

FOOTY FAITH NIGHTS FLOATED

A US based sports organisation is floating the idea to host a series of "faith nights" before or after Aussie Rules and soccer matches in Australia.

The idea that could attract as many as 10 000 extra fans for each sporting event, is to present "A-level" Christian bands such as MercyMe and Jeremy Camp in concert and provide opportunities for Christian sports celebrities to present their testimonies.

Third Coast Sports president Brent High says his company has held preliminary discussions over the past three months with club authorities.

He says Third Coast has identified Melbourne and Sydney as ideal locations to host Faith Nights because they have sufficiently large church communities.

While some AFL and soccer clubs are tightlipped about whether they have spoken to Third Coast, *The Age* reports that Kangaroos Chief Executive Rick Aylett says the idea has got merit.

High says that he hopes to begin hosting faith nights within a year.

Third Coast Sports is linked to Third Coast Artists, a booking agency that represents Christian music acts including Jeremy Camp, Sanctus Real, Red, Hawk Nelson, and MercyMe.



MercyMe

CHRISTIAN POP PRINCESS LAUNCHES MAINSTREAM

US pop princess Britt Nicole is touring Japan this month promoting her debut CD *Say It*.

Like Krystal Meyers who has had two number one songs on the mainstream charts in Japan, Britt's music is vying for mainstream attention.

If successful in Japan - which many predict - Britt's record company will position her as a mainstream artist worldwide, and release the song *Believe* as her first mainstream single and video.

Britt has been featured as part of iTunes *Next Big Thing* promotion, while her song *You* has topped *The Rock Across Australia* chart and scored top 5 on the US Christian charts.



REBECCA RESTS AFTER INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Rebecca St James has returned to her home base in America for a short rest following a series of international performances in the Czech Republic, Holland and UK.

As you can imagine concerts such as Rebecca's are seldom staged in the former communist nation.

Organisers say that "huge numbers" of young people attended her concert at the National Youth Gathering held in the city of Tabor.



Rebecca St James

After her visit to the Czech Republic, Rebecca headlined at one of Europe's largest Christian concert stages, Holland's Flevo Festival which is held near Amsterdam. Then she flew to London for an appearance at the historic Kensington Temple.

DIANA'S SECRET LOVE

After the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, Prince Charles asked legendary British DJ Paul Gambaccini to catalog her CD collection.

As you'd expect, the library included people like Elton John, Simply Red and Chris DeBurgh.

But no one expected Gambaccini to uncover four albums by UK Christian singer songwriter Adrian Snell.

According to Snell, Diana "loved" his music as together they shared an interest in the Leprosy Mission — a charity serving leprosy sufferers in places like India and Nepal.

Today, while Diana is remembered as the "Queen of Hearts" who used her "art" to speak out for oppressed people, Adrian has continued to build his career setting to music the concerns and issues of people who don't normally have a voice.



Adrian Snell

He has recorded six major concept works including *City Of Peace*, *Beautiful or What?* and *Song For An Exile*, plus recorded more than 13 solo albums.

Snell has performed extensively in the UK, as well as throughout Europe, Israel, USA, and has led a number of sessions at the Australian Christian Musician Seminars held in Cooma a few years ago.

Interestingly, until UK media published the contents of Diana's CD collection, Adrian never once mentioned his famous fan. Now the secret's out.

Friday marks the tenth anniversary of Diana's death.

UNTIL JUNE'S MUSIC LAUNCHES PRIVATE PRACTICE

Sony BMG pop rockers Until June feature this month on US TV promoting the *Grey's Anatomy* spin off *Private Practice*.

The trio's song *What I've Done* has been featured in the promos in much the same way as Brooke Fraser's music has been aired in Australia in the lead up to *Sea Patrol*.

Until June - Josh Ballard (vocals/keyboards), Dan Ballard (guitar) plus Daniel Dempsey (drums) - is best known for its pop hit *Sleepless*.



SMS

ABC TV last week aired **Edwin Derricutt**'s song *Symmetry* on *Rage*. The song drops off TRAA this week.

Alabaster Box will release its new album early 2008. One of the songs from the new CD - *Bigger* - is available to preview online at: www.myspace.com/alabasterbox

Several Aussie Christian singers have appeared in recent weeks on Wesley Mission's **Rise and Shine** TV program that airs on the Nine Network and the Australian Christian Channel. These include Leigh Cunningham, Sharny Russell-Van Herp, *Australian Idol* contestant Anne Robertson, Hillsong's Miriam Webster, Bec Mesiti, Erana Clark, Daniel Kay and Rebecca St James.

Producers of the internationally syndicated Christian youth radio show that emanates from Australia, **The Reality Zone**, today announced finalists for new show hosts. These are Melody Crystal, Chantelle Renn, Linda Peace, and the Life FM (Adelaide) breakfast team. The four were selected after an international talent search over six months with entries from Australia, New Zealand, USA and Kenya. The new show host (or hosts) will be announced early October.

Switchfoot arrives in Australasia this week for a series of shows in Sydney (1 September), Manukau (5 September), Melbourne (6 September), Adelaide (7 September), and Brisbane (8 September).

The lineup for **Blackstump 07** includes Reuben Morgan, Antiskeptic, Stu Larsen, Compliments Of Gus, Matt Lucas Simeon, and Maverick. The Christian music, arts and teaching festival will be held 28 September to 1 October at Cataract Park, Appin which is between Campbelltown and Wollongong, south of Sydney.

Jars of Clay is releasing a collection of live cuts recorded while the band was on its *Good Monsters* tour. The seven-song live album, *Live Monsters*, is due out early September.

Superchick has broken its silence over its upcoming new album. Bassist Matt Daly says the title of the new CD is *Hands Down*.

Jon, Peter and Dann Hume from **Evermore** recently spent time in Africa working with *Make Poverty History*. They helped out with the aid program and ran music workshops at high schools.

Pioneer Christian rock band **DeGarmo & Key** is having a reunion concert in Memphis 30 September. This is the first DeGarmo & Key public concert in 13 years!