

21 January 2008

**FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS** on a farm 17 years ago, the Parachute Festival has become not only a fixture in New Zealand, but the biggest festival of its kind outside the USA. This year, organisers expect around 30 000 punters will flock to Hamilton's Mystery Creek. Director Mark DeJong says Parachute 08 presents more than 170 bands on nine stages over four days. Headliners include Switchfoot, Hillsong United, Red, Israel & New Breed, and Leigh Nash. Speakers include Reggie Dabbs, Tony Campolo, and Charlotte Scanlon-Gambill. The festival runs January 25-28.

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**AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN POP BAND** newsboys will headline REZFEST in Melbourne's west this Easter. Other acts to perform include Jars Of Clay, Alabaster Box, Planetshakers, Compliments Of Gus, and Roma Waterman. The two day festival, sponsored by Wyndham City Council and Wyndham Ministers' Network will be held at the Point Cook Homestead on March 23 and 24. The cost is \$37 per ticket per day. Tickets available from Word Bookstores, Koorong, online at [lightfm.com.au](http://lightfm.com.au), or phone (03) 9741 9400.

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**NAARAH SEAGROTT**, the lead singer of Alabaster Box, has given birth to her first child Mitchell David. Mum, dad (Brett) and baby are doing well. The band will release its own "baby", the new CD *We Will Not be Silent* in March to coincide with its appearances at Rezfest, Easterfest, plus concerts with newsboys in Adelaide and Sydney.

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**CHRISTIAN SINGER-SONGWRITER PAUL COLMAN** will perform at a special solo concert in Melbourne on Friday 28 March. The concert will feature material from his own albums. Special guest artists are Sammy Horner and Emily Hanscamp. Concert promoter Vic Campbell says that the concert will give people an opportunity to catch up with Paul who hasn't performed solo in Melbourne for some time. "He is arguably one of the most entertaining and challenging artists in the field of contemporary Christian music," Vic says. Tickets are available from Koorong and Word. Cost is \$25 plus booking fee. The venue is the C3 Centre at 171 Rooks Road, Vermont. The event starts at 7:00 pm.

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**BILLBOARD MAGAZINE** has named Word-Curb as the top Christian imprint for the second consecutive year. The imprint features Mark Schultz, Nicole C Mullen, Point Of Grace, and Building 429.

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**CCM MAGAZINE**, the flagship of American Christian Music, will become an online publication only from this month ceasing the printed publication.