

When I offer up praise and worship music to my King, I feel like I am doing what I was created to do. There is no greater honor.

Early Days: Around 12 or 13, I found great enjoyment in writing poetry. I loved using words to express feelings and emotions using rhyme and word play. And I always had a love for music, so when I discovered the guitar, it was only natural for poems to become song lyrics for melodies. Thus, my musical journey really began as a songwriter.

Development Years: I started playing with other kids in my neighborhood and schools and was soon singing, playing guitar, and thumping the bass in bands for parties and a variety of events that included live music. In my early 20's, I started playing professionally in bars, for weddings and other social events. As a singing bass player, I had no trouble finding gigs.

Faith Years: Got married in 1992 and made the transition from musician to family man. In 1997, the Abba Yahweh tapped me on the shoulder and told me I needed to step and be the spiritual leader of the family. Music took a back seat. Although, I was raised in a Catholic home and always considered myself a spiritual person, I didn't understand the difference between religion and relationship. Once, I started having a relationship with my Creator and my Messiah, everything changed. I changed. Instead of playing in parties and bars, I was leading praise in bible studies and church—in the daylight!

The Crushing Years: My first wife of 17 years died suddenly of a brain aneurism in February 2010; I was laid off in April that same year. Quite abruptly, instead of being an IT Manager for global biomedical company, devoted husband, and dad, I was an unemployed widow facing a huge identify crisis. It was in that crushing I drew closer to my Creator. It was there I leaned into praise and worship music like never before.

New Beginnings: After being laid off for the rest of 2010, Abba blessed with a new job in April 2011 for a company called "Fresh Start Bakeries". (Yes, it still makes me chuckle). Although I never dated or even thought about dating, two years after losing my first wife, I was open to idea of marrying again. I dared asked Abba, "Just how Christian should my new wife be?" In April of 2012, I met Patricia through a mutual Christian friend. After expressing an interest in getting to know Patricia a little better, my friend cautioned me by saying, "She is a soldier in God's army. Scratch that, she's a general." I believe that was Abba's answer to my question.

Messianic Years: Patricia first started observing Shabbat in 1988 and had her own off and on-again journey over the next few decades. In the Spring of 2015, Abba tapped on her shoulder and said it was time to start observing Shabbat again. I came home after a business trip to find my wife sobbing telling me that she could no longer attend a Sunday church, that she had to start honoring Sabbath. She felt like this was her last chance to get it right with Abba. And so began my own journey in seeking truth about the Shabbat. I asked. Abba answered. The more I sought, the more He revealed. Patricia found a local messianic congregation, and we started attending. My first experience hearing Messianic

music was pure joy. I was grinning ear to ear. I notice right away the focus of these songs was on the Father, Israel, and Jerusalem rather than Jesus, the blood and the cross. Not that it's a bad thing. But there was something so refreshing looking forward to His coming Kingdom rather than always looking back on His death. Psalm 150 says it best: Let everything that has breath praise YHWH! And that's what I want to do until I breathe my last.