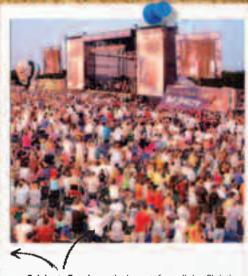
FESTIVAL+CONFERENCE GUIDE

Your Guide to the Hottest Festivals and Conferences of 2008 • BY CHRIS AND ERICA WELL









Celebrate Freedom—the largest, free, all-day Christian festival. For more on Celebrate Freedom, see page 52.

For many, it's become an annual ritual every Summer—pack up the beach ball and the camping gear, drive across the country and join with thousands of Christians to see a lineup of your favorite artists and speakers. Where else but your favorite one-stop Christian media event can you go to sample the best of the new, plus favorites such as tobyMac, Casting Crowns, Anberlin and more? Or the best lineup of speakers, games and other youth-group friendly events?

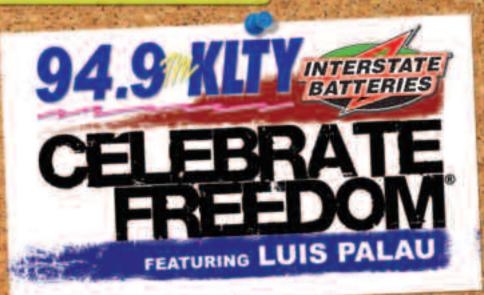
In the following section, you'll find something of interest for just about every age, interest and taste. Check out these upcoming festivals and plan your road trip today.

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



The Author to the Contract of



JUNE 27-28 Celebratefreedom.com

Expecting a crowd of 250,000 to 300,000 this year, 94.9 KLTY's Celebrate Freedom has the distinction of being the nation's largest, free, all-day Christian festival. Featuring evangelist Luis Palau, Celebrate Freedom 2008 will host more than 30 top Christian artists, a children's area, food court, sporting events and spectacular fireworks.

Ask event director Keith Nelson what a first-timer can expect, and he laughs. "Where do I start? We have skateboard exhibitions, BMX, fireworks show, hundreds of exhibitors and vendors, parachuting, VeggieTales characters ..." In short, says Nelson, Celebrate Freedom has food, fun and faith-filled activities for the entire family. "We just keep adding more and more."

This is the 18th edition of Celebrate Freedom. The tradition began July 4, 1991, soon after the Gulf War, when 94.9 KLTY—the nation's largest Adult Contemporary Christian station—wanted to put on a free event to honor the soldiers and the country. When that first show drew about 3,000 people, the station knew it had an annual event on its hands. With each passing year, the crowds grew; and in 1996 Celebrate Freedom moved to a larger venue, Southfork Ranch. In 1999, the festival garnered major attention when attendance hit 114,000 people—and the number has doubled since then.

For the 2008 model of Celebrate Freedom, KLTY once again partners with evangelist Luis Palau to mobilize churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. "The whole event is designed to appeal to seekers and people who aren't necessarily involved in a church," Nelson says.

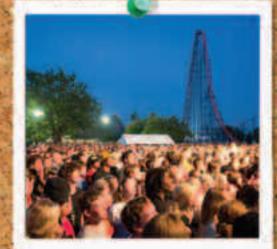
Celebrate Freedom is a free event, but you still gotta have a ticket: Go to celebratefreedom.com for ticket info and for festival updates. Artist line-up will be announced May 5!





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AUGUST 3-6 KINGDOMBOUND.ORG

Kingdom Bound, one of North America's largest and longest-running events of its kind, typically attracts about 60,000 people from all over the United States and Canada for four days of faith, fun and fellowship through concerts and seminars. "Kingdom Bound is where people from different backgrounds and beliefs gather to hear thoughtful speakers and inspiring musicians coming from a Christian perspective," says Mark Weber of BuffaloChristian.com. But, Weber adds, the event also offers families so much more: "They can ride Darien Lake's many roller coasters, splash around in the water park on a hot summer's day and even stay on grounds in a tent, RV or the deluxe hotel. It's become an annual summer tradition for many families."

This year's Kingdom Bound promises its most diverse lineup in 22 years: Confirmed evening headliners include praise & worship artist Lincoln Brewster, popular rock band Third Day, pop singer/actress Jaci Velasquez, Latin-pop band Salvador and Kingdom Bound mainstay Newsboys.

The daytime sets include a bevy of artists as well. Worship with such artists as Paul Baloche, Leeland, Vicky Beeching, Jason Upton, Robin Mark and Kathryn Scott, Matt Maher, Ricardo, Rick Cua, and Lenny LeBlanc. Rock out with the likes of Delirious, Skillet, Thousand Foot Krutch, Hawk Nelson, Seventh Day Slumber, Fireflight, DecembeRadio, Grey Holiday and Matthew West. And for some variety, enjoy the popcountry stylings of 33 Miles, hip-hop act Manafest and reggae/soul band NewWorldSon, or swing with big-band act Denver and the Mile High Orchestra.

Confirmed speakers include Dr. Kevin Leman, Bob Lenz, David Nasser, Wes Aarum Jr., Joe Rojas and Justin Lookadoo.

Event or day pass tickets include admission to the majority of Darien Lake's amusement park rides. Specially priced "after 5 p.m." tickets are available. Campsite/RV/Hotel packages are also available. Call (800) 461-4485 or visit kingdombound.org. Tickets can be purchased online at itickets.com.











Big Daddy Zleave · Lincoln Brewster · Paul Balocke · Vicky Beeching · Rick Cua Decemberadio . Delitious . Denver and the Mile Migh Orchestra

Downhere · Fireflight · Grey Holiday

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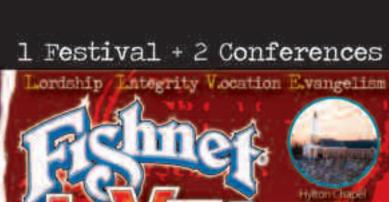
Ministries; and Bill Wilson, who oversees the largest Sunday School in the world and is founder of Metro Ministries. Metro Ministries of Brooklyn, N.Y., held at the 236-acre Fishnet Life Center, 60 miles west of the Washington, will present children's sessions throughout the day. Special teen sessions will be taught and led by Josh Andes, who will also oversee the late-night

JULY 17-19 FISHNETMINISTRIES.ORG

"We are deeply humbled and profoundly thankful for God's guidance, provision and protection during these 34 years of directing Fishnet festivals," says Larry Andes, co-founder and CEO of Fishnet Ministries. encourage and challenge Christians and will present a friendly "The hundreds of thousands of people who have been impacted by the gospel through Fishnet is the greatest reward we can ever receive. We Among the performers at Fishnet 2008 are pop songstress Rebecca St. applaud CCM for the fine magazine they have continued to produce for

by calling (800) 228-2961 or online at fishnetministries.org.

Fishnet Presents 3 Events





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One of the longest-running Christian festivals, Fishnet celebrates its 34th year this summer. Sponsored by Fishnet Ministries, Fishnet 2008 will be D.C., Beltway and several miles north of Front Royal, Virginia.

Filled with concerts, praise & worship and speaking sessions, Fishnet is Rock House just for teens. a nondenominational, family-friendly event with a strong emphasis on teaching biblical principles. The theme for the festival, "Renewing Your Mind," is taken from Romans 12:2. The festival will bring messages to atmosphere to lead people to Christ.

James and band, Latin-pop group Salvador, classic artist Dallas Holm, college pop duo Shane & Shane, vocalist Andrew Carlton and comedian Jeff Allen. Speakers include Winkey Pratney; Dr. Gary Cass, CEO of Christian Anti-Defamation Commission; Larry Andes, co-founder and CEO of Fishnet

decades and celebrate with them this final hard-copy issue." Total-Event Tickets include a free campsite. Purchase a full-day ticket

56 [ccmmagazine.com]

www.fishnetministries.org P.O. Box 1919, Front Royal, VA 22630 800-228-2961

MAGAZINE'S FESTIVAL + CONFERENCE GUIDE

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION



.com

GREENVILLE COLLEGE

Since 1977, the student-run AgapeFest has featured top-selling songwriters and performers in the Christian music industry. Hosted at Greenville College, AgapeFest is the only weekend festival of its kind in southern Illinois, making it a unique experience for the youth in the area. This year's event is set to attract one of the largest crowds in the history of the festival. Saturday night's Gotee Main Stage stars rapper John Reuben, band StorySide:B and Greenville College alum Stephanie Smith. Other acts of note include Relient K, David Crowder*Band, Barlow Girl, Hawk Nelson and more. Attendees will also meet the future of Christian music with Greenville student and alumni acts Photoside Café, The Silent Film and Dear Future.

The festival has grown in numerous ways in its 31 years. The one-day event expanded to two days and to the main stage was added a popular second stage, featuring Battle of the Bands, local, new and alternative acts. Attendance has grown from 1,000 its first year to a festival high of 6,500 in 1990, and typically averages around 5,000. A modest production originally held on the college soccer field, AgapeFest now makes its home at the Bond County Fairgrounds. A growing list of vendors serves the large festival crowd.

The music begins at 5 p.m. on Friday, May 2, and at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 3. Advance tickets range from \$24.99 to \$39.99 and can be purchased through iTickets (log on at itickets.com or call [800] 965-9324). Gate ticket prices are slightly higher, \$35-50. Children ages 6 years old and under are free. Groups will receive one FREE two-day pass for every 10 two-day passes purchased. Service charges may apply to ticket purchases. For more information, visit agapefest.com or call (618)-664-1806.

You can also find more about AgapeFest on its social network pages at Facebook (greenville.facebook.com) and MySpace (myspace.com/agapemusicfestival).

HERE at GREENVILLE COLLEGE we believe in Real Experience 101.

Contemporary Christian Music • Digital Media • Media Promotions • Mass Communication • Music Business • Public Relations

■ EXPERIENCES

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agapele MAY 2 & 3, 2008

FEATURING

Relient K, David Crowder*Band, Hawk Nelson, Red, Barlow Girl & more. Gotee Records proudly presents John Reuben, Storyside: B & Stephanie Smith.

AgapeFest is a student-coordinated event



Stephanie Smith '06, Gotee Recording Artist

MAY 2-3

AGAPEFEST.COM







ESTES PARK, CO





AUGUST 3-9
MUSICINTHEROCKIES.COM

The ultimate gathering for working artists—and those working to become artists—is the Gospel Music Association's Music in the Rockies. For more than 30 years, it has been the premier gathering, training camp and competition for Christian artists and hopefuls.

GMA Music in the Rockies features classes designed for artists, songwriters and worship leaders, offering career development and networking opportunities. Platinum-selling artist Chris Tomlin was a high school student when he attended GMA Music in the Rockies at the invitation of his church music minister. "What I took away most was seeing a little of the Christian music industry behind the scenes. This wasn't an industry full of perfection but real people sharing their life and faith through music. For me, GMA Music in the Rockies was not a time of being discovered, but another vital step on mu journey."

This year's faculty includes: professional vocal coach Brett Manning; Disney Publishing writers and producers Adam Watts and Andy Dodd; television producer and author Phil Cooke; artist and songwriter Scott Krippayne; live music producer Tom Jackson; and Leigh Holt, Director of Strategy, Branding and Merchandising at Word Label Group. The Worship track faculty includes Jared Anderson, Vicky Beeching, Andy Chrisman, Travis Cottrell, Carmen D'Arcy and Keith and Kristyn Getty.

Music in the Rockies also hosts the GMA Academy National Competition, an opportunity for unsigned artists and songwriters to compete for more than \$50,000 in prizes. But the real reward for entrants is the rare chance to perform in front of key A&R, record label and publishing executives and to receive on-the-spot feedback from celebrity artist judges.

Registrants also get to see the pros in action with Soundstage Concerts from Switchfoot's Jon Foreman, Nickel Creek's Sean Watkins, MercyMe, Hawk Nelson, Mandisa, Israel & New Breed, Shane & Shane, Jaci Velasquez, Trin-i-tee 5:7, pureNRG, Chris Sligh and more.

Early registration is available. More information at musicintherockies.com.



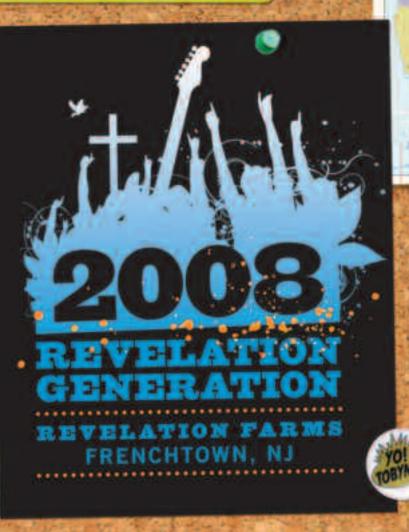
Get closer by getting away

at the Christian/gospel industry's official national training camp & competition for artists, songwriters, & worship leaders.



August 3-9, 2008 | Estes Park, CO









AUGUST 29-30 REVELATIONGENERATION.ORG

Now in its fourth year, the Revelation Generation Music Festival serves the Northeast, conveniently located between New York City and Philadelphia. Targeted to teens and young adults—but "family-friendly"— Revelation Generation hopes to unite area churches to support a ministry to the youth and young adults through music and positive messages.

Last year's event brought in more than 18,000 ticket buyers, and this year's expanded format—it's now a two-day event—will only draw more. Festival goers can expect fun, safe and family-friendly activities at the popular Revelation Farms, a 140-plus-acre property in Hunterdon County, N.J., and home of the Revelation Generation Festival. Concertgoers can enjoy live music, fun activities, local retail and food vendors and inflatable games.

The Friday evening concert features Chris Tomlin and Leeland. There will be three stages going on Saturday: The pop-oriented "NY stage" will be headlined by tobyMac and Newsboys. The "Philly stage," featuring hard rock and metal acts, will be headlined by As I Lay Dying and Flyleaf. A tented café-style stage will feature Bethany Dillon, Shawn McDonald and more.

The Exhibitor's Tent hosts Christian ministries, drug awareness programs, colleges and schools and merchandise vendors. Professional skateboarders will present their testimonies along with a stunt exhibition. "What we initially created as a fun, positive and drug- and alcohol-free entertainment atmosphere for the regional youth is fast becoming a longstanding family tradition within our community," says Robert Grom, cofounder of Revelation Generation with wife Kim Grom. "We are looking forward to creating an even more spectacular event this year!"



Friday AN EVENING CHRIS TOMLIN Saturday

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Enjoy three music stages, activities, exhibitors, great food and more! For more information or promotional packets call 908.483.2203 or visit www.RevelationGeneration.org





Now in its 25th year, Cornerstone Festival celebrates faith through music, art, film, ideas, family, worship and play. Launched in 1984 by Chicago's Jesus People USA—a community of believers whose missionary outreaches include print journalism, rock music, and the arts—it's no wonder that C-stone has earned its reputation for hosting world-class bands, art galleries and seminars, each year providing an even wider selection of activities.

The musical diversity ranges from big-name artists to indie bands, from rock and metal to folk and pop, from hip-hop and punk to hardcore and electronica. Over 600 bands will perform this summer—including Anberlin, Flyleaf, The Almost, As I Lay Dying, Demon Hunter, Hawk Nelson, David Crowder*Band, Family Force 5, Skillet, Living Sacrifice, Over the Rhine, Mike Farris and The Lee Boys. The festival's 25th year will also be highlighted by appearances from such past favorites as 77's, Rez Band, DeGarmo & Key and Sixpence None the Richer. More than 20 bands will play "Tooth & Nail Day," spotlighting the storied label that traces its roots back to Cornerstone.

The 25th anniversary party Friday night at the Main Stage includes communion led by Charlie Peacock. The party theme this year, "Worship God with Dirty Hands," is sponsored by Worship Together.com and will feature more than 10 artists.

Over 200 hours of seminars, workshops and discussion groups will explore such topics as music, social justice, practical spirituality and relationships. The graphic and visual arts will be represented by media displays, art installations, film screenings, photo gallery and children's art programs.

The festival is held on Cornerstone Farm, a beautiful, spacious, wooded ground with a huge lake. Outdoor activities include camping, swimming, fishing, canoeing and a skateboard park. Organized competitive sports onsite will include soccer, volleyball and three-onthree basketball tournaments.



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION





JUNE 30-JULY 5
CORNERSTONEFESTIVAL.COM



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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION





JUNE 20-21 Thebigticketfestival.com



DTSEGO COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN GAYLORD, MI

The mission of Northern Michigan's Big Ticket Festival is to see people *Live God Loud*. Every aspect of the festival—whether it's the music line-up, Extreme Sports, Kids Zone, Ministry Tent area or Prayer Tent—supports this goal. The folks behind Big Ticket desire to bring people of all ages and backgrounds together to encounter an awesome, living God.

The Big Ticket Festival offers something for every age and every walk of life: This year's edition of the summer festival includes more than 60 bands, including tobyMac, Newsboys and David Crowder Band. Extreme sports fans will thrill to skateboarding legend Christian Hosoi and Gold Medal-motocross athlete Kyle Loza. Nationally recognized speakers Jon Bell, Caleb Bislow, Craig Gross and former pro-soccer player John Vermilya will deliver messages of hope and salvation. Bible Man will be back at this year's festival for the kids.

Following its popular launch last year, the Big Ticket Indie Stage returns with 18 unsigned bands and artists. The top three bands—based on a combination of attendee votes and judges' choice—will be asked to play at Big Ticket 2009 on one of the three main stages. (And one of the judges, a representative from Quick Artist Agency, is looking to discover new talent for their record label.)

People from across the country and into Canada have already purchased tickets for the two-day event. Organizers expect 20,000 to attend the festival over the two days, making it one of the largest Christian events in the state.

The Big Ticket Festival, put together by Free Spirit Ministries, will be held at the Otsego County Fairgrounds in Gaylord, Michigan. More info at thebigticketfestival.com.

Over 60 Bands \star 6 Stages \star 1 Big Ticket





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www.BigTicketFestival.com

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AWESOME SPEAKERS: Adrian Despres | Jeffrey Dean | Craig Gross | John Vermilya | Caleb Bislow | Cody Deese | Jon Bell | AND MORE!

FEATURING : KYLE LOZA X-Games Motocross Gold Medalist | Christian Hosoi Pro Skuteboarder/Speaker

DAILY DEMOS: Freestyle Motocross | Skateboarding | BMX Bike

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BibleMan | Pure NRG | VeggieTnie Characters | AND MORE!

Buy Your Tickets by Calling 800-585-3737 or Visit VWW.BIGTICKETFESTIVAL.COM





Students can discover what it takes to be a working professional in the music business at Orangehaus Music Business Camp July 15-19. Developed by the music business faculty at Anderson University, the camp allows high school students (aged 14-18) to interact one-onone with some of the best talent in the Christian music industry. The summer program offers three-and-a-half days of classes in record production, artist development, songwriting and music marketing.

includes award-winning producers, engineers, songwriters, artist managers, booking agents and label execs who have worked with such artists as Switchfoot, David Crowder*Band, Jon McLaughlin, GRITS and Israel Houghton.

The students will learn directly from the likes of Charlie Peacock, a and Dave Barnes. Grammy-winning producer who was awarded "Producer of the Year" President of Business Affairs & Development at Integrity Music Media; and Richie Biggs, Mastering Engineer at Runway Network in

Nashville, with numerous engineering credits that include Switchfoot, Newsboys, Phil Keaggy and Petra.

JULY 15-19

MUSICBUSINESSCAMP.COM

Also instructing is Dr. Rebecca Chappell, Professor of Music at Taught on the Anderson University campus, the team of instructors Anderson University, where she teaches music business and woodwinds, as well as supervises the music business internship program; Dr. Mark Murray, Professor of Music at Anderson University, who teaches music business and trumpet; and James Hodgin, owner Thousand Foot Krutch, Nichole Nordeman, MercyMe, Hillsong United, and artist manager for Dryve Artist Management in Nashville, who represents Thousand Foot Krutch, Bethany Dillon, Shawn McDonald

The cost for the Orangehaus Music Business Camp experience is three times at the GMA Dove Awards; Sam Chappell, Senior Vice \$525 (housing, meals and tuition). A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required upon application, with final payment due no later than June 15. After June 15, registration is \$600. Visit musicbusinesscamp.com.

The camp for high school students wanting a career in music business



OrangeHaus Music Business Camp July 15-19, 2008

The OrangeHaus Music Business Camp is a unique opportunity for high school students, ages 14-18, to find out what it takes to be in the music business. Developed by the music business faculty at Anderson University, this innovative summer program offers 3 1/2 days of classes in record production, artist development, songwriting, music marketing, and many others. Taught on the beautiful AU campus,

instructors are award-winning producers, engineers, songwriters, artist managers, booking agents, and label execs who have worked with Jon McLaughlin, Switchfoot, David Crowder Band, Nichole Nordeman, MercyMe, Hillsong

United, Grits, Thousand Foot Krutch and Israel Houghton.



Cost is \$525 all-inclusive (housing, meals, and tuition). Space is limited, so be sure to register early. To register, visit www.musicbusinesscamp.com Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana

