

Teen Specials!

"TRAUMATIC TESTIMONIES"—FOR TEENS AGE 12 & OVER! (TSM #2—DO)

The Wicked World Behind the Scenes of Rock & Roll!

By Jeremy Spencer

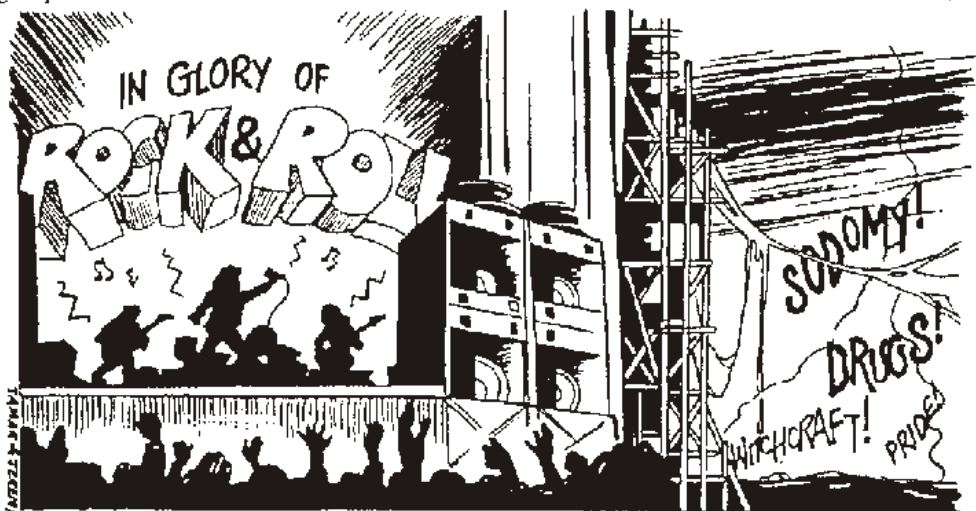
The world of Rock & Roll is a slime pit! Sometimes it's easy to hear stories about the horrors of rock & roll, but still have the thought in the back of your mind that, "It's not that bad! After all, those musicians produce some good music & some give a message, & they don't look that weird when they're on TV or video." In this testimony I will try to relate to you the shocking "inside scoop" which will hopefully smash any idols we have in our minds regarding today's rock stars. Probably you teens have never heard of or know very little about some of the people that I'm going to talk about.—They're the big name rock stars from the time when your parents & I were young, many of whom are still very popular today. But you don't have to know these groups or be familiar with their music to

benefit from these testimonies! The message is still clear—take my word for it!

I brought out some examples in my written testimony in FSM No. 12 & also in my more recent Video testimony, "I Ain't Got the Blues No More" (See GAP—003), where I touched on the raw side of that kind of lifestyle, but this time we'll delve a little deeper to completely expose that ungodly world!

Rampant Sodomy!

Aside from the pitfalls of pride, drugs & money in the Pop music world, the most shocking thing is the widespread acceptance & prevalence of sodomy amongst the musicians, managers & producers. This was what shocked me the most when I first entered the music business. I was a simple



country boy when I joined Fleetwood Mac. I had been living in a very small country town in England & I had a rosy idea of the Pop music scene.

When I first arrived in London, Mick Fleetwood, the drummer of Fleetwood Mac, was living with three or four Sodomites! Then I found out that it was pretty common for guys in the Pop world to be what they call "AC/DC" or bisexual—practicing sex with women & men! Many of the male managers & promoters were Sodomites. One of the oldest Pop music agencies was called "Stable", & it was run by Larry Parnes who would "groom" Pop singers, meaning he would prepare them to be stars. He was a Sodomite. So was Brian Epstein, the manager of the Beatles.

Then I found out that Robert Stig of the Robert Stigwood Organisation (RSO) was a Sodomite! The RSO is one of the biggest Rock music organisations of them all, managing such big groups as the Bee Gees. Bands could not become members of the Robert Stigwood Organization unless a member of the band consented to be Robert Stig's lover-boy. In the Bee Gees it was Barry Gibb, the lead singer, the handsome one.

Ahmet Ertegun, the President of Atlantic Records, who produced our ill-fated album when I backslid in the Family, once saw a Russian ballet troupe & took a fancy to one of the male ballet dancers. So, he literally bought him for thousands of dollars to be his personal "bugger", the old English word for Sodomite!

I encountered one of the most shocking examples of gross Sodomy when I was in Fleetwood Mac. Mick Fleetwood's wife & the woman who was George Harrison's wife at that time were sisters. (George Harrison was the guitarist of the Beatles.) Often these sisters would go together to the big parties that the Beatles threw. One morning while I was talking to Mick, his wife came into the room & was bragging about the party she had gone to the night before & how groovy it was & said that Eric & Paul & George were having a "scene" on the couch. (A "scene" meant having sex together.) That meant that Eric Clapton, George Harrison & Paul McCartney (famous rock singers) were having a homosexual threesome on the

couch! I was shocked! I looked at Mick Fleetwood & he said, "What's wrong with you? What's the matter with you?" I said, "That's disgusting! I don't think that's right!" He said, "Come on! I wouldn't mind having a 'scene' with Eric, George & Paul!"

Around that time Sodomy started creeping in more between the members of Fleetwood Mac. I would sometimes find Mick Fleetwood in bed with Peter Green, the leader of Fleetwood Mac. The way they would talk amongst themselves about other men was disgusting to hear. They would comment on some man's body & say, "Oh, he's cute. I wouldn't mind blah, blah, blah...", like normal System men would talk between themselves about women. What it comes down to is I was living in Sodomy. I'm thankful that while I was involved in Fleetwood Mac I was married & had a child. I believe this & my wife's (Fiona's) prayers for me helped keep me from getting into Sodomy myself. TTL!

Success Means Paying the Devil His Dues!

Witchcraft is also prevalent in the world of Rock & Roll. Peter Green was fascinated by the Devil & he hung around with witches. He wrote the song "Black Magic Woman" which was later recorded by a band named "Santana". That one song made Peter Green a millionaire & put Fleetwood Mac "on the map" in England. It was the first hit song we had, but why?—Simply because it gave glory to the Devil. Remember the Bible says, "And the Devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, showed unto Him all the kingdoms of the World in a moment of time. And the Devil said unto Him, 'All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If Thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be Thine.'" (Luke 4:5-7)

After the huge hit, "Black Magic Woman," Fleetwood Mac came out with a beautiful piece of music called "Albatross" (written by Peter Green) which was also a number one hit. If you were to hear this number you could easily think, "Wow, that's such a sweet piece of music. It's so nice." But I'm sure if Peter Green hadn't first paid the Devil his due, given him the glory & the credit he wanted with his pre-

vious evil Devil-glorifying hit, then "Albatross" wouldn't have had a chance of being a hit.

Another example of this selling out to the Devil first is Cliff Richards, who was a popular singer in the late 50's & 60's in England. He always wanted to be a big hit in the States, but he never made it until 1979 when he recorded a song called "Devil Woman" which was a smash hit & put him "on the map" in the States. He professes to be a Christian, but he's one of those two-mouthed Christians, lukewarm, who professes Jesus on Sundays & then sings the songs of the Devil all week long!

The rising success of Fleetwood Mac in 1976, about five years after I left them, came when they signed up with a couple, Stevie Nicks & Lindsay Buckingham. Lindsay Buckingham was a confirmed witch from Phoenix, Arizona where the headquarters of a witch coven is located. She goes there on occasion & apparently performs miracles, like making it rain. She's playing around with the power of the Devil! She paid the Devil his due with the biggest song on their first album, a number called "Rhiannon", which was the name of a very famous witch from Wales. She also named her songwriting company "Welsh Witch Music". So there's the secret of their success!

Famous Rock Star is Now a Beast!

I saw Peter Green, who actually founded Fleetwood Mac, after I joined the Family, & I asked him if he ever talked to Jesus. He answered, "Yes, but I talk to other spirits too." I told him that I had a dream that he had evil spirits bothering him. He said, "Yes, that's right." So I told him, "You can get rid of them in the Name of Jesus." He said, "I don't want to get rid of them because they're my friends."

He told me he had asked Jesus to come into his heart once.—But if this is the case,

I Backslid!—Back Into the Rock Music Pit!

Some of you teens may know that after seven years in the Family I ended up back in the horrible rock music scene again in a real backslidden state! You may wonder, if I knew so much about how bad it was, why was I deceived into getting back into it? So maybe I can give you a little step-by-step

he is like the man who got rid of an evil spirit but then didn't fill his heart up with the Lord's Spirit. "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, 'I will return unto my house whence I came out.' And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first." (Luke 11:24-26)

I saw Peter Green a few years later in Los Angeles.—He had been imprisoned for beating up his wife. (He married a Jewish-Christian girl & she was pregnant & he beat her up one night, saying she was trying to control his mind. So he was sent to prison.) He was on the phone for two hours at the prison talking to Mick Fleetwood, asking him to bail him out, so Mick did. But then Peter Green complained about leaving the prison & said he would have liked to stay in prison because he felt those were the people he belonged with! How true!

The last time I talked to people who knew Peter Green, they told me that now his fingernails are two inches long, he doesn't wash & he sometimes crawls around on his hands & knees like Nebuchadnezzar did. (Daniel 4:33) One time he was scratching at the door of an ex-girlfriend's house late one night. She thought there was an animal outside her door but when she looked, she saw it was him on his hands & knees scratching at the door & making noises like an animal! The kids nicknamed him the "Werewolf of Richmond" because he prowls around at night in this horrible state & scares people. It's pitiful to think that a man who was a millionaire & had all that fame & glory is now just a beast!—Those are the wages of sin & entertaining the Devil & his evil spirits!

background of how I backslid & got into such a mess!

My History in Family Bands

After I joined the Family I became a part of a Family band called "The L.A. Band" with Singing Sam, Paul Michael & others.

Then Dad suggested I form a band & call it "Jeremy Spencer & the Prophets" or "Jeremy Spencer & the Children of God." If we would have done that, we would have been obeying & doing the right thing. Looking back, I can see how that band could possibly have been used by the Lord at that time to make a hit album to get our message out in the States, if we had followed the counsel Dad gave when it was the Lord's time.

But I leaned to my own understanding & didn't follow Dad's original counsel. To begin with, I didn't name the band what Dad suggested. Also he suggested we record our own Family "hits", but I was more interested in writing & recording my own new songs, & as Dad said, they were "duds" & it was a flop! Because we compromised & didn't obey, we ended up spinning our wheels out in the boonies of Massachusetts with empty promises from a record company who could see we were just a flat failure!

Then I was called to go to France to help "Les Enfants de Dieu" record their first album. Again, as was shown in "Listening or Lamenting" & other Letters about France, that whole band ministry ended up being a flop because of disobedience to Dad's Letters & leaning to our own understanding in wanting to imitate the latest styles of music.

I went from one Family band to another, from one failure to another! I obviously was not really learning my lesson. My next flop was a band in England. Then I went to Brazil to help the Family record a second album. Their first one had been a tremendous hit. But their System producer scorned the first album & he was determined that the second one was going to be bigger & better, have more instruments & be more modern. When it was finished, we sent a copy to Dad & his comment was, "Yes, it sounds good, but doesn't have the Spirit!" It was a big flop! The Lord was driving home the point that if any album was going to be a "hit", it was going to be because of Him, not some famous personality, let alone some ex-Fleetwood Mac name.

A Nightmare!—A Warning from the Lord!

While I was in Brazil in 1976, some brethren came from the States & brought the two latest hit albums of Fleetwood Mac. Fiona & I started listening to them. We thought the music was very catchy, tasteful, put together well & musically very attractive.—Soon we were putting them on at night & the songs were sticking in our hearts & minds!

Then I had a nightmare! We were on a dark street at night in some big city like Los Angeles. Peter Green's house was there & I walked into it. It was very dark & he invited me to stay. He looked normal & was very pleasant & charming. He gave me a really nice big acoustic guitar to play. He graciously said, "You can sit down & play this for awhile." I started playing & it was quite nice, but then I heard this voice say, "Get out of his house or he'll kill you!" It sounded like the voice of an Angel. But I argued back saying, "No, he's being so pleasant & so generous. He's letting me have his guitar & everything."

Then all of a sudden he walked in & I turned around & saw that his look had totally changed! He's a rabid Jew, & on his chest he was wearing a big Star of David & he was looking at me with hate in his eyes! He looked like he was ready to pull a knife on me & actually kill me! He was coming at me, so I jumped out of the chair & I ran out of the house! Then I woke up with the words from a childhood nursery rhyme, "The house that Jack built," ringing in my head.

I told Fiona about the dream & she said,



"Maybe we should stop listening to those Fleetwood Mac records because the music is sticking in our minds." We stopped listening to them, but I felt there was more to that dream than just that. This dream kept coming back to me very strongly but I didn't realise the full significance until later. It became very clear to me in the next three years that followed. I'll tell you the interpretation of the dream later.

Recording Contract with Atlantic Records

Then I got an invitation to go to Italy to help with the Bible album (a project the Paris musicians were composing & recording music for), so I trotted off to Italy. When I arrived, I found out I wasn't going to help record the Bible album, but was going to work with Atlantic Records to make an album with Uncle Dave's Fish Camp Band, a band which had been formed under Rachel's leadership. The plan was that we were going to ride on the coat tails of the success of Fleetwood Mac.—They had sold about 20 million records those last two years (from 1976-1977) & were very big. We thought, "Here is our chance to make a big album." After all, it seemed very logical to use my name, a former Fleetwood Mac star, to make it big with one of our bands.

When I arrived in Rome I rode with other members of this new Family band up to Florence. The first thing we did together as we rode in the car was to listen to those same two Fleetwood Mac albums. At first I thought of that horrible nightmare & my first reaction was to tell the brethren about it, but that conviction faded fast as I was engulfed in the music blaring from the car stereo. Soon I was admiring it & thinking how very wonderful it was musically.

Our plan was to set up a mobile recording studio outside our little home in Italy. The manager of Atlantic Records came for a visit & was very happy & going along with our plans. We played him some tapes & he told us, "Yes, your music is going to be a big hit." As he said that, the Scripture came to me, "All these things will I give you if you fall down & worship me." (Mat.4:9) It was so loud in my mind I could hardly hear what he was saying. I wondered, "What are we going to have to do to be a big hit?" But I brushed off these feelings by thinking, "Now we know the Truth & we can take it,

we can stand it. We can go out there & make a hit & it's not going to affect us. We'll pray every day & we'll read our Letters & we'll stay in the Word."

From Rome to England to Los Angeles to Record

Then the Atlantic Records people came back & told us we couldn't record in our mobile studio. They wanted us to record in Rome. Then they changed their minds & said, "No, you can record out in the countryside of England." We thought, "That's not too bad, that's not going back to the Pit all the way. We can go there & we'll do fine".

After awhile the president of the recording company came to visit all the way from the States with his very Jewish right-hand man who actually wore a Jewish skull-cap & had a long Orthodox Jewish beard with a long black coat & everything. They listened to some of the music we had recorded & he said, "Oh, very good, fantastic, but we think that you probably need to go to the States to record this. We have the best studio set up in Los Angeles." Of course, we were all very concerned about this change of plans. It seemed like we were doing exactly what we said we wouldn't do. But then we compromised, thinking, "That's okay, we don't have to be there for very long. We can just quickly record our album & then we can come back to Italy."

"Brainwashing" with Evil Music!

So off we flew to Los Angeles. Once we were in the States our producer said, "Well, we need to work on you like we worked on the Bee Gees & Abba. But we haven't finished with Abba yet." He hated Abba's music. Abba was a lightweight Scandinavian band that was already very popular at that time, in '76 & '77. They produced some pretty music. When I first heard them I really liked them. I thought they sounded quite heavenly. Obviously that is why this evil System producer hated them—their music wasn't evil enough! (The Rolling Stones were the first ones these producers "worked on", & they had continued working on them for years!)

This is the way they went about "working on us": They said, "We're going to do with

you the same thing that we've done with the Bee Gees & what we tried to do with Abba!" They gave us a stack of 200 albums—"nigger jigger" music, all real low-down funk black music—& said, "We want you to listen to them & listen to them & listen to them!" That pile of albums was to brain-wash us. It was horrible! That same old funk junk, screaming, with incoherent lyrics & the same beat! We only listened to one or two albums, & not even all the way through.

Living with Mick Fleetwood Again —Back to Drugs!

Soon after arriving in Los Angeles I called Mick Fleetwood. He was very happy to hear from me & invited me to stay at his house. Everyone thought that would be a good witness, so I went to stay at his house. The Lord kept bringing that dream to my mind, but I didn't heed the warning or take it too seriously. We soon started getting into drugs. I felt like at one point the Lord was using those drugs to just scare the wits out of me! I felt like I was walking on very thin ice every moment. My heart was fretting against the Lord, as the Proverb says (Prov.19:3). It was a horrible situation to be in. With these drugs I was a nervous wreck.

I was expecting the judgments of God at any moment. I would get such a strong feeling that I was out of the Lord's Will & I was so scared thinking that at any moment I could die & have to go face the Lord. I had a heavy feeling of fear & the impending judgments of God. I felt like I did just before I joined the Family, that if I didn't get right with the Lord something horrible was going to happen.

"Welcome back to the World, Jeremy!"

As far as being a sample & testimony to Fleetwood Mac during this time, I was zero, zilch. I said a few things about Jesus, but it amounted to virtually nothing. I went to a couple of their parties, & I remember one occasion where I sat down & we smoked dope & "rapped" (meaning we talked about supposedly "heavy" things). I got up to leave the party & one of the band member's wives took my hand as I was leaving for the door, & she looked in my eyes & said, "Welcome back to the World, Jeremy." It was like

those words reverberated & the whole room reverberated with it! The look she gave me & the way she held my hand & said those words made me feel very convicted. I thought, "No, no, no, not at all!" I was so very ashamed of myself, having sat there smoking & doping with them & not being any kind of a witness. I felt I somehow needed to get back on the track.

I Had a Relationship with a Witch!

Then I made a big mistake by having a relationship with Fleetwood Mac's interior decorator. When I first saw her, she was sunning herself by the pool, rubbing suntan lotion on her body, wearing a very small bikini, & I was just drawn away by my lust & enticed. (Jam.1:14-15) In the beginning she was so smooth. She sounded like she was a drop-out from the System who didn't know what to do. I thought she was a "lost sheep".—But she was not a "lost sheep", she was a well-placed witch! I kept having warning dreams about her, that she was a vampire like in the "Close Encounters" Letter.—But I didn't take heed to the Lord's warnings!

I soon learned that the Devil also sends out his "FFers"! She was the epitome of the "strange woman" in Proverbs (See Proverbs 2, 5 & 7). She didn't receive anything I had to say.—Of course, in the beginning she looked like she did, but it was all a farce. I gave her "The Look of Love" (ML#304) to read & she said she hated it, which showed her true colours. But she got pregnant & I felt I was trapped with this wicked woman! She had a miscarriage which probably was the Lord's way for me to break out of that hellish relationship, but again I didn't heed the Lord's checks. I was deceived! In a strange sort of way I wanted to stay with her. I had a feeling of duty to her. Also, she had a strong sexual hold on me which she used to weaken me.—Then she got pregnant again. Our relationship continued to get worse!

We Were at Odds with the Devil's Children!

We really couldn't cut the mustard as far as our producers were concerned. We were running out of time & running out of money from our contract & the record company was getting very upset! So we used a cheap

studio & continued to try to at least do something. The one song we recorded which I feel at least was close to my heart & my own emotions or feelings & the one I was happy with musically was a song called "Travelling", which was on an MWM Show. But that was the one song Atlantic Records hated, so we finally began to realise we were at odds! They were the Devil's children! "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?" (2Cor.6:14)

Living in Hell on Earth!

At this point "the witch" came to live with me & it caused a terrible disruption in my marriage with Fiona. Things went from bad to worse! I was living in one apartment with this witch & in the next apartment were two Sodomites who would scream & fight with each other every night.

Living with this girl was Hell on Earth! The Bible says, "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house." (Prov.21:9) If you want to know, boys, what Hell is like, it's living with a woman like that who doesn't want to serve the Lord & hates the Family & hates Dad! King Solomon says that is a fate crueller than death! "I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares & nets, and her hands as bands: Whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her." (Ecc.7:26) My experience was the fulfillment of "the sinner shall be taken by her".

She often threatened to kill me to get revenge. She said that I ruined her life because she had given up her job with Fleetwood Mac to come live with me. She often would tell me she hated me. She said she was going to make me suffer like I had made her suffer.

She had the baby—a baby girl—who was born horribly deformed & died two days after birth. Poor thing, she had a hole in her heart, a cleft palate & something wrong with one of her lungs. I got to see her in an oxygen tent in the intensive care ward of the hospital. I prayed for her & that's when she went back to Heaven. TTL!

Rescued by Faithy & Juan

My situation was worse than it had ever been!—Even worse than when I was in Fleetwood Mac! It was horrible! It was just like I was in a pit & I wasn't strong enough to pull myself out! I was afraid of God's impending judgments!

We thought we could do it, we thought we were tough enough & we could play the System's game & run with the wolves. We thought we could be "wise as serpents & harmless as doves". But the problem was we were not as wise as serpents. If we had been as wise as serpents, we wouldn't have even gotten involved in the first place!—But we were deceived. We had lost everything! Everything was gone! Thank the Lord, finally Juan & Faithy came & rescued us from Los Angeles & told us to finish up & get out of there & get back to Italy! PTL!

The girl came back to Italy with me & Fiona, Andreas (a sweet Italian brother who had moved in with Fiona to help her in my absence), the kids & myself moved in together with this witch in her house. I went with Faithy to Greece to scout out the possibility of having MWM there & she said, "The only way that you are going to be free of that girl is if she throws you out! I'm going to pray that she throws you out." When I returned, this girl & I had our final big argument & she kicked us all out of the house! She threw a fit & went completely berserk & said, "You guys are crazy, I'm going to throw you out of my house! Get out of my house, every one of you, just get out of my house!" And she started spitting & scratching & she went crazy! Thank the Lord, that was the last I saw her!—And off we went to Greece, to MWM! PTL!

God's Warning Nightmare Had Been Fulfilled!

Eventually the recording company wrote us off as a tax loss & they just forgot about us. TTL! But the interpretation of the nightmare I had in Brazil became very clear: I sat down to play the guitar, got into recording that nice 24-channel recording at the invitation of the Fleetwood Mac with Peter Green. Peter Green's house in the dream symbolises the Fleetwood Mac because actually he is the one who formed that group,

named it, put it together & organised it. It's his & he indirectly was the one who was calling me into his house, giving me that guitar to play.

The voice of the Angel was the Lord telling me to get out of there, because otherwise I would die spiritually! The Lord was trying to show me I was on my way to spiritual death, but I didn't receive the warning at first because I was thinking it was fun, & those of the record company & Fleetwood Mac were so friendly, they were welcoming me with open arms. I didn't run out until finally I saw the devilish plan behind the whole thing & I saw where they were at.

Lord Help Us to Hate Evil!

I really found out that "the way of transgressors is hard." "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Pro.13:15; 16:25)

So, teens, let this be a warning to you that we are sent forth as sheep among wolves. We know that we are of God & the whole World lieth in wickedness, so touch not the unclean thing!" (Mat.10:16; 1Jn.5:19; 2Cor.6:17) My eyes were opened & I'm now finally thoroughly convinced of the wickedness of the world of Rock & Roll! Behind all that glitter & bright lights are the very gates of Hell! Lord help us to hate evil! TYL! **-AMEN!**

(Editor's note: PTL! We would like to add that after this time of testing & lesson-learning, Jeremy went on to be greatly used of the Lord! He became one of the pillars of Music With Meaning International [MWMI]. During his six years with MWMI, Jeremy not only wrote & sang many hit songs, but also helped arrange &

produce hundreds of songs written by other Family musicians. These songs became the backbone of the series of Music with Meaning radio programs that were aired in many countries around the World, winning countless souls! PTL! While with MWMI, Jeremy helped to produce many DO song Tapes that have also been a great blessing to our Family.

(Jeremy also became a part of the team of artists illustrating "The Kidz MOP", "Life With Grandpa", "Life of Grandpa" & various other publications, along with being an integral part of the DTD Tape productions.—And most recently he has been one of the key songwriters, musicians & producers of the Scripture Song Tapes which Mama has called "the musicians' crowning creation!" PTL!

(So, teens, it looks like God used Jeremy's backsliding to break him & help prepare him for the great work he was yet to accomplish. PTL! He learned some big lessons "the hard way", & like Grandpa wrote about King David: "God punished him, spanked him for awhile, but then brought him back, & his latter end was greater than the beginning, thank You Lord! Because he learned his lesson, because he repented, because he was sorry, because in his humility he confessed his sin.—And you have the beautiful 51st Psalm as a result." [MOP 5:65]

("Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Restore unto me the joy of Thy Salvation; & uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; & sinners shall be converted unto Thee. And my tongue shall sing aloud of Thy righteousness." [Psa.51:1,12-13,14b] Hallelujah! PTL!)

POSSIBLE POINTS TO POW WOW:

1. What did you learn about Rock music & the people who produce it?
2. Considering Jeremy's experiences, discuss the bad influence that friendship with the World can have on the Lord's disciples.
3. How did the Lord try to warn Jeremy? How many different occasions did Jeremy describe where he hardened himself to the Lord's checks?
4. While backslidden, Jeremy experienced much heartache & feelings of guilt & condemnation, fear of God's judgement, the hell of an ungodly relationship & the death of his baby etc. Although these were horrible experiences for Jeremy, in which way were they a manifestation of God's Love for him? (See also Hebrews 12:5-11)