a sublime contrast to the rest of the albums unbridled emotion. The first time "Bought A Bride" erupted into its chorus, my reaction was an emphatic "YES!" 5/5 stars and a definite buy.

3. Switchfoot --- Hello Hurricane

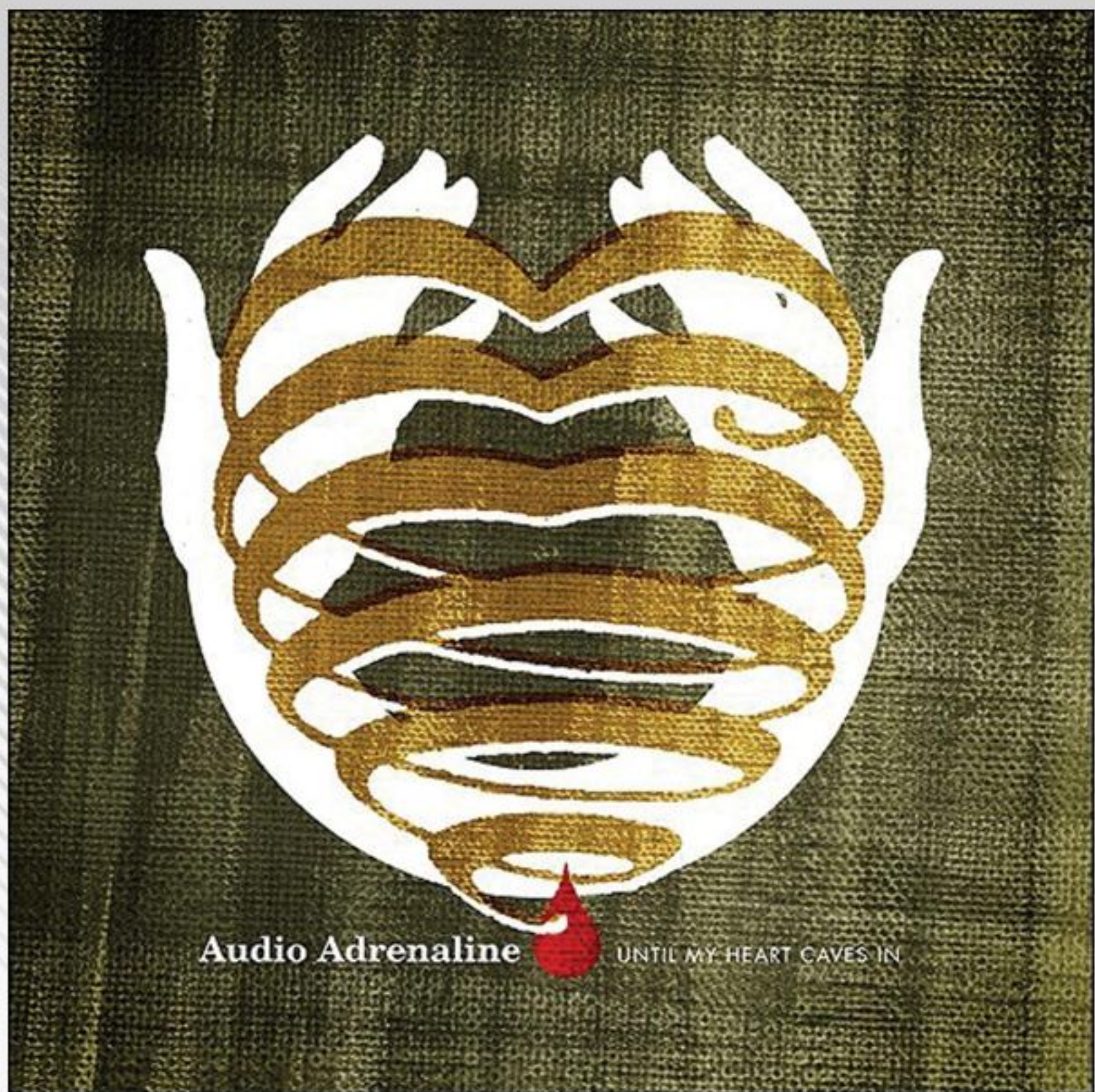


Yes, I can hear you naysayers. "What??? Hurricane? Why not Beautiful Letdown?" Well, frankly, only about half that album is really, really great. "Hello Hurricane," on the other hand, has nary a weak verse, let alone an inferior song. Filled to the brim with Switchfoot's very best, "...Hurricane" is a modern masterpiece. Everything from the opener "Needle And Haystack Life" to epic closer "Red Eyes" is chock full of Jon Foreman's best lyricism to date, as well as some of the greatest musicianship in the industry today. Even if you never liked Switchfoot before, you'll probably find something to like about this album. 5/5 stars. Purchase. Period.

2. Anberlin --- Cities



Can you spell breakout? "Cities" put Anberlin on the map in a big way. No small wonder with tracks like "Godspeed" and "(*fin). Everything about this album has an epic feel, building to rushing crescendos and crashing finishes. From the mellow love song "Inevitable" to the pounding "Reclusion" the album screams success. A true milestone and modern classic. "Cities" deserves a place on your shelf no matter what your tastes. 5/5 stars. A must have.



1. Audio Adrenaline --- Until My Heart Caves In

It's only fitting that the best Christian Rock album of the last decade belongs to one of the greatest Christian Rock groups of all time. Audio Adrenaline's final album before their all-too-sudden break-up was certainly one of their best. Filled with superb rock tunes for any occasion, ranging from energetic fist-pumpers like "Clap Your Hands" to worshipful tunes like "King" and the title track, "Until My Heart Caves In" is one of Audio A's many career highlights. It contains my favorite straight up rock song, my favorite worship song, and even my favorite cover song - the band's version of "Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher." I can't recommend this album enough. Audio A shall forever be my favorite band of all time, and here, they're at their best. "Until My Heart Caves In" was the band's second album in a row to win a Grammy, and with good reason. Audio A is at the top of their game here, weak points - let alone songs - are non-existent on this release. 5/5 stars.

The Bible In Focus



In every edition, we will strive to bring one major person from The Bible into focus. Maybe you've heard of them, maybe not, but we'll try and learn a little more about them, a few more details, and maybe find a way to relate to them today.

Spotlight: Luke

New Testament / Gospel of Luke / Book of Acts

Luke, while not one of the 12 disciples, wrote the Gospel of Luke and is believed to have also written the book of Acts. There are several notable characteristics that set Luke apart from the other New Testament writers. First of all, he was the only Gentile to write any books of the Bible. This fact alone sets him very far apart from all the other writers because the separation between the two groups up until the time of Christ had always been massive. Also, Luke was the only scientist to write in the Bible; this shows in his writing through detailed and precise accounts of events.

Honestly we know little to nothing about Luke's background because the books that he wrote didn't focus on himself, the Gospel of Luke focused on the life, death, and resurrection of Christ while Acts focused on the early church. What we do know is that Luke was a physician (Colossians 4:14, "the beloved physician") and that he traveled with Paul on many of his missionary trips. It is very possible that one reason for this is that Luke stayed with Paul to help treat his "thorn in the flesh" (II Corinthians 12:7) that he suffered from.

Unlike the writers of the other three Gospels Luke was not actually present at the events that he wrote about, Luke went about and collected data from various eyewitnesses to compile a more complete view of what happened. This is a very different structure than the other three Gospels used, they were all eyewitnesses and thus were writing from their own perspective. The fact that Luke could look at the situations from several different peoples viewpoints allowed him to report very accurately what happened during Jesus' ministry. This was not however the case for the book of Acts, most of the stories in that book were straight from Luke's perspective because he was one of the more prominent followers of Christ during the days of the early church and was writing about his experiences.

Luke's books are generally characterized by two big things, the precision and historical accuracy with which they are written, and the love and care he shows for individuals. Both of Luke's books show that he truly and deeply cares for every person that he comes into contact with, the books are very warm and loving towards all people. This is possibly due to the fact that Luke was a physician and so he was predisposed to care about every individual as though they were a spiritual "patient" that he needed to heal.

So, next time you read the Gospel of Luke or Acts, notice how Luke, Dr. Love, combines the precision of a scientist with the caring love of a doctor and compare that to the tone and writing styles of the other books. Doing this will grant you insight into the personalities of these timeless Bible characters and will give you a better feel for what they are trying to say to you.

