To Carol:

Hello again, just received your letter with the enclosed articles and questions. I find myself writing more fluently when answering your questions; I don't have to put the story together, it just comes out.

Regarding emotional reactions: David never seemed to be bothered by Marc's accusations and feelings toward himself, although, he did seem concerned when he'd heard the rumors Marc was telling. David usually gave a meeting with the group to let them know what was taking place; we'd relate it to scripture and show the people Marc's position.

When I first found out that Marc had left, didn't think to much about it. I was new in the group and didn't understand why he felt the way he did. Although I did share the same feelings regarding the conditions we were living under, I felt this was the reason he had left.

As my involvement grew with David and I continued my studies, I and the others felt no threat. Marc was still in communication with the group through letters, which dealt more with complaints than it did with error in the message. David would have someone read his letters to the group to see where his reasoning was. Marc didn't acknowledge that the message was wrong, he tried to justify his position with complaints.

My evaluation of David's reactions seemed to be confusion on his part. David acknowledged that he didn't understand why Marc and the others took the position they did. He would usually go into some doubtful studies and question where he might be wrong with his teachings. Our study would become like a court room; David would lay the evidence out before us, (The Jury) and present his teachings to the group. We as individuals would weigh the evidence and conclude for ourselves who was right or wrong. Those of us who remained, remained because of what truth was revealed.

One of the things that I personally admired about David was the fact that he gave us all the decision to make regarding his teachings. He questioned like, "Why do you people believe this message? Prove to me that this message is true? How do you know I'm not deceiving you?" These were the questions David gave to the group to test our intelligence. If there was a skeptic about David's teaching in the group, it was David himself. He would want us to confirm to him why his message was truth. He'd ask questions like, "If I'm wrong, show me where I'm wrong according to the scripture. If I'm deceived? save me from this deception and save my soul." These questions were directed to those in the religious world who were quick to judge.
David's concern revolved more around people's spiritual welfare. I'm sure the prophets and Apostle's were very much concerned for those whom they taught. The ultimate choice lay with the individual with accepting or rejecting David's message.

Unlike David's nonchalant attitude, I felt bothered by Marc and the others. When I began to hear Marc going to the authorities and family members and saying this and that, I was angry. I don't show my anger, but my thoughts about Marc changed drastically. I thought, "What a real ass hole that guy is! Why don't he just leave is life and leave us alone." If I'd ever left the group, knowing I was denying the truth, I would just go and have the time of my life and worry about hell later. The fear of going to hell is what kept me involved, along with the uncertainty of my fate in this world. I thought, "Knowing my luck, I'll end up walking outside and have a car hit me or crash on my motorcycle. I'd already been through some close calls which made me do some thinking!

I think most people felt that Marc was just forfilling prophecy. The lessons in the Bible teach all those who went against God's messengers and had them killed. When David talked about being killed, I didn't know how or why someone would want to kill him. Christ 2000 years ago was killed for religious and Political reasons, I did feel that the religious world would want to kill David because of his message. I strongly believe that there was some religious involvement that had David killed. I could even say the Papacy's influence had a lot to do with it! It's kind of funny that all the negotiators were all Catholic's?

I guess my feelings were not too threatened by the negative allegations, then again! they weren't directly pointed towards myself. I'm sure David went through mixed emotions but always kept his cool.

I do believe David saw those negative reviews towards himself, as a confirmation of why the world would come down on him. He'd say stuff like, "Well people, this is your chance to leave." He'd say stuff like that jokingly but serious.

Regarding music: There was no doubts on my part as far as the truth was concerned, I'd been given, or shown enough to realize that I was deceived in my religious views. It was sort of like owning a pair of black swimming trunks that I had for years, and then having a friend point out that they are really blue. Not to be great an illustration, but oh well!

I must admit that I was not looking to get really involved with religion as I found myself getting into. I was earnestly searching, or should I say questioning my salvation. I definitely needed some direction in living my life as a believer, but I sure hell didn't want someone leading my life as it seemed to be. The beauty of it, was the fact that I was learning things I never knew about the Bible. The stories in the Bible came to life as David taught his interpretation. It was like he was there and knew the situation as it really happened. It was better than watching a movie, the concept of time-travel was like a reality. David took us back to the past and revealed the true characters of those in Bible, and shared some insights to God's reasoning.
I guess in all, it was David's ability to put things in human perspective. The Bible didn't seem that hard to understand the way he put the scriptures together. I was like all the prophetic lessons taught the same thing. Although there were different situations and circumstances, God seemed to work differently at times. The best way to illustrate it is like this; the Bible is a puzzle, David put the puzzles together where we saw the pictures. He made it look easy and presented different pictures, as each prophet taught a different message. Although each message was different, the pictures were part of one great pictorial.

Although scepticism did arise at different time periods, it developed more on my own discontent. If things didn't seem to be going my way, that's usually when I began seek an avenue to leave and not continue. The struggle was always that fact that it was truth I had learnt. Conviction and conscience and the fear of God was my reality check!

On the contrary, I was attracted to the religious aspect, but didn't expect as much as I got. In excepting my new band, I was excepting the doctrine in one sense. David had made it clear that the Bible was priority and the music second. I agreed to these terms not knowing the indebtedness of David's religious views. It was, "Ya man! that's cool with me," was my attitude.

Re ambitious: Wrong Carol! This is where I have to clarify my position with regards to my Christianity. I had the dreams of wanting to be a Rock Star before I was 14. At the age of 14, I considered my musical abilities serious; this is what I wanted to do with my life at that point.

After my acceptance of Christianity, I still had the carnal ambitions of being a star. I was more tamed when it came to the girls, but still had a desire to be in the spotlight and travel the world. My view's with wanting to be a Christian musician revolved more around playing rock n roll for God. I felt convicted, that playing the secular music I was playing, was not approved by God. This again, was impressed on my mind by all those televangelist views. Being influenced by God instead of Satan was my concerns.

This conception of religion and rock n roll, is one that David changed in my perception of it. David would say, "If Satan can inspire musicians to write those songs we all grew up with, don't you think God had the ability to inspire men to rock n roll? And if indeed Satan did inspire the greatest musicians in the world today, who gave Satan the ability to inspire? This is what God rocks implies, although there are other significant aspects of it.

So this is what I needed to realize when I met David, I had to understand my own desires and wants, and learn what God's purpose for me was. This is where my testing period began: play for me or play for God. Do what I wanted to do, or do what God's will was for my life? The person I had to deal with in my my pursuit to follow the truth, was myself; The spirit was willing but my flesh was weak!

The possibilities for fame and fortune were very high playing with Cyrus. This had been the first band I had been involved with, which had something going for themselves. It seemed to be a professional outfit that I wanted to be part of.
I felt the potential of David's guitar ability, was enough to get out and start playing. The songs were catchy and had lot's of potential to make it commercially. Although my own abilities as a drummer was questionable, I only realized how much more I needed to practice by David's critiquing.

Re Music: Aside from practicing on my own, I started playing with other musicians when I was 12 or 13. The first band we formed was called Gemini. The guitarist who inspired me to want to get into music at 14 was a guy named John Paul VillaLobos. He was a childhood friend who grew up in the same neighborhood. We played about a dozen or more gigs around Los Angeles. We played off and on till I was about 16 or 17 years old. I'd also set in for a few bands as a singer and drummer.

I also established a band called "Prophecy" when I was about 17. This band started with a guitarist named Quiben and another childhood friend from the neighborhood named Vince Baron. Vince did some singing for us in Gemini, but the guitarist didn't like his singing. Vince's house was our rehearsal spot and party spot, so we kept him around out of necessity. "Prophecy" played about 8 gigs in back yard parties. Most of those gigs turned out to be nightmares.

One night we played a back yard gig in Pico Rivera California. We was to play and open up for another band that evening. This party was a real big one, I assume they were close to about a thousand people. If it wasn't a thousand people, I'm sure in hell was letting my imagination run away with me!

We played that evening and had a real good time. The beer was flowing and all of us were playing our rock star parts. We were to get paid that evening for playing. As we waited to get paid, the cops came and broke up the crowds hanging around. As we were all waiting for our money in the garage of the house, the cops busted into the garage and arrested everyone. Our band members and a few others all woke up in the county jail. There was a few other instances that took place that evening, but we won't discuss that here.

David didn't seem very eager to want and go out and play at the beginning. I was the one telling him we needed to work on his songs and start gigging. He approached his music more professionally and seemed to be more patient than myself. Although we did spend a lot of time working together as a band, David's guitar ability was still developing. We were all growing and developing our styles musically, and spiritually in the faith.

I will have to explain the circumstances surrounding the time we began to play a few clubs. This didn't happen until the late part of 1990 and 91. It was only about 3-5 gigs that we did together. I was also playing with some of the local musicians in the Waco area aside from working with David. I'll explain in up comming letter! There were a few Bar stories I'll definitely bring out.

I did take a couple of drum lessons when I was sixteen years old. I just started by playing along to albums and working with my guitarist. I was to impatient to sit down and read charts. I did have a desire to learn to read music, but I learned more or less on my own by listening to music.
When David began to audition other drummers, he had wanted me to play the bass guitar. He felt I was a better bassist than drummer. I only jumped on bass because I wanted to be part of the group, and also felt I could push myself to be a good bass player. I'd always picked up the guitar and bass whiles playing the drums, but the decision for me to play bass was David's idea. I started to take bass lessons in 1990 and practiced 6 hours a day. I approached it whole heartedly and felt I could fit the bill as a bass player. I still continued to play drums and push myself to be a proficient drummer.

This is the time when Dave Thibidea came on the scene. David had auditioned Dave and a bass player from my neighborhood named Keith. Keith didn't stay to long, but Dave and I had the same influences and were both drummers. I felt comfortable with Dave on drums and didn't mind playing the bass.

The problem actually started when David began to shuffle me around on bass and drums. One minute I'm the bass player, the next I'm a roadie. Back on the drums and then back on bass. It was up and down. David said he liked certain aspects of Michael Schroeder's drumming, but that he also liked certain qualities of my drumming. Dave Thibidea spent most of the time on the drums, but I would be on the bass. Then when Pablo came to Texas, he basically took the bass position from me. When I found this out, this was another turning point for me in wanting to leave altogether. It was just like going through different phases, anyone in the band could be called on to play. Pablo was a good guitarist as well, Pablo, Dave and myself did one gig together in a little pub with a singer from another band. I will include these sessions in a coming letter.

I never actually left the group because of Mike or Dave, I would just take off for the day and go back and forth to my mother's house. After leaving off some steam, I would always regain my reasoning of what I was learning, and return for the sake of the truth. This is where I had decide whether I was going to remain for the sake of the music, or for the truths sake. This is where the battle of understanding came in with regards to the message. Although my feelings and emotions got the best of me, my reasoning was what kept me from actually packing my bags and leaving the group. To deny what I heard learnt, I felt was to deny Christ. It was my conviction of the truth that kept me there.

David had his ways of testing each and every one of us. My test was the music aspect as I experienced it. I was music first and Bible second when I had met David. I had to put, or learn to put God first. I do believe the experiences I've gone through is a witness to that fact; even though I still feel the same.

Regarding the turning points you mentioned: I don't really understand what you mean by turning points? I assume you mean different turns that took place in accepting the message. I was not aware of the Seventh Adventist Doctrine nor was I brought up as one. I think my views on religion were very Catholic, good go to Heaven, bad go to hell concept. One point at the beginning, was recognizing my stale religious beliefs.
Meaning: one day a week religion and bench warmer. This was what made me think if there was more required of me in my beliefs when I attended my church.

The Sabbath issue was one that really woke me up on the Bible. I'd never known about the change that was made from Sunday to Saturday from the Papacy. I was somewhat shocked to find it out. This is what made me realize there must be some error in my beliefs. I remember telling Vernon, "So why do people go to church on Sunday? if the sabbath is on SATURDAY?" He says, "Because those churches are deceived." It was a slap in the face, but nonetheless, it was the truth.

There are many interesting spins that David had on Bible stories. If you mean like the Samaritan woman story I sent you, he had plenty of things to say. I will be sending the ones that stuck in my mind (The teachings of D.K*).

Well Carol, I will send the rest of my answers to your question in my memoir form. I'll keep in mind to write short chapters to make mobility of writing easier for you. I think that will also help me put things in better perspective as well!

I will try to call you later this week depending on my phone account. Still looking over your outline and will try to work a better outline. "The Barrio" will be a good one to show the neighborhood I grew up in. That will be one of the factors for my decision process of taking drugs and later getting away from it. I'll send you the ones I like and the ones I think explain my story on background.

Just received Tabor's book today. I started reading it, it seems to explain a little better the situation from our side. I will use his book for reference later on when I finish it.

I will close for now till I here from you again. Oh ya, what's funny about reading these books is that they still seem very distant from David as the person. I hope to share his humanity as it pertained to me, and our hope in the truth that he was given to teach. I get the impression that everyone thinks David professed to be something. He never professed to anyone, he saw himself as a regular guy who God sort of just picked to teach God's message. David used to say, that he went through what everyone else went through; doubt, darkness, stress and confusion. His was just two fold, given his responsibility.

Hopefull I'll be able to explain it better as we go along. Till next time!

Sincerely

your friend

Jaime Castillo