

Making Metal Forged In Faith

By C.L. Harmon

A man of faith, a misfit, a musician, and metal enthusiast are a few of the ways this Webco sales associate describes himself. Perhaps one might consider Caleb Joyce a rebel for God who took his life struggles and hard-core music and twisted them into unique healing composition.

As a man of faith, he finds God not in the hymns and uplifting music usually associated with religious melodies, but within the thrashing sounds of heavy metal rock. He agrees this is not something one hears often. But this genre is one that he loves, and he has learned that he can combine his love for his faith into the music he loves.

His musical journey began with a simple interest in electric guitar. “I’ve always been drawn to the high energy distortion tones that you get from an electric guitar,” Caleb said. That beckoning would bring him into the world of hard rock music, which felt comfortable to the young teen “misfit” he felt he was. He said that type of music and those attracted to its amped up melodies were an accepting community that was enticing to him.

“The genre of metal seems silly to the outside world. And sometimes it is. But I was introduced to some bands that were very intense, but had deep, meaningful, rich lyrics that resonated with me.” He explained how those lyrics conveyed the same life struggles he was facing. That discovery was an awakening and eventually set him on a song writing course. Although still only a teen during his immersion into heavy metal, there was a creative spark within it that burned into his adulthood. It would be a journey from hardcore teen fan to Christian musician and song writer.

“I write lyrics about life struggles and how God takes care of us through it. I guess melancholic with the emphasis that God provides and cares,” he said. Initially he would find excuses to not pursue his interest in music even though the desire was ever present. It was too expensive to buy a guitar and amp or being left-handed would make learning much more difficult, he would tell himself. But in 2020, the desire to create music that glorified God would become too strong to ignore.

Going to college and working, he still found he had free time and that urge to create was not going away. He made a small leap of faith and bought a guitar to begin learning the basics. In this type of metal music there is an element of screaming with deep growls and high snarls, which is a unique form of vocals. It’s a practiced skill that he had already been working on. Picking up a guitar was the next logical step. Once he felt comfortable with the guitar, he began the writing process.

“I took one year to learn a ton of different techniques. And then I was dying to start writing my own music. A lot of people will play guitar to play their band's favorite pieces. I'm not like that. I wanted to play guitar to write my music from the beginning.”

He began composing the melodies creating the baseline for songs, but he still needed his music to be fully robust if he were going to make it available to others. And that meant other instruments, mainly drums. But he couldn't find a drummer. So, he learned how to mix drums electronically into his music. The learning process didn't end there. He essentially became a one-man band writing, playing guitar, recording, mixing, mastering and even creating the artwork for his song releases.

Caleb generally releases his music as EPs (extended plays) which are longer than single recordings but shorter than full length albums. Combined, he has released two full albums of songs. He also makes his music free to download. It's not about recognition or money for him, but about the message that God understands people's sufferings and is always there to comfort and provide for them. Although he creates alone, his music is released under the band name Eunagelion. He explained that it is a spinoff of a Hebrew word for good news.

He also has a desire to play his music live. Unfortunately, finding a drummer who plays heavy metal is difficult and one who also wants to play Christian music has been an all-out challenge. He is hopeful though that by next year he will be playing live for churches and youth groups.

"It's a great hobby to have. I want to write music to encourage and to be a light that shines in the darkness," Caleb said.

To check out Caleb's music, visit <https://eunagelion777.bandcamp.com/>