

## 30 YEARS 30 STORIES

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### STORY 17

## PRODUCED BY... GOD AT WORK BEYOND THE ARTIST

Gotee Records has been a label committed to doing music for students. Here's one of our favorite stories of how that played out and impacted millions of kids. Traveling on the road with bands provides great hang time and brainstorming time for future ministry opportunities. That's exactly what happened with DC TALK's band on the *Free At Last* tour. Each of the guys in the DC TALK band had a great ministry heart and were well equipped to minister to high school students. Since they were the most recognizable "backup" musicians in Christian music, why not book them into youth conferences, have them play DC TALK songs, tell stories and share their faith? Out of those late night "on the bus" discussions with the guys came the band Zilch and then Sonic Flood. Gotee President Joey Elwood had an idea when he saw the Sonic Flood band perform with their new lead singer Jeff Deyo: they are a gifted worship band, let's do a worship record. The band didn't like the idea initially but agreed to do a 5-song EP for youthworkers that would be included only in the YLO Box. When the guys got into the studio everything changed. Sonic Flood's lead singer Jeff Deyo explained what happened, "We had misconceptions of what praise and worship was. Our idea in the past was that it had to be acoustic guitar, piano and organ. Now, all that goes out the window." That record along with the work of

**Gotee Records Founders Joey Elwood and Toby McKeehan meet with the WriteGroup 1999**



delirious?, Hillsong and Matt Redman changed the face of modern worship music forever...

*Read the rest of the story online.*

### Kenny Marks, Leslie Phillips, Paul Rogers at Youthworker Talkback

*Dallas 1985*



### STORY 18

## WE DON'T WANT YOU TO SING, WE WANT YOU TO TALK

We have done over 3000 youthworker-artist "talkback" sessions over the past 30 years. These have been amazing peer-to-peer, youthworker-to-youthworker meetings. Here is one of our favorites.. Petra was the largest band in Christian music—filling 10,000 seat arenas. We were a part of their ministry and management team and developed dozens of key initiatives with them: the "This Means War" Youth Event, the "On Fire" Youth Event, the "Why Wait" Tour with Josh McDowell, the "Beyond Belief" movie, and many more. We took Bob Hartman and John Schlitt to do one of our "talkback" sessions at a regional youthworker conference with around 150 leaders at Forest Home Christian Camp in Southern California. Artists share with youthworkers their personal story, their heart for sharing the Gospel with students and then they get to hear back from youthworkers words of encouragement, challenge, requests for help. Both Ken



**Steve Taylor, Chris Renzelman Youthworker Talkback** *Seattle 1986*



**Petra, D&K, Geoff Moore, Whitecross Youthworker Talkback** *Nashville 1993*



McCoy and Allen Weed were at the meeting when a youthworker made a bold request, "My kids are not singing anymore in youth group. When we worship only a few of them are actively involved. Can you do something to help me?" Petra's manager and record company president were at the meeting. The band felt so strongly that they needed to do this project (and their label didn't) that they left their label and moved to another label—the record that came out was one of the top selling Christian albums of all time — "Petra Praise".

*Read the rest of the story online.*

**Jars of Clay  
Youthworker  
Meeting**

*Dallas 1997*



**STORY 19**

**SING A NEW  
SONG**

**Steven Curtis Chapman,  
Chris Renzelman  
Youthworker Meeting**

*Portland 1990*



Bill Hearn (CEO of then EMI Christian Music Group) asked me to travel with him and his leadership team to Langley, British Columbia to experience a British rock-worship band delirious concert. My first thought was, "Haven't I in all the years, seen enough bands and concerts?" Boy was I glad I went—I was blown away at what the Lord was doing through the band—it was a worship and rock night like I had never experienced previously—there were teenagers standing next to grandmas and all were fully engaged with way more than this band—they were engaged in worshipping Jesus. I knew that we needed to do everything we could do to introduce the delirious? Experience (as we called it) to as many youthworkers in the US as possible. Fresh wine—much like Love Song in the early 1970's. From Integrity Music (whose special 30 years 30 worship song tribute is in YLO100) to Maranatha, from SPIN 360 and our great partners Joel and Val Engle and Stan and Sue Moser to Six Steps with Chris Tomlin, Crowder, Louie and Shelly Giglio—there has been a seismic shift in modern worship over the past 30 years.

*Read the rest of the story online.*

**Tobymac  
Youthworker  
Talkback Texas  
Baptist Conclave**  
1994



**Relient K Youthworker Talkback**

**Amy Grant,  
Michael W. Smith  
Youthworker  
Meeting Dallas**  
1985



**First meeting  
with delirious?**  
*Langley, BC 1997*



**delirious?  
Youthworker  
Meeting Edmonton**  
*Alberta 1999*

