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## Mitch McVicker Interview & Bio - Christian

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"The theme that runs through my music is that the love of God is stronger than we are. The love of God will come up against the love of the world. We human beings are imperfect but God is perfect and good work in us one day. With my future performances and albums, I would like to share His love for us. A love that is unwavering, tough, and bigger than we are."

Peace in Christ ~ Mitch McVicker

Mitch McVicker was born in Kansas and spent his childhood and youth with his parents and sister, Andrea. *Mitch shared with ChristianMusic.com about his early years in Topeka, Kansas.*

"My family life was really good; a real good practical Kansas upbringing. My dad had a good work ethic in me, respect for others, and devotion to God. My mom had a sense of responsibility. Doing homework and practicing music lessons and practicing at watching Superfriends, Press Your Luck, and Three's Company."

Mitch shares his early influences as being "my parents, my uncle Greg, Richard McGhee and Tom Osborne."

Mitch was blessed by being raised in a Christian home, which gave him a solid foundation for his evolving spiritual journey and walk with the Lord.

*Mitch explains to ChristianMusic.com:*

"I grew up in a Christian home, but it wasn't in-your-face. Like I said, it was a practical Kansas upbringing. Church going, Bible reading, and prayer were all instilled in me. The whole 'when-i-became-a-Christian' question is a difficult answer, as it is for many people. As I grew up, there were a bunch of t



tried to take my faith to another level. With each instance, it seemed becoming new; it seemed like that was THE time. So, I am not sure and when it happened. I am just glad it happened. Frankly, I don't think of my business, because I don't make myself a Christian...Jesus does.

Other people came along to help him grow and evolve as a follower of Jesus and using his gifts. His mid-life influences were: Jim Smith, Rich Mullins and His present influences are his wife, Paula, his daughter, Brooklyn, Apostles F Waits, Paul Yodis, Anne Lamott and John Piper. His mentors; past and present Paula, his parents and Rich Mullins.

He was surrounded by music from an early age, as his mother was an elementary teacher, who was the first to pick up on the fact that Mitch had a gift for many talented artists, his gifts surfaced early in his life.

When asked about his first performance, Mitch recalls, "My mom entered me when I was 2. I sang a show tune and won an oven mitten."

While being involved in sports, excelling in basketball, he also sang in various bands and school, and participated in talent shows. At age 11, he was given a guitar and years of guitar lessons.

Musical artists which influenced Mitch as a musician are Rich Mullins, Bob Dylan, Schneider, Adam Duritz, '80's top 40 radio, soul singing and Jakob Dylan.



Mitch McVicker photo courtesy of : <http://mmcvicker.com>

**Christianmusic.com: When did you start writing your own songs?**

"My parents put me through guitar lessons when I was 12. My mom wanted me to sing in church as I was growing up. I got tired of doing songs from the radio and started to make up my own."

When he graduated from high school, he attended Friends University, playing basketball, and majoring in religion and philosophy. He was planning on being a pastor. The Lord had other plans for him. While at Friends University, his path was changed by a respected Christian music artist, Rich Mullens who was attending Friends University to receive a teaching degree in music. This friendship between Rich and Mitch grew. When Rich graduated in May 1995, Rich invited Mitch to come work with him in his music ministry.

*Mitch shares with ChristianMusic.com,*

"Rich Mullins encouraged me to become creative, to be honest, to remember that my faith is bigger than my feelings, and to hold onto the truth that the Lord builds in us. Rich encouraged me to journal, to practice, and to write the skill of songwriting without taking it too seriously."

They started to write songs together, such as "Nothing is Beyond You" and p from '95-'97. Rich always gave Mitch a time in every concert to play his own and Mitch both returned to the studio to record new records, though each other's endeavors. On the last day of recording the vocals for Mitch's album, t car accident on their way back to Kansas for a concert. Rich Mullens went h Lord, and Mitch hung onto life by a thread, but pulled through his serious injuri

*Mitch shares with us about this traumatic event in his life.*

"The big molding event in my life, (though each day is filled with severe car crash. I survived 10 years ago. It killed Rich Mullens and left me in broken bones, collapsed lungs, etc. The recovery was a few years long to relearn to do basic stuff that I had taken for granted. The Lord's inspite of my lack of faith, is mind-blowing; not because I have proce healed, but because He continues to construct me through ALL hopefully, that event has made me more sensitive to that fact."

Going through difficult trials and struggles can give one clarity in one's weaknesses. For during times of trouble, a person can discover gifts which h exercised in one's life yet.



*Mitch McVicker photo courtesy of <http://mmcvicker.com>*

*Mitch shares about what he realizes about the gifts the Lord blessed Him with, life where he has to ask for help; pray for discernment.*

"I think our greatest gift can also be our greatest weakness. Quite greatest gift the Lord has blessed me with is perseverance. At times, inspired by my ability to just keep going...regardless. This is at accomplishment at all. Rather, it is nearly an unconscious response Lord has given. It's an absolute no-brainer. It's what I do...what I need me; to be faithful to what the Lord is doing in me. So it's cool, because faithful simply means living out the gift that the Lord has placed i weakness part? I am a terrible discerner. My greatest struggle is whe a wall. I wonder if the Lord has placed it there to say "stop", or, is the me to keep pushing on the wall until it falls."

Since the accident, Mitch McVicker has been both on the long road to a sympt and the path of bringing a spirit-driven music ministry to bring the hope and lov Jesus Christ to the world. As he has evolved along the way, he has passed or

learned about the Lord, and being his servant in a music ministry.

His newest CD, **LOVE WILL RISE**, is a great example of this. *Christianmusic.com* about the goal or theme of this CD, for our upcoming music review of **LOVE W**



*Mitch McVicker photo courtesy of : <http://mmcvicker.com>*

*Mitch explains the main theme which is expressed so well in this collection of s*

"I never set out to write thematic CDs or put a mission statement to a record. One always seems to stand up and make itself evident; even after the recording process has been completed. That's what happened with **LOVE WILL RISE**. CDs, for me, are typically a collection of songs that happen to be faith expressions. It is an opportunity to share my faith experience and point towards Jesus through quality art.

"The theme of this cd is the title. I am trying to be a balloon; in the sense that a balloon isn't fully what it is intended to be until it is filled with that which is lighter and less dense than everything else around it. A balloon isn't truly a balloon until it rises. We are the same. Love rises. The spirit of the Lord rises. So we go ahead and be what the Lord has always intended us to be; ourselves be filled with that which is rising; Love Will Rise.

"Yes, Love Will Rise, in the midst of our rough stuff and struggles. (Our struggles won't be taken away, but the Lord will use them to construct us into what we will have us become. Romans 8.32 says....and I paraphrase...'Won't he who did not withhold his own son, but gave him up for us, continue to give us all things? I guess EVERYTHING that comes our way; (the good, the bad, the rough, the light, the dark, the easy, the hard) will be used by the Lord. That many times, the Lord ESPECIALLY uses our struggles to construct us. He will twist us and turn us and mold us and shape us, through everything because: Love Will Rise."

Julie Carr - For [ChristianMusic.com](http://ChristianMusic.com)