

# saved

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NO COMPROMISE @

# saved festival

by Danielle Austria

**T**housands of people flocking in to attend a music festival. Looking from the outside, it may have been just a typical Saturday night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. Looking from the outside, it didn't seem like the world was changing significantly. But sitting in the midst of thousands of souls being moved by God, you see lives being changed. SAVED Festival was a first of its kind in the Philippines (or even in Asia, for that matter) with 8 artists coming together for 6 hours of worship to ONE GOD. A clearer understanding of salvation is revealed as the artists and speakers give the message of God's grace and mercy, urging us to lead uncompromised lives.

Pure energy surged through the coliseum as Gary Valenciano opened Saved Festival with "Sa Yahweh Ang Sayaw". Everyone thought it was perfect that the Festival started with a Filipino song. People not only sang along familiar lyrics, but even grooved with Gary as he led the congregation in vigorous worship. Pausing for a few minutes, he shared a few encouraging passages from the Bible (Psalm 20, Psalm 121) before slowing it down with heartfelt songs like "Could You Be Messiah" and "Take Me Out of the Dark", and once again pumping up the place with his last song "Shout for Joy".

The party was just getting started, and people were still coming into the Coliseum! "You don't scream and shout for people! You scream for Jesus!" cried Jose Villanueva III, also known as contemporary Christian rapper and vocalist Quest. He said he's been celebrating Saved since the day he gave his life to God. His upbeat songs were a reflection of his obvious love and passion for Jesus, and it was contagious! He certainly set the mood for the rest of the night, as the crowd stayed on their feet to sing, dance and shout their praises to Jesus. In between songs, Quest would give words of encouragement on standing firm in the faith God has called us to, and to go out and fulfill our great commission to share the Gospel to everyone.

Jodi King followed, taking to the stage an upbeat, positive vibe with songs like "Breathing In, Breathing Out" and her recently-released single "Happy".

Homegrown Christian band Sideshow capped the first half of the night with bass-reverberating renditions of "Alleluia", "Life Light Up" and "As the Deer".

Indeed, each artist's set lists had just been perfect, drawing the crowd into complete worship, affirming of God's sovereignty and love. However, it is one thing to sing about God's glory and power; it's another to be a living testament to it.

Steve Ruetschle, an American pastor who has been serving at Union Church of Manila as Senior Pastor figured in a motorcycle accident in 2010 while vacationing in the U.S. that fractured his C6 and C7 neck vertebrae – leaving him paralyzed from shoulders down. A video was played on screen, showing of this man's struggle from the time of his accident to all the surgery procedures and therapy sessions, which brought the crowd to tears. We all saw that because of the inability to move, his family served as his hands and feet. A battery of doctors even said that the chances for him to walk again were slim to none.

But oh, were they wrong. One year later, Pastor Steve comes out onto the Saved Festival stage walking and ready to talk about radical faith. He was the first speaker in the festival, and one who delivered a powerful message. He shared the story of the paraplegic and his friends' faith in the Mark 2, which Pastor Steve said has become his story, too. He testified: "They said 'You'll never walk again'. But Jesus saw the uncompromising, unstoppable faith of my friends and he healed this paralytic. If there's one thing I know, it's that we all have paralyses in our lives and we all need healing." Those paralyses are the compromises that draw us away from our Creator and it is only through Him and through His grace that we are healed and are able

to break free.

Parachute band, who started their set with "Gave It All", took off from Pastor Steve's powerful testimony and sang the very message of the Cross. Parachute Band is fronted by Omega Levine, who is a living testimony of the fact that being "saved" is beyond growing up in a Christian home or in Sunday school. While Omega was in his mother's womb, his thumb was over his face, which caused a delay in the development of his nose. Growing up, he had to undergo major operations to rebuild his face and while it has all been successful, the challenge he was faced was in fitting in or being accepted by other people. He shared that it was so difficult that at one point he even considered taking his life. One day, he cried out to God feeling lost, saying: "I've sung for You all my life, but where are You?" God reached out to him and showed His love and mercy. Today, together with the rest of the band, Omega extends God's love to everyone who may suffer similarly or worse. The song "Mercy" was penned out of that testimony.

The band also backed up Martin Smith, formerly of Delirious, who led the congregation in much loved songs like "Rain Down", "Paint the Town Red" and "History Maker". Martin was the second speaker of the night, and shared another powerful message, encouraging everyone to live a Christ-like life: "There's another dimension to being a history maker and it's about really changing the earth. It's about living in the power of the Holy Spirit, living in the power of God," Martin said. It's about not compromising and really believing in what the Word says – that Jesus walked the earth, healed the sick, cast out demons, saved people and gave them eternal life.

Martin shared that he was with Delirious for 17 years – traveling all over the world, sharing the message of salvation to maybe millions of people, making records – but even he, nearing the end of it and always being busy, realized that he was losing touch of God a little bit. "So I just came away from that for a season. And God was so kind to me...and He said to me, 'I don't really need your songs right now. I don't need your voice. All I want is you.' I just realized what a great thing a history maker can be. It's just simply to be a friend of God."

Canadian group Starfield continued worship with fire and encouraged everyone to just "let go" and bring all the praise to Jesus. Their songs "Revolution" and "Top of Our Lungs" got everybody to their feet, while their renditions of "Hosanna" and "The Stand" provided an opening in the people's hearts for the Holy Spirit to come in through.

Nearing six full hours of pure worship and communing with the Spirit of God, it's amazing how much energy can still be felt in the coliseum. God's people weren't finished giving praise; Citipointe Live finally took the stage. The Australian worship team has held several concerts and seminars in the Philippines, with the Ultimate Worshiper musical workshop held a day prior to Saved Festival as the most recent.

With thousands of hands and voices lifted high, the coliseum resounded with praise. Songs like "Commission My Soul", "Devoted" and "You Reign" prove we'll never run out of reasons to praise Jesus. You can feel the hunger and thirst of the thousands of people who came. They wanted more of Jesus. They wanted more of the Spirit.

What happened on November 26, 2011 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum was indeed more than just 6 hours of foreign and local artists performing beautiful songs of worship. It was even greater than the big stage, the glaring lights and sophisticated sound equipment. And it was definitely more than having over 10,000 Filipinos coming together to worship. It was a night and a place where God opened hearts to realize that they can have more than what this world can offer: through living in the Spirit, through living as Christians with uncompromising lives.



Absolute Purity  
OR  
Relative Purity

SETTLING FOR  
SOMETHING  
LESS

Finding  
GOD  
in the Dark

### Finding God in the Dark

by Regina Tan



“Take Me Out of the Dark” is one of the songs that won Joel Cruz the title of male champion during the 2011 Karaoke World Championships (KWC) Philippines national trials. It is also his personal testimony as one who lived a broken life transformed by God.

For the longest time, Joel was on a downward spiral of drug abuse and, in his own words, “Nag self-destruct talaga ako.”

Joel belonged to a rich family that was able to provide him with everything material he needed and wanted. At 19-years old, he was a hotshot college student driving expensive cars. It was during this time when he married his wife, Tita Bañares. He never thought things would end for someone with so much. “As it turned out, hindi rin pala naglalast...those things,” he said.

In one instant, his family lost everything and began to have financial difficulties. His disappointment began a heavy reliance on drugs despite his wife’s efforts to share the Gospel with him. Joel recalls: “I took 3g of shabu everyday. I smoked four packs of cigarettes a day....Grabe ako. And that’s why kilala na ako sa rehab centers. Parang basura ako e.”

Joel has been in rehabilitation centers eight times already because of his drug abuse. The last time he was taken to a center, he was handcuffed and faced a year or more of rehabilitation. Ironically, it was there where he first encountered God.

“He just came to me one night,” Joel said, “...And that particular night, siguro mga less than two weeks pa lang ako, I was really praying...Tulog na lahat ng mga kasama ko. And sabi ko kay Lord, ‘Lord, embrace mo ako. Embrace mo ako.’” It was then that he felt comforted by God’s presence. “I never felt so- in my whole life -na so much loved ako during that time. Parang sinasabi, ‘Don’t be afraid, I am here.’ And from then on, I thirst for His word,” he said.

In 2005, he left the center after 14 months-- with God in his heart and a new passion in Him to serve. He started a ministry together with his wife, visiting rehabilitation centers and jails, and sharing God’s word to them every Wednesday and Saturday. “The rehabilitation center wanted to introduce me as someone whom God lifted to a changed life...Sinashare ko yung life ko. Paano yung buhay ko when I was still on drugs. When rebelde ako. And then shashare ko din that God made a difference.”

When Joel sang, “Take Me Out of the Dark”, during the KWC Finals, he was singing it for God. “When I sang that song, I was really filled with so much of my past.” He said, “I was declaring na Siya talaga, Siya talaga. Wala namang iba eh... He’s just there waiting for us. If we’re just going to open our hearts and really accept Him in our lives, trust Him, all the blessings will come.”

“I know how it feels like being lost,” Joel said. “I have to represent God who cared for me.”

Joel Cruz later went on to win as 1st Runner Up of the 2011 KWC held in Kilarney, Ireland last September. He continues to minister to those in jail and in rehabilitation centers, as a simple man who was brought out from the dark by God. ■

Full article available on [savednewsmagazine.tumblr.com](http://savednewsmagazine.tumblr.com).

“I know how it feels like being lost.”

## NO COMPROMISE Settling for Something LESS

By Michelle Canoy

Ever since I’ve given my life to Christ, I’ve been hearing mature Christians say that as followers of Jesus, we should live without compromise. The word ‘Compromise’ as stated in Encarta Dictionary would mean ‘something that somebody accepts because what was wanted is unattainable’ or ‘exposure to danger or shame.’ Therefore as Christians, this translates as living our lives wholly to God and not settling for a life less than what He intended for us. When we compromise, we give in to sin and expose ourselves to shame. We set our standards lower compared to what God established for us. It’s like choosing bronze over gold or a stone over a diamond. It’s settling for something less than God’s best.

How you live your life reflects what kind of relationship you have with the Lord. If we live as compromising Christians, this just shows that we have a problem with our relationship with Him. Consider these things then, when you think you’re about to give up and give in to compromise.

► **Consider your faith.** God will not give us trials more than what our faith can handle. He will not let you go through them if He knows you cannot withstand them, so choose to stand firm in your faith.

► **Consider others.** We need to surround ourselves with people who are also living for Christ. When you isolate yourself from them, you’ll be like a coal removed from the rest of the burning coals. Eventually, your fire will be extinguished, therefore it will be harder for you to resist temptation and easier for you to commit sin.

► **Consider His grace.** I wish that the Bible is just a set of rules that can be easily followed, but it isn’t! Willpower is not enough to live a victorious, uncompromising Christian life, we need His grace. Grace is not the license for us to sin but it is God’s power that works in us to say ‘no’ to sin.

► **Consider His heart.** God loves us unconditionally even though we don’t deserve it! We break His heart whenever we sin. If you truly value your relationship with Him and His love for you, it will not be an option to engage into something that you know will crush His heart.

► **Consider Christ.** Consider what Christ did for you and who you are in Him. He gave His life for you so you may have life to the full. He sees you as someone valuable that He decided to suffer on the cross. He Himself didn’t compromise, thus He opted for God’s best and that was for Him to die so you may have a life free from sin’s bondages. When you know your value in Christ, you would be able to stand with godly choices and prevent compromising.

In Christ there’s freedom. Cling on to this truth and remember that when we choose not to compromise, we don’t settle for something less but for God’s best!

### SPIRITUAL MAKEOVER

## Re: Compromise

The word of God is clear on what He thinks about compromise:

#### COMPROMISING HIS WORD

Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you. (Deut 4:2)

So be careful to do what the LORD your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in obedience to all that the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess. (Deut 5:32-33)

#### COMPROMISING SALVATION AND HIS TRUTH

For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. (Rom 1:21-24)

And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. (Rom 11:6)

Paul on False Apostles (Letter to the church of God in Corinth)  
For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough. (2 Cor 11:4)

#### COMPROMISING THE NARROW ROAD

If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. (2 Peter 2:20-21)

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. (1 Jn 2:15-17)

#### WARNING ON COMPROMISING

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim 3: 1-7)

#### CONSEQUENCES OF COMPROMISE

When you did these things and I kept silent, you thought I was exactly like you. But I now arraign you and set my accusations before you. “Consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you: those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless I will show my salvation.” (Ps 50:21-23)

So how do we live a life free of compromise? We have the very manual to do so-- the Bible.

As for God, His way is perfect: The LORD’s word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him. (Ps 18:30)

## People and Places

submitted by Camille Salonga



Our team’s favorite place to have our heart-to-heart discussion is at the Church building itself. After every Sunday service, we often eat our lunch together through “patak-patak” or “ambagan” to buy food for every attendee.

The gathering is not just a place and time for us to study the Word of God, but also a time for our eating fellowship. It is really nice to have people around you whom you can enjoy life with, and share these simple things with a purpose of building a relationship with God and with them.

# Good Stewardship

by Randell Tiongson

Sometime ago, while attending our church service at Victory Greenhills, my pastor (Dennis Sy) said something that made a lot of people pause and think. He said, "Direction, not intention, determines destination". I believe my pastor picked up those words from Andy Stanley's book *The Principle of the Path*. Andy Stanley is one of my favorite authors and I do recommend you pick up his books.

Although my pastor was talking about our spiritual plight, the words got me to think about personal finance also.

I have yet to find anyone who will tell me that he does not want to experience financial prosperity. I am pretty sure there are very few people who relish the idea of being deeply in debt or terribly broke. Financial security remains to be a top goal of almost everyone. During my public talks, I would often ask the question "who wants to be rich?" and I'd see about 90 to 95% of the hands being raised (the other 5 to 10% are probably not listening to me).

People are often looking for a grand magic formula to achieve financial success and many of them are also looking for the quickest way to do it. After 20+ years in the financial services industry and observing hundreds of successful people, I know that there is no such thing and quick-rich ideas, though can work, is hardly ever sustainable. Achieving financial freedom is a long and deliberate process, and most of the time a painful process at that. Fortunately, it is not a complicated process but rather a very simple one. My good friend and best-selling author (Pwede Na! Books) Efen Li. Cruz shared to me 3 ways to get rich. 1) Inherit it (for those born fortunate); 2) Marry it (again, for those born fortunate – physically, haha!); or 3) Spend less than what you make and invest the difference. The 3rd option is actually the only viable option. Inheriting money doesn't always

## "direction, not intention, determines destination"

guarantee you can keep your wealth. Marrying for money is actually a guarantee of a miserable married life. The 3rd option is the sure-fire way to achieving financial prosperity.

The formula is too simple right? But how come majority of us find ourselves lost in the quest for prosperity? Our intention is to be financially disciplined, learn to save, budget properly, etc. Until we see our favorite store on sale, dine at a hotel buffet at a whim, upgrade your car spontaneously, buy furniture unplanned... get the drift? Often times, we lose focus of our goal and we get sidetracked. The intention is still there, we just got detoured momentarily. But hey, "direction, not intention, determines destination" right? It's like having a terrible fight with your spouse -- it is never really our intention to quarrel with our loved ones, but when we lose our control, we get lost and we eventually suffer. One can always make a course correction and redirect towards the original path that will bring us to our destination but there's time lost and a lot of opportunities may be lost as well. In money management, like anything in life, time is really important. We can never make up for lost time.

Next time you are faced with a detour, focus on your destination and remember that the fastest and most efficient way to get there is through a straight line. ■

## WALKING ON WATER

by Joana Rizza Bagano

# One Woman's Faith & A Great God's Faithfulness

"Thank You Lord for this baby," came the whisper. It was a hope that laid bare the humble longing of a mother for a son.

God saw Chiqui's faith and much to her surprise, ended her seven year-long wait. Richard, her second child, was finally on his way.

Flashback: 1975 Miss Universe Pageant, El Salvador. 4th Runner-up Chiqui Brosas recalls those years she basked in the limelight. It was temporary. She says she had to decide what to do next. She chose to go back to school.

Chiqui finished a degree in International Business Administration but it didn't occur to her then that one day she would be putting up her own business. She didn't have any idea she would become a childbirth educator.

While on her first job Chiqui met her handsome gentleman, business magnate Ralph Hahn. To him she became a dedicated housewife and to their 5 lovely children (Regina, Richard, Robert, Rachel and Rosette) a mother.

While expectant with Richard, Chiqui took Lamaze classes. These teach expectant mothers many ways to work with the labor process to reduce the pain associated with childbirth. Richard came after 15 hours of labor, which was how long the textbooks would describe it.

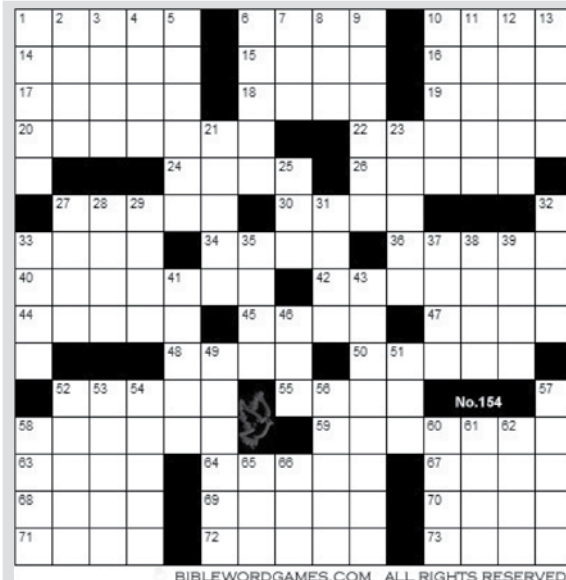
"It was painful but it was beautiful," Chiqui said. "My son was born praising God as he waived his hands up in the air. It is in this moment I often look back to remind me of God's continued love and faithfulness," she added.

It was after Chiqui delivered Richard that she knew she wanted to become a childbirth educator. "I wanted to teach women another way to give birth rather than just being knocked out. I wanted them to have their partners by their side to share with them this wonderful event in their lives and to start the bonding between mother, father and baby."

Chiqui looks back over the years and praises God for all the steps He let her take. She has been a widow for 8 years now and God has proved faithful to her family by providing them with just enough and more. "God is truly an awesome, great and wonderful God! He stays true to His word. He will always fulfill His promise. He stays faithful even if we are not at times because that is what He is, faithful," Chiqui said. ■

... I often look back to remind me of God's continued love and faithfulness.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

- Do you not know that in \_\_\_\_\_ all the runners run (1,4) (1 Cor 9:24)
- He asked, "\_\_\_\_, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)
- They hatch the eggs of vipers and \_\_\_\_\_ a spider's web (Isa 59:5)
- They heard that Paul and Silas were \_\_\_\_\_ citizens (Acts 16:38)
- now I \_\_\_\_\_ in part; then I shall know fully (1 Cor 13:12)
- rabbit (Deut 14:7) (KJV)
- Abraham set \_\_\_\_\_ seven ewe lambs (Gen 21:28)
- Go \_\_\_\_\_ all the world and preach the good news (Mark 16:15)
- Do not slaughter \_\_\_\_\_ or a sheep and its young on (1,3) (Lev 22:28)
- it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 10:28)
- Consider the \_\_\_\_\_: They do not sow or reap (Luke 12:24)
- I will give to drink without \_\_\_\_\_ from the spring (Rev 21:6)
- I also want women to \_\_\_\_\_ modestly, with decency (1 Tim 2:9)
- They were stoned; they were \_\_\_\_\_ in two; they were put to (Heb 11:37)
- "You \_\_\_\_\_ were with Jesus of Galilee," she said (Matt 28:69)
- no remedy for your \_\_\_\_\_, no healing for you (Jer 30:13)
- I \_\_\_\_\_ half of my possessions to the poor (Luke 19:8)
- It will be a shelter and \_\_\_\_\_ from the heat (Isa 4:6)
- one of the soldiers with a spear \_\_\_\_\_ his side (John 19:34) KJV
- It is for \_\_\_\_\_ that Christ has set us free (Gal 5:1)
- An \_\_\_\_\_ must be blameless, the husband of but one wife (Titus 1:6)
- vain for you to rise up early, to sit up \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 127:2)
- Many are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the wicked (Ps 32:10)
- The merchant \_\_\_\_\_ dishonest scales; he loves to defraud (Hos 12:7)
- At this my body is racked with pain, \_\_\_\_\_ seize me (Isa 21:3)
- exalt him that is low, and \_\_\_\_\_ him that is high (Ezek 21:26) (KJV)
- How you have fallen from heaven, O morning \_\_\_\_\_ (Isa 14:12)
- to see if the waters were \_\_\_\_\_ from off the face of the ground (Gen 8:8)
- He will oppose and will exalt \_\_\_\_\_ over everything (2 Thess 2:4)
- the wringing of the \_\_\_\_\_ bringeth forth blood (Prov 30:33) KJV
- He will show you a large \_\_\_\_\_ room (Mark 14:15)
- You weep and \_\_\_\_\_ because he no longer pays attention (Mal 2:13)
- "Yes, Lord," she said, "but \_\_\_\_\_ the dogs eat the crumbs (Matt 15:27)

- Those who were my enemies without \_\_\_\_\_ (Lam 3:52)
- looked like \_\_\_\_\_ of glass, clear as crystal (1,3) (Rev 4:6)
- you see a cloud rising in the \_\_\_\_\_, immediately you say (Luke 12:54)
- it is hard for a rich man to \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of heaven (Matt 19:23)
- Like a bird that strays from its \_\_\_\_\_ is a man who strays (Prov 27:8)
- The king got up in \_\_\_\_\_ (1,4) (Est 7:7)
- she let them down by a \_\_\_\_\_ through the window (Josh 2:15)
- Send me, therefore, \_\_\_\_\_ skilled to work in gold (1,3) (2 Chron 2:7)
- Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Sam 6:8)
- if a man \_\_\_\_\_ a maid that is not betrothed (Exodus 22:16)
- to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 57:10)
- Lodge or hotel (Luke 2:7)
- but the name of the wicked will \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 10:7)
- the shields and the \_\_\_\_\_, the weapons of war (Ps 76:3)
- use it as a barber's razor to \_\_\_\_\_ your head (Ezek 5:1)
- the ark of the LORD had gone six \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam 6:13) (KJV)
- his feet with shackles, his neck was put in \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 105:18)
- I must preach the good \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom of God (Luke 4:43)
- Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I \_\_\_\_\_ (Ps 119:54)
- they \_\_\_\_\_ and worshiped before the LORD (1 Sam 1:19)
- last letter in Hebrew alphabet
- It sprang up quickly, because the \_\_\_\_\_ was shallow (Matt 13:5)
- Israelites to bring you \_\_\_\_\_ heifer without defect (1,3) (Num 19:2)
- their robes \_\_\_\_\_ not scorched (Dan 3:27)
- do not let your \_\_\_\_\_ hand know what your right hand is doing (Matt 6:3)
- they made upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of the robe pomegranates of blue (Ex 39:24) KJV
- The creatures \_\_\_\_\_ back and forth like flashes of lightning (Ezek 1:14)
- Keep away from every brother who is \_\_\_\_\_ and does not (2 Thess 3:6)
- wisdom has built her house; she has \_\_\_\_\_ out its seven pillars (Prov 9:1) KJV
- Am I \_\_\_\_\_, that you come at me (1,3) (1 Sam 17:43)
- Man \_\_\_\_\_ not live on bread alone (Matt 4:4)
- David took the spear and the \_\_\_\_\_ of water from Saul's (1 Sam 26:12) KJV
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Broken Walls, restorer of Streets (Isa 58:12)
- beast of burden (Matt 21:5) (KJV)
- they never stop sinning; you \_\_\_\_\_ the unstable (2 Peter 2:14)
- the bracelet that is on his \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Sam 1:10) KJV
- The alien who lives among you will rise \_\_\_\_\_ you (Deut 28:43)
- His legs are pillars of marble set on \_\_\_\_\_ of pure gold (Song 5:15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ that will not be moved; its stakes will never (1,4) (Isa 33:20)
- For \_\_\_\_\_ commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light (Prov 6:23)
- Ephraim is \_\_\_\_\_ cake not turned over (1,4) (Hos 7:8)
- they carried the ark of God in \_\_\_\_\_ cart (1,3) (1 Chr 13:7)
- the \_\_\_\_\_, and the pelican, and the gier eagle (Lev 11:18) (KJV)
- listens to me will live in safety and be at \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 1:33)
- gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells \_\_\_\_\_ (Prov 12:17)
- cooking utensil (2 Sam 13:9)
- when I \_\_\_\_\_ on sackcloth, people make sport of me. (Ps 69:11)

Randell Tiongson is an advocate of Life & Personal Finance. He is a Director of the Registered Financial Planner Institute (Phils.) and has over 20 years experience in the financial services industry. He is also the cofounder of <http://www.income-tacts.com> the country's premiere personal finance on-line community. For speaking engagements, financial planning, training and consultancy, send an e-mail to [randell@randelltiongson.com](mailto:randell@randelltiongson.com). To read his personal finance blogs, visit <http://www.randelltiongson.com/>.

## BOOK FEATURES

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### SOLO FLIGHT: Embracing the Single Life and Discovering God's Purpose

by Grace D. Chong and Francie Castañeda-Lacanilao

In this book co-written with Grace D. Chong, learn from Francie Castañeda-Lacanilao who, for more than five decades, struggled and thrived as a single person until Mr. Right found her. Furthermore, read about eight ladies who took different routes in search for meaning and significance.



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### Worldliness: Resisting the Seduction of a Fallen World

Edited by C.J. Mahaney  
This book uncovers the presence of worldliness-the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has or does. Worldliness then reveals how Christians are to engage a fallen world and boldly preach the gospel, yet not be conformed and ultimately seduced by the system of this world.



### COURAGEOUS LIVING

by Michael Catt  
In the new film COURAGEOUS (from the makers of Fireproof), four police officers are confident and focused when it comes to facing danger on the job. But leading their families at home in a God-honoring way? That takes courage.

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# SIDESHOW



**S**ideshow is a Christian Filipino band that has joined various shows such as the Manila Design Week 2010 in Cubao Expo along with famous Pinoy bands like UP Dharma Down, UrbanDub, and Imago. Their debut album *Like A Tree* sold out with 1000 copies just 2 weeks after its release.

"Our journey, though long and painful, was dominantly fun!"  
"Sideshow is filled with unique individuals with great stories and we're all sharing a chapter now. Stories unfold every moment. We believe the music here are meant to score the stories and conversations of people with God. There is a main show and it is Jesus. The love He teaches makes us alright. No one can outdo what He has done. We are only a side show."  
-- Sideshow, *Like a Tree*

# MARTIN SMITH



**H**ave you heard the songs, "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever", "History Maker", and "Majesty (Here I Am)"? These classic worship songs were composed and performed by none other than Delirious? band (originally known as The Cutting Edge), with former front man Martin James Smith.

Although Delirious? band broke up after a farewell concert tour last March 2009 at the Araneta Coliseum, Martin Smith continued to write songs and collaborate with Christian artists such as Michael W. Smith in his *Healing Rain* album; Israel Houghton in *The Power of One*; Darlene Zschech in *Kiss of Heaven*; Tim Hughes in *Holding Nothing Back*; Jars of Clay in *Redemption Songs*; Parachute Band in "It's You", and Matt Redman in *Intimacy and Beautiful News*, to name a few.

The English vocalist, guitarist and songwriter has been leading worship at conferences around the world, including European Evangelistic Conferences and G12 Europe Conferences. He is also invited as a speaker, giving his powerful testimony and sharing his experiences to each generation of Christian songwriters and artists.

# JODI KING



**S**aved Festival 2011 was the second time Canadian singer/songwriter Jodi King came to the Philippines, following her last visit fronting for the *Planetshakers: Live in Manila* concert in March 12, 2011.

For the past two years, Jodi has toured tirelessly across Canada, building a grassroots following on the strength of her two self-released EPs: 2007's *The Acoustic EP* and 2009's *Street Lights EP* which have sold a combined 11,000 units to date. Her song, "Breathing In, Breathing Out" from the *Street Lights EP*, was also nominated for the 2009 Covenant Award for Inspirational Song of the Year.

The two EP's set the stage for Jodi's forthcoming full-length debut LP, *Little Smile*, which was written over a two year period, reflecting who Jodi is – disarmingly sincere, honest and completely without pretense.

# GARY VALENCIANO



**E**dgardo Jose Martin Santiago Valenciano better known as Gary Valenciano and as "Mr. Pure Energy", is known for being a good singer and dancer not only in the Philippines but also abroad.

Born to a Puerto Rican mother and Filipino father, his 25-year career in the show business and music industry became the yardstick by which other local artists measure theirs. His incredible bravery and faith keeps him firm in his battle with his juvenile diabetes for 30 years now. Unlike other artists in the industry, Gary is known for broadcasting Jesus' fame through his music and his compassion for others. He has released 26 albums, among which is *Out of the Dark*, a Christian inspired album in 1995.

Like Gary V., may we fulfill the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is to stretch our hands to touch the lives of the unsaved and to use our lives and given talents for His kingdom and set it as an example for others, being pure in energy, and pure in heart! - Mark Rivera

# STARFIELD



**H**ailing from Canada and adopting its name from Bruce Cockburn's 1976 song, "Lord of the Starfields", Starfield is composed of brothers Tim and Jon Neufeld on vocals and guitars, bassist Greg Peace and drummer Colin Trask. Possessing a cognizance beyond their years, knowing both what they want to do as musicians and what they want to do as children of God, these young men are fusing their talents and mission to challenge their generation, to strengthen their faith and make it their own.

Starfield has a total of four albums, beginning with their self-titled, *Starfield* in 2004, *Beauty in the Broken* in 2006, *I Will Go* in 2008, and *The Saving One* in 2010. With the release of their fourth major label album, *The Saving One*, the band invites listeners to enter with them into human worship of the eternal God.

# PARACHUTE BAND



**"W**e believe in the power of a song but we also believe that worship is about more than a just bunch of songs. It's about the song that's been sung in your heart. It's about finding the heartbeat of God and living every minute of everyday as an act of worship to God." - Sam de Jong, Parachute Band.

Parachute Band was formed in 1995 out of the New Zealand-based Christian organization – Parachute Music to lead worship at their annual Parachute. In 2007, the Parachute Band's members passed on the mantle to the next generation – a group of young men with the same passion, but with a different sound. Parachute Band came to Manila that same year and had a concert at the Convenarium in QC, where Manila first heard their songs and became an instant hit! In 2009, they came back to the Philippines for *Saved - A Christmas Worship Concert Tour* in the University of St. La Salle Coliseum, Bacolod. The band continually preaches their passion for music where they base their lyrics from the Scriptures. Their latest album, "Love Without Measure," is drawn by the band's compassion for the needs of this world. The band also recently released a new single "Keep The Fire Burning" last December 6. - Sekinah Armeta

# QUEST



**F**ilipino R&B artist Jose Villanueva III, who goes by the moniker Quest, was so passionate about spreading God's word through music that he decided to pursue a career on his own budget. But recording contracts didn't just land in his lap. His first album *Revolution* was recorded with Jumbo de Belen of Flip Music on his own savings. The album features a total of 13 tracks including the hit carrier single, "Back to Love".

"Back to Love", explained Quest in an interview with ABS-CBN Publishing, is an answer to what ails the country. "All this recession, corruption—so many solutions are being offered, but the only one that will really work is if we go back to love." The music video for "Back to Love" features guest appearances by Quest's churchmate and friend, Sam Milby and some of their good friends like former Binibining Pilipinas second runner-up Abby Cruz, John Prats, Richard Poon, Yeng Constantino, and Pilipinas Got Talent finalist Markki Stroem. Of his musical influences, Quest lists Gary Valenciano, The Eraserheads, Rivermaya, Stone Temple Pilots and the late Francis Magalona.

# Citipointe LIVE



**C**itipointe Live is the worship team of Citipointe Church in the city of Brisbane, led by Aaron and Becky Lucas who serve as worship pastors, together with worship leaders Joel Ramsey and Chardon Lewis. They collaboratively lead a team of approximately 300 committed volunteers who are devoted to their vision "to unmistakably influence the world for good and for God".

This "Commission My Soul" hit-maker band previously held concerts in Manila last September 11, 2010 at Phil Sports Arena and three days after, in Naga City at The Avenue Tent, The Avenue Plaza Hotel as part of their *Commission My Soul Worship Concert*. They also held music workshops and concerts in Cebu, Dumaguete and Bacolod. Aside from coming back to the country as part of *Saved Festival*, they also conducted the second installment of their *Ultimate Worshiper Master Class Series* workshop for musicians, tech teams and worship leaders last November 25. - Gracie Soleda





# Alarice

by Ganns Deen

People who meet Alarice for the first time are likely to agree that the young New Zealand-born Singaporean acoustic singer-songwriter changes the atmosphere of a room when she enters. Whether it's the ready sparkle in her eye, the merriment in her laugh, or the instant change in her demeanor when she picks up her guitar, there is something about Alarice that readily transforms the general temperament wherever she is. I should know; I had the pleasure of interviewing her for *Saved* on 106.7 Energy FM.

Listeners of Alarice can expect a similarly positive experience when they listen to her material, packaged conveniently in an EP titled "Sunday Afternoon." The breezy title track is the musical embodiment of her positivity: cool acoustic strumming, an instantly memorable chorus, and a rich, melodious voice that defies description. The EP opener, "Midnight Train" is easily my favorite track, with an anthemic sing-along chorus that instantly sticks to your brain and won't let go. Even her take on the Michael Jackson evergreen "Man in the Mirror" holds its own, as she effortlessly dances in and out of the rhythmic arrangement and the effervescent background vocals.

What makes Alarice's music work? Might it be the influence of several world cultures, thanks to Alarice's having stayed in many countries, including Singapore, New Zealand, Japan, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, India, and Australia? Might it be her musical association to

producer Brad Evans, responsible for popular artists like Human Nature and Guy Sebastian? Might it be her songwriting skill, that led her to a Top 10 finish at the Gospel Music Association's Immerse Conference songwriting competition with her song "Colour"? Might it be the fact that her determination to see her music to fruition led her to learn how to play the guitar herself, just so she could get her creative juices out?

Or maybe it's her passion for God.

"I'm actually also working with a Christian organization. It's a music ministry in Singapore called Operations Asia. Their vision is to reach Asia through music (with) the Gospel," said Alarice, who works as a songwriter and does the marketing for Operations Asia (OopsAsia). "And also, like a bulk of my time, I'm serving at Every Nations Church Singapore as part of the worship team."

While most of Alarice's music may not be expressively Christian, it positively overflows with the kind of joy that is unmistakably the work of God. When she sings, you can almost literally feel her praise; it is palpable and heartfelt.

Said Alarice, "I really hope and pray that my songs would just be an encouragement to you. And that as I found out that Jesus cares for me and wants to be in a relationship with me, I hope that you would also seek God. Because He can change your life."

Here is not characteristically the voice of an angel, but I am convinced she may very well be one of God's more convincing messengers, with her music her most potent gift to lead others to Him. ■

You can learn more about Alarice and her music at [www.alaricemusic.com](http://www.alaricemusic.com)



To order a CD, call 910-5524

## Refresh your playlist 10 Christian songs You Might Not Know Yet

1. **For King & Country**  
**Busted Heart (Hold On To Me)**
2. **Samestate**  
**Hurricane**
3. **Gungor**  
**Beautiful Things**
4. **Rapture Ruckus**  
**This Little Light**
5. **Satellites & Sirens**  
**Ready To Save**
6. **Ashes Remain**  
**Everything Good**
7. **The City Harmonic**  
**I Have A Dream**
8. **Abandon**  
**Let Go**
9. **Mat Kearney**  
**Down**
10. **Shawn McDonald**  
**Rise**

## INSTRUMENTS of GOD

*Hillsong* Steve McPherson Head Manager, Hillsong Publishing



Like most musicians, I have several different musical instruments around my home, ranging from guitars and keyboards to an old trumpet I played in high school. They all sit in their given place in my home, especially my prized and much loved Fender Stratocaster, which is hung up on a wall for all to see.

The obvious thing about all of my instruments is that none of them get anywhere near their potential until I pull them out of their case or pull it off the wall and play them. Then begins this beautiful and artistic partnership between the instrument and the player.

Sure, I bring my own set of limitations to the partnership, as does the instrument itself depending on its condition, but irrespective of this, the fruit of this partnership can be endless and has the potential for great beauty.

Consider if you will the sound of a trumpet. It's unique, brassy and yet triumphant tone. It's built with that particular sound in mind. The length and width of the tubes and the positioning of the valves create the desired sound when in the hands of a trained player. How disappointing would it be if I were to pick up my trumpet and play it, only for the sound that is produced to be more like my Fender Stratocaster than a trumpet?

Did you know that you were built with a particular sound in mind? So often I see people trying to create sounds through the output of their lives that they were simply not created to make. We spend so long trying to change our "sound" that we never discover what the Creator had intended as our desired sound.

Our worship teams are filled with people whose lives emanate God ordained sounds, and this is before they even pick up their instruments. Their joy, their sense of humour, their intelligence and everything else about them go towards their desired sound. Mix this with an intimate relationship with God and you have a beautiful sounding instrument. The sound of our life affects the sound of our music, and God, as the almighty player, places each person strategically in right band, in the right section at the best possible time to create His masterpiece.

Think about that the next time you're rostered to play in the praise team or lead worship in your church. Your keyboard or guitar is your instrument, but you are God's instrument and your sound is exactly what He needs for today's symphony. He longs for the type of partnership I mentioned earlier, between you (the instrument) and Him (the player), and all He wants is for you to sound the way you were created, He'll do the rest. ■

We believe in YOUR good taste. If you have Christian bands or songs that you think people need to know about, send them to us at [savednewsmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:savednewsmagazine@gmail.com). BONUS: Give us at least 15 songs and we'll feature you and your playlist on our Tumblr site: [www.savednewsmagazine.tumblr.com/](http://www.savednewsmagazine.tumblr.com/)

James Mead is the lead guitarist of Kutless, a Christian rock band based in Portland, Oregon. Kutless takes their name from Romans 6:23. The band explains, "He took our cuts for us... leaving us 'Kutless.'" Saved Newsmagazine interviewed James last September 2011.

**Hey guys! We're so glad you guys came to the Philippines last September. How was your stay in Manila?**

We had a great time in Manila, everyone was very welcoming! It was a pleasure to see about 3,000 people get saved also!

**Kutless took its name from Romans 6:23, but is there a particular verse or vision that guides the music and lyrics of Kutless?**

Not just one particular verse, but more the teaching of the Bible holistically. We go to a church that is an exegetical bible study church, and we try to be a band that are students of God's word.

**Is there a ministry that Kutless is part of or supports?**

Yes, we are very involved with Compassion International, and have been on a couple trips with them to South America to meet the children in some of the programs there. We also support their ministry while on tour, bringing informational packets to pass out to people to get them more educated about how they can help kids, and even sponsor one right then and there, at our show.

**Do you guys go to the same church?**

We live in different parts of America, however the 3 of us that live in Nashville Tennessee all go to the same church, and the 2 of us that still live in Portland Oregon both go to the same church.

**What's your take on the Christian music scene today? Is it easier to be a Christian artist in 2011 than it was when you first began Kutless in 2000?**

The challenges that Kutless faces, all basically involve touring revenue and CD sales. I think it might be harder for bands that are younger than us to stand out among such a crowded scene. You could also look to the changes we've seen in

pirated music/illegal downloading. Consumers view digital music as a primarily free product. I think most people don't consider the negative affects it has on the music industry. One "knee jerk" reaction from labels has been to sign a high volume of new bands, and invest little to no money in their recordings, just hoping that something will stick along the way. This has flooded the marketplace with too many bands, and taught the listeners to have a very short attention span. People view very few bands as long term career artists.

**Christian music now has so many genres including hard rock. What advice can you give on introducing hard rock to churches in a conservative country like the Philippines?**

I think the most important decision that needs to be made when considering any kind of Christian message, is "what is the fruit that is coming from this ministry?" If we are allowing God to lead our band, then our music is going to be really healing to a lot of people. The benefits of allowing more Christian concerts in a traditionally conservative area like the Philippines, are that you'll see an excitement growing in the younger generation, and you'll watch them become excited about their own faith.

**Tell us about your single "Amazed". What was the message you wanted to share with the song?**

The message of that song is a message that many Christians can relate to. It's a song for expressing that feeling of being amazed at God's love for us. Sometimes we feel like we can't fathom how far His love fills the universe. It's just a vertical lyrical message song.

**Are there any plans for a new single or even an album?**

We have just finished a new full-length album, and we plan on releasing it in the Spring of 2012!

**What is the best thing about going on tour?**

It's such an excitement to perform music with your bandmates night after night. It's also a great blessing to see God work in so many people's lives in countries all over the world...it really confirms your faith!

**Who in the band is always updating or constantly checking his social networks?**

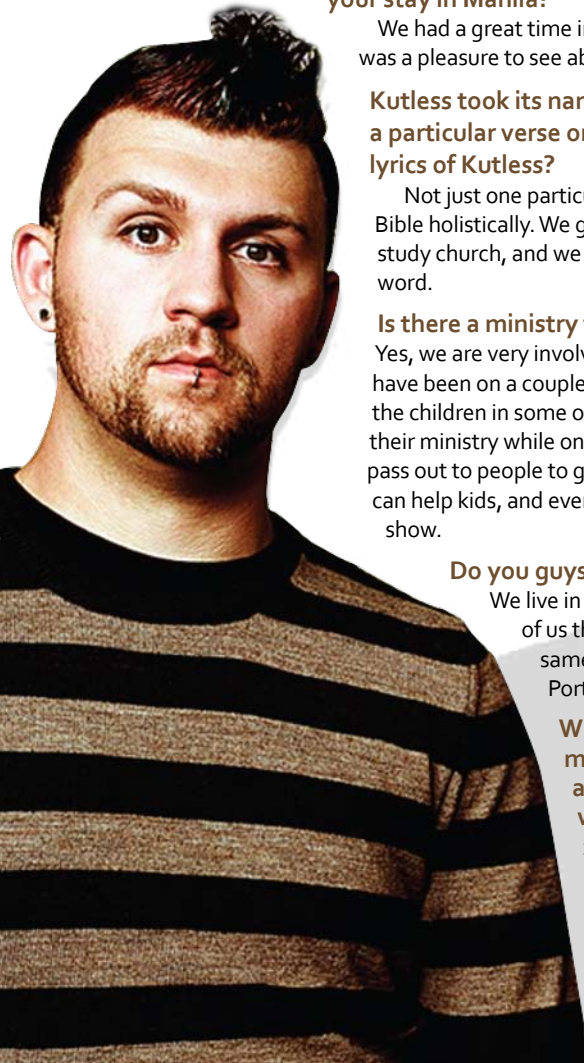
Me: James!!! I use Twitter a lot. Like, a lot.

**Has Kutless ever had a strange or extreme experience while on tour?**

Every tour has extremely strange experiences. Haha!

**What's next for Kutless?**

We are on tour in the U.S. throughout the end of the year, (you can check tour dates on www.Kutless.com), and we are very excited to start performing some new music, and let people know more about the new record. ■



## Citipointe LIVE ULTIMATE WORSHIPER MASTERCLASS SERIES WORKSHOP

**C**ommitted. Supportive. Loving. What do these words have in common? They all describe the Ultimate Worshiper.

Australian-based worship team Citipointe Live shares this standard of excellence in a workshop called *The Ultimate Worshiper Masterclass Series*. First launched by Citipointe Live in 2006 during an international tour in America, the Ultimate Worshiper has one goal: to inspire the complete devotion of a life to worship God.

Worship leaders and musicians in Manila had the opportunity to attend this same workshop when Citipointe Live held the Ultimate Worshiper Masterclass Series last November 25 at the Every Nation Building in Bonifacio Global City. This workshop continued the Ultimate Worshiper series held in Manila and Cebu in 2009. The

attendees were a mixed group of worship leaders and musicians of different ages and hometowns, including those who came from Cainta, from Los Banos- and even some from Davao.

At 9:00 a.m., Citipointe Live started the eight-hour workshop with worship, singing their well-known songs like, "You Reign" and "Devoted". Following worship was the first workshop session led by Becky Lucas, entitled 'Chasing the Heart of God'. The verse 1 Cor 1:10 guides a lesson on working together as a team and building each other up. Session two was led by Becky's husband, Aaron, with 'The Danger of Familiarity', which reminds us to keep our initial awe of God in mind and not be satisfied with what is familiar. After a 15-minute break, Joel Ramsey and Chardon Lewis led session three on leading worship titled 'The Flow'.

Lunch quickly passed with the start of electives, where people were separated according to their chosen elective: from Tech Team, to Vocalists and Worship Leaders, to

Band and Musicians. Those who signed up for the Tech Team were in the Multimedia room with Citipointe Live's front-of-house engineer Jeremy Mardon. Vocalists and worship leaders were in the Assembly Hall with Becky Lucas and Chardon Lewis. Those who signed up for Band and Musicians were in the Youth Hall, where Aaron Lucas led the elective and answered questions by the attendees.

The last session was Song Writing led by Aaron Lucas, Colin Moore, and Joel Ramsey. According to Aaron, sometimes songs just spring out of nowhere, like the bridge of "You Reign", where the lyrics came when they were already recording it. A Q&A portion followed where several questions were asked. One question was about addressing the problem of differences and diversity amongst a big worship team such as Citipointe Live's.

Chardon answers with love, "... We do have a big team. There are a lot of personalities and differences. We encourage individuality at our church like we love the difference of each person."

The Ultimate Worshiper Masterclass Series ended the way it began—with worship. This time, however, with the mindset of devoting one's life to worshipping God. The autograph signing at the end was just a bonus for all who attended. ■

### EDITOR'S NOTE: What's Your Lentil Soup?



Regina Tan  
Editor-in-Chief

**E**sau once said, "What good is the birthright to me?" in Genesis 25:32, and traded it for a bowl of lentil soup. During that time, a birthright was the oldest son's share of the family's estate and is typically double the share of the inheritance. It sounds crazy for someone to give up something so precious and irreplaceable for scraps, doesn't it? When we compromise our faith, it is like giving up your position as a child of God for momentary comforts.

The day Christ came into our hearts, we were saved from our sins (eternal death), and reborn with the promise of eternal life through the love and salvation of Jesus Christ. Because of this, it wouldn't make sense if we returned to living a sinful life!

Jesus never said that being a Christian is easy. We walk a narrow road instead of taking the easier, wider path of sin. (Matt 7:12) Each day is a constant struggle to keep our focus on God while we live on this earth with our everyday worries and distractions. It's easy to give in to our sinful nature with 'white lies' and 'harmless gossip'. It's easy to get carried away with the rat-race to wealth alongside the rest of the world, all the while forgetting the incomparable gift of eternal life. And it's even easier to use excuses like,

"This is for God's glory in the end," or "It's not like I'm hurting anyone," even though it's your own salvation you're putting at risk. It's easy to compromise our commitment to follow Christ.

Themed "Living without compromise", this issue turns the attention towards our personal relationship with God. It doesn't matter how much you know about His word, but how obedient you are in following His will in your life. Forget other people for a moment and check yourself if there is a part of your life you are still compromising your faith on.

What's your lentil soup? ... check yourself if there is still something in your life that you are compromising

\*The Zondervan Group. (2005) Archaeological Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan.

Salvation is found in no one else,  
for there is no other name under heaven  
given to men by which we must be saved.

saved

ACTS 4:12  
Issue 8 | 2012

### Volunteer: Writers, Photographers

Calling all writers and photographers! If you have the talent for writing and a passion to serve God, come join the Saved Newsmagazine team!

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ERRATUM

A Change of Heart: One paragraph from our previous issue was mistakenly retained and included in this article. The name and organization/business/entity mentioned in this paragraph is in no way related to the rest of the article.

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