

What an exciting beginning to this first year of full-time ministry for my family and me! The Lord has shown himself in all aspects of this endeavor as we learn to trust in Him and not our own abilities! He has blessed us with new friends and new places to see, and with the privilege of spending time together as a family, doing what He has called us to do! After 25 years as a Graphic Artists/Designer, in February '06, I left my 9 to 5 (and health insurance) behind and embarked with Lore on this journey to spread the Good News of Christ through our music full-time! Now we are travelling to different churches, coffeehouses and recovery programs playing worship music for all kinds of great folks. My friends have encouraged me and advised me on many different aspects of music ministry.

Noah Largent and I have met regularly to pray and confer on spreading the word. Justin Fox has provided valuable advice and encouragement, as he's been doing exactly this for 12 plus years. Carl Freidel has given me numerous opportunities to lead worship and build a team at Peninsula Christian Center. Nate Rehn has been a great encouragement from the very start! Phil Taylor (bluedog harp meister) has been at every South Bay gig and provided booking contacts from his vast experience as Road Dog and Koinanea lighting director. And Loren Laumer at Christian Heights in Sonora has been really helpful in giving me the Pastor's-eye viewpoint of approaching churches.

Here are the chronicles of our first year “on the road”

1/20/06 - NAMM Show - Anaheim, CA -Chris, Jim & Steve

My second North American Music Manufacturer's Show-Had a great time, saw Will Ray, John Jorgenson, Jerry Donahue from the “Hellecasters”. Fee Waybill, JoeLynn Turner from “Rainbow”, Tommy Shaw from “Styx”,

“Switchfoot” played an unplugged show in the Taylor booth. We mistakenly occupied the John Jorgenson Band's reserved table at their show, but when they came to sit there was still plenty of room for Jim and I. I walked my dogs off!

2/26/06 - Easton Presbyterian, AM/PM - Fresno, CA -My first concert after leaving my day job for good and hitting the “Musicianary” trail. what a blessed way to start. The PGE youth band opened the show with a great rockin' worship set-Jim Belt and Scott Nielsen played Bass & Drums and my old high school friend Mike Caglia showed up to surprise my socks off after 25 years! All sorts of other Fresno Friends showed up to see what I've been doing since we moved to the coast 9 years ago.

2/27/06 -"Perspectives" - Monterey 1st Baptist, Monterey, CA -The first of sixteen worship sets I lead for this great bunch of mission builders. Met lots of great speakers from all over the US!

3/4/06 - Heart Rock Cafe, 8:00pm - Sonora, CA- Wishes rocked the house just like when we started 14 years ago. There was a group of ska skankin' teenagers there on their way back from Dodge Ridge. Bruce and Debbie Weed rocked with us too.

3/5/06 - Big Valley Grace Church , AM/PM - Modesto, CA -My first time at this Huge church in the valley. We stayed with Cousin Jim Carlson and his lovely wife Laurel in Oakdale, had a great visit and played AM worship for BVG's single's group. Returned that night to play a full blown worship concert with Dadgad, the mondo Mando and the River of Praise Loop.

3/19/06 -The Monterey Church - Monterey, CA -Brand new church on the Peninsula, started by Pastor Bryan James from way down in dixieland.Lots of nice folks there and great ideas for introducing unchurched folks to our Savior in the Embassy Suites hotel. Played 5 Sunday mornings in a row, ending on a beautiful sunny Easter morning.

3/24/06 - R & R Recovery, 7PM - Palo Alto, CA -Another visit to this South Bay recovery spot. Great folks and great food. A chance to play my “friday night” songs for people who know what down means.

5/6/7/06 - Fisherman’s Conference, - Hume Lake, CA -I played a commando concert to the hundreds of hungry men standing in the food line at this “Largest” westcoast Christian Camp. Someone put a dollar in my case. Daniel and I both won 3rd prizes in the Fishing Contest out of six hundred fishermen.

6/3/06 -The Works - Pacific Grove, CA -Played my first secular coffeehouse gig at this new venue with my good friend and neighbor Erin Gray joining me for the tail end of the set. She brought the packed house down with her “Retha” stylings!

6/17/06 -Sweet Elena’s Bakery, Sand City, CA -My first ever Art Opening backing up Erin Gray on guitar and vocals, great pastries!

6/22/06 -Quail Lodge- Carmel, CA -A strange little country club date with Erin Gray and drummer Will, but we sounded good together.

6/25/06 -First Southern Baptist- Woodville, CA -This little country church has powerful preachin’ pastor in Pastor John. Who needs a PA? He delivers the Word! What a gracious bunch of folks too. They threw a fried chicken Sunday feast for us!

6/29/06 -Monterey Live - Monterey, CA -This songwriter’s showcase with Erin Gray was where I first met my friend Guywin-(see Christmas Eve at Bethlehem)

7/15/06 -The Works - Pacific Grove, CA -This time Peter Tvrsnik brought some of his great original music for the second set-Evan brought the great guitar licks from their band “When Memory Evades” another packed house went home happy!

7/16/06 -Coastlands, AM - Monterey, CA -Played worship for the last time at this little church at the YMCA in Monterey as my good friend and mentor Jim Oswald retired as Pastor. He and Lynda sure blessed this flock with fifteen years of service.

7/23/06 -Mayflower Church , AM - Pacific Grove, CA -Morning worship at my brother Ken’s church here in the Grove. A preview of the upcoming Wednesday night concert to follow.

7/26/06 -Mayflower Church , PM - Pacific Grove, CA -A nice sitdown potluck dinner in this vintage 1920’s woodgrained fellowship hall. I performed Lore’s new song “The Key” for the first time. Met lots of nice people and made them cry, including Rev. Wayne Martin who just happened to be strolling by, heard the music and came on in and whom the Lord will use to bless my family and I further down the trail.

8/2/06 - Spirit Westcoast Festival - Monterey, CA -American Christian Songwriter’s Showcase allowed me to share some new material and reacquaint myself with another Christian songwriter Andy Allen who has opened shows for wisheswerefishes in the past. He turned up the following Sunday at our church in Monterey and shared some good advice on booking and camps with me.

8/4/06 - R & R Recovery, 7PM - Palo Alto, CA -Back to the South Bay. This time I found a treasure at their Goodwill store. Imagine my surprise when I opened that funky guitar case and found a 1950’s Harmony Montclair guitar in good condition inside! Now hanging proudly in my studio.

8/19/06 - Heart Rock Cafe, 8:00pm - Wishes plays for one of our favorite crowds in Sonora “the heart of the Motherlode”. Pastors Craig and Diane Andrus graciously host the family in their cool “Retro Roost” apartment.

8/20/06 - Christian Heights Assembly - Sonora, CA -Hosts of the HeartRock Cafe, this church has done some groundbreaking work for the Lord up in the hills of Sonora. I played both AM services and then back down to the HeartRock to play a concert after their “Prayer Walk” and Ice Cream Social in downtown Sonora.

8/26/06 -Bixby’s - Carmel, CA -Billy Quan’s Bill Lee opened this trendy nightclub at the mouth of the Carmel Valley to the Jazz stylings of my friend Erin Gray with Will and me backing her up! The first time I’ve played for three hours in quite some time.

9/8/06 - Higher Power, 7:00pm - Foster City, CA- Wishes is back in the SF Bay area to join Pastor Steve Aurel in his team’s ministry for the hopeless and hurting in this metropolitan center.

9/15/06 - Salinas First Pres , 7:00pm - Salinas, CA - Celebrate Recovery hosted a worship concert as a special event for their friday night crowd, the first time I’ve gone out by myself-”sans familia” in awhile. I made some new friends and hope to make this a regular stop.

10/22/06 - Southgate Church , 7PM - Fresno, CA -What a Great Day! A brand new church with their brand new worship leader-Jim Belt!!! I get to help kick off the church by joining the worship team on electric guitar for a rockin’ set that included “Meant to Live” by Switchfoot-one of my faves.

10/24/06 - Immanuel High School, 9AM - Reedley, CA -This Valley Christian High School regularly has touring bands come and share at their Tuesday morning chapels. We were blessed to be here-Jeff March and Rick Robbins were our gracious hosts and the kids there were Great! Sing-along time in Reedley!

11/11/06 -Black Forest Espresso , 7:00pm - Pacific Grove, CA - A brand new Christian Coffeehouse ministry, close to home! Ken and Kimberly have a heart for ministry and welcome their patrons with open arms, open ears and open hearts, Mele Fangulala and Chuck Lares helped me kick the music into high gear as we inaugurated the neighborhood to an overflow crowd.

11/18/06 - House Concert , 7:30pm - Pacific Grove, CA - Chuck Lares invited me to this intimate venue down-home hoedown -We had a good time sharing Chuck’s gift for songwriting and testimony and I played some of my tunes from the upcoming CD.

11/19/06 - Monterey First Baptist , 6:00pm - Monterey, CA - A night of thanksgiving praises to our Lord who provides all we need. Lots of folks got up and shared what the Lord had done for them in the past year, proof positive of a God that loves each of us. Lots of tears of joy and affirmation.

11/24/06 - Heart Rock Cafe, 6:00pm - Sonora, CA - Our first Holiday Parade with over 90 floats and vintage cars and when Santa went by on his sleigh we kicked into “Everything About You” by Sanctus Real - our biggest crowd ever at the HeartRock and a real Christmas feeling in the air!

11/26/06 - Bay Hills Community Church, 10:00am - Hayward, CA - Thanks to Pastor Paul Null of the NextGeneration Coalition of Baptist Churches we were invited to head up to Hayward and share some special music with Pastor Gary Ray’s flock of believers at Bay Hills. These people were so encouraging to us as we complete our first year as a family depending on His grace for all we have.

12/2/06 -Circle of Love Fundraiser - Pacific Grove, CA -Each year Erin Gray, her husband Steven and her friend host a benefit concert to raise money to provide for the needs of homeless families on the Monterey Peninsula. We all had a great time singing together. Daisy (Erin's daughter) belted out some rockin' Christmas tunes and we all enjoyed the delectables on hand.

12/8/06 -The Manor - Carmel, CA - Erin Gray and daughter Daisy, caroling away with Chris on guitar and backing vocals underneath the Giant Christmas Tree.

12/9/06 -Asilomar Conference Ctr - Pacific Grove, CA -Erin, Will on drums and Chris played the hippest set of the year to this Birthday Party crowd at Asilomar conference grounds.

12/16/06 - Southgate Church , 7PM - Fresno, CA -A Christmas Evening to Remember at this new church in the Sunnyside area of Fresno. Delicious dinner for seventy and another chance to share these songs the Lord has put on my heart. We stayed with Niece Janelle and GREAT nephew Max!

12/17/06 - Southgate Church , 10AM - Fresno, CA -Chris & Jim's Rockin' Gospel Worship Band.

12/24/06 -Bethlehem Lutheran Church , 11:00pm - Monterey, CA - Guywin (remember Guywin from June's entry?) introduced me to the good folks at Bethlehem Lutheran who decided to present a Candle-light Christmas Eve Celebration just like when I was a kid in Foot-Jammies! I shared some songs and Pastor Mick's wife Diane led in some beautiful Carols on Piano. The Korean Church that shares the building also shared their most talented string quartet and Chorale singers and everyone shared the Desserts in the fellowship hall! Happy Birthday Jesus!!!

12/31/06 - Bay Hills Community Church, 10:00am - Hayward, CA - Worship concert time as Pastor Gary Ray asked us back to share the full program. Roger and Sherry Schultz treated the family to a lovely lunch and fellowship at Sweet Tomatoes.