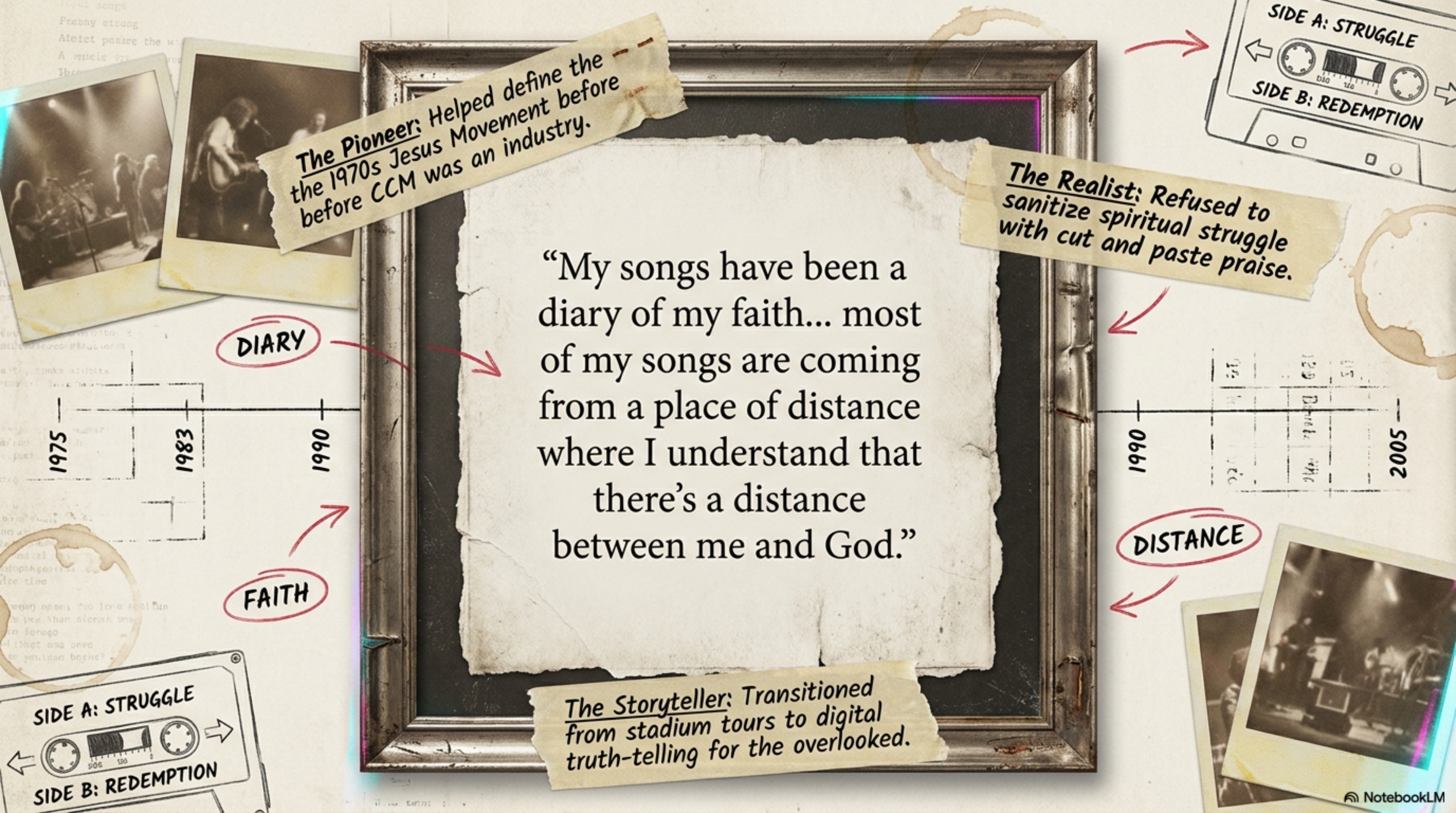




The Diary of a Faith

*The Musical & Spiritual Journey
of Bryan Duncan*

Look Back. Lean In. Leave Behind. | Insights from the CCM LegacyCAST



The Pioneer: Helped define the the 1970s Jesus Movement before CCM was an industry.

The Realist: Refused to sanitize spiritual struggle with cut and paste praise.

"My songs have been a diary of my faith... most of my songs are coming from a place of distance where I understand that there's a distance between me and God."

The Storyteller: Transitioned from stadium tours to digital truth-telling for the overlooked.

DIARY

FAITH

DISTANCE



Ogden, Utah:
The Preacher's Kid

Raised by a 19-year-old itinerant Pentecostal evangelist. By age 6, he was sitting behind the pulpit, making faces at old ladies for attention.



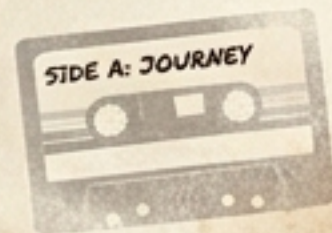
Florida:
The Detour

Kicked out of a Bible College. Told definitively that he was not missionary material.



Riverside, California:
The Destination

Drove across the country in 1972 after seeing an ad featuring the back of Tommy Coomes' curly head. Began setting up tents at Calvary Chapel.



Route of a
Troubadour

The Master Mix

A vocal-driven, blue-eyed soul/pop CCM sound that defied simple categorization.

- Bass for dad's gospel sets

- Mom on piano & accordion

- Early church service pacing

Channel 1:
Pentecostal Roots

- James Brown's backbeat

- Sly & The Family Stone

- Screaming funk funk meets Pentecostal fervor

Channel 2:
R&B / Soul Awakening

- Howard Jones & Toto

- Drum machines & synth bass

- Wash and wear touring mullets

Channel 3:
The 80s Synth-Pop Era

SESSION TAKES



MIXDOWN

SESSION TAKES



MIXDOWN

2005

The Hustle

Selling blood plasma twice a week for \$14 to buy gas money, leaving tracks in his arms.

The Boardroom

Living in a garage behind a piano. Holding a serious band meeting to debate raising their concert rate from \$25 to \$75.



The Venues

The unseen backbone of the Jesus Revolution: high school lunch courtyards, local parks, and early Calvary Chapels.

The Crew

A motley crew formed after a Monday night Bible study. Kevin on bass, Rick on drums, and later Randy Thomas on guitar.

Digging Ditches (The Burnout)

- - Turning 30, married with a baby on the way.
- - Making \$200 a week, tired of blowing up PA systems and sleeping in vans.
- - Quits the band completely to dig footings for a concrete contractor for 8 months.

*Hit rock bottom,
sweat & dirt.*

The 14-Day Pivot (The Breakthrough)

 - Plays a single solo church gig and makes \$700.

 - Calls Randy Stonehill's manager for a few side gigs.

 - Signs a massive solo record contract with Light Records exactly two weeks later.

*The comeback,
neon dreams
realized!*

The CCM Marketing Machine

- ✓ The Expectation: Artists must be flawless pastor figures.
- ✓ The Formula: Cut-and-paste praise, focusing only on triumph.
- ✓ The Rule: Always put a happy face on on ending.

APPROVED

Duncan's Diary

- The Reality: The artist as a flawed, stumbling sojourner.

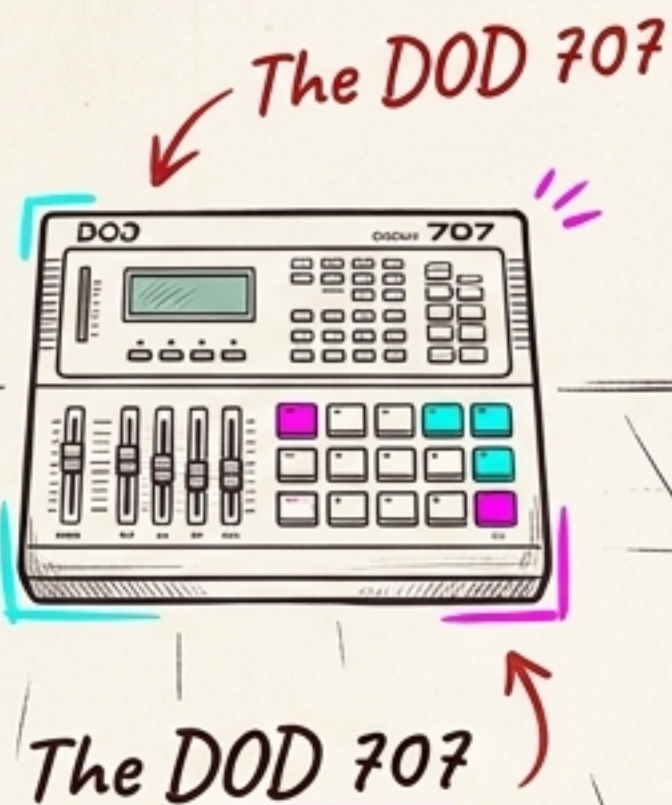
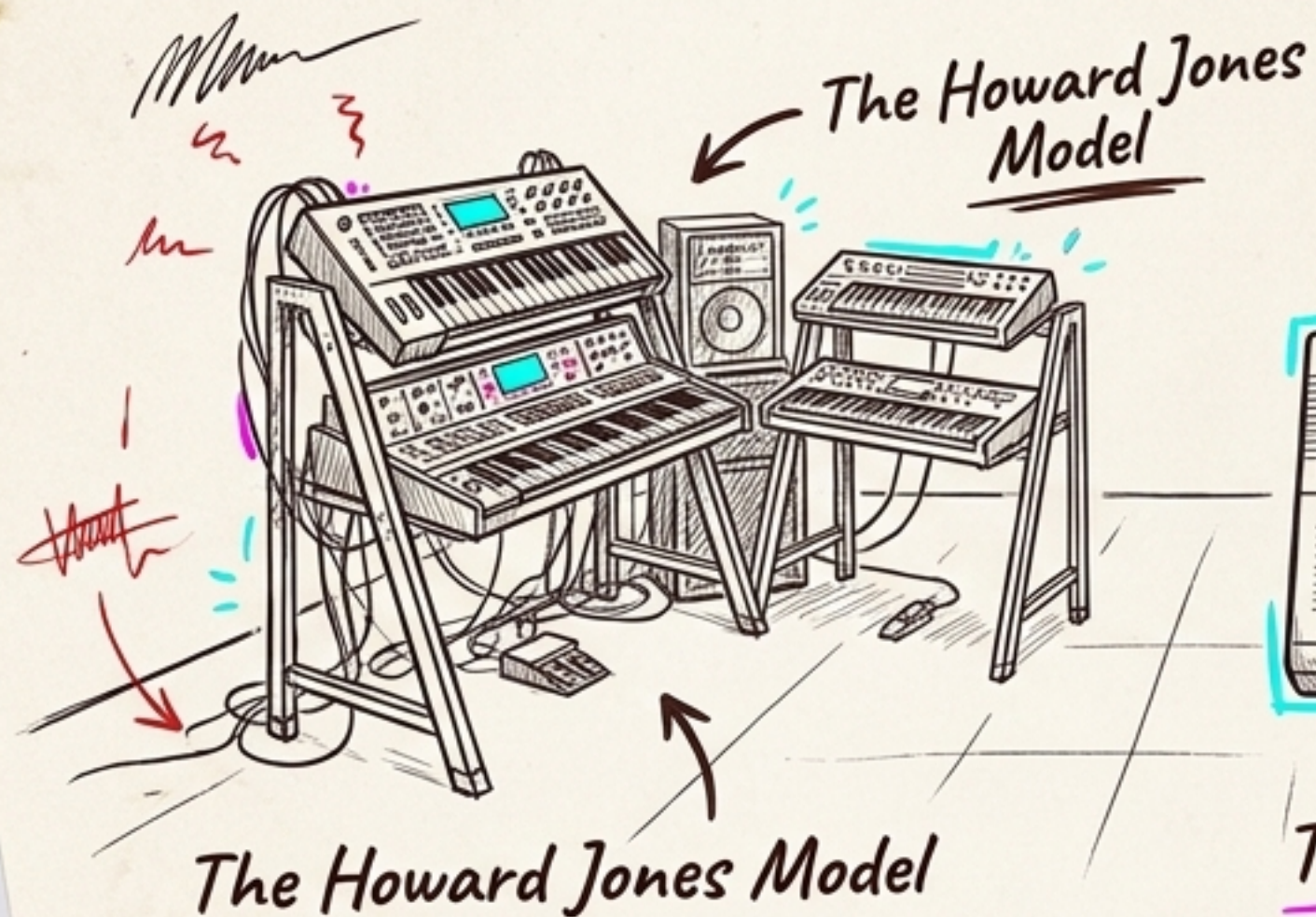
- The Formula: Exploring isolation, failure, and the distance from God.

- The Proof: Lonely Tonight and Love Takes Time.

Duncan's book is in a flawed, thire-is artis thiy self and ~~some~~ floore wings it, 't just meanl diem - it endirrouit, proiarrest, and 2 thine drund "~~Tha on the way~~" failure crrice and tlew inmon. "Tine doors srouded -- and it not so mork!" we do't want, likely but the strick, ' "im not" we fannt, buf: the Lonely Tonight Tonight and Love Takes Time.



THE STAGE SETUP: BUDGET-DRIVEN INNOVATION



Touring solo to save money, surrounded by keyboards and programmed bass parts, proving one man could fill a stage.

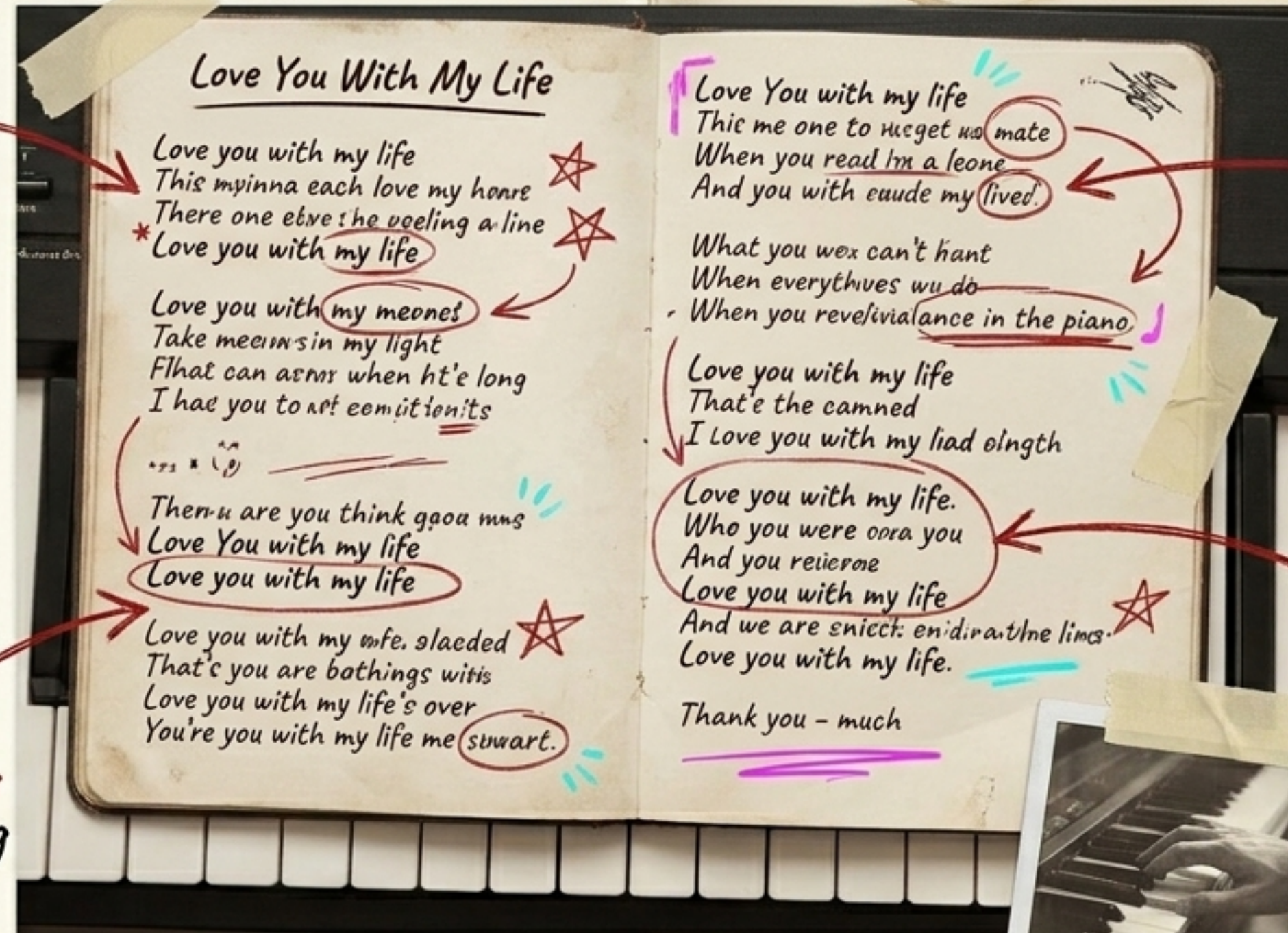
Relying heavily on early drum machines and synth loops for albums like Whistling in the Dark out of sheer budgetary necessity.

The Have Yourself Committed era. Adopting wild hair, a Brian Setzer pompadour, and a manic stage energy to compensate for the lack of a backing band.

Deconstructing the Track

The Environment:
Inspiration hits in motion. Writing songs while driving too fast on the freeway, earning a literal fast driving award.

The Sunshine Acid Test:
If you don't have a song you can sing without anything, it's not going to relate.



The Musical Core:
Searching for fat jazz chords to drive unexpected, complex melodies on the piano.

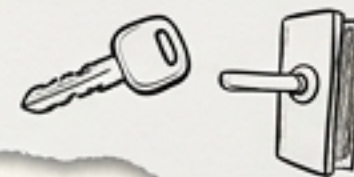
The Anchor: Love You With My Life.
Written at age 19, still played decades later for communion. Jesus' love is easy to take for granted.

The Disenfranchised Generation

Churches hyper-focus on being young, vibrant, and cutting edge, rendering older generations virtually invisible.

The Back Row Reality

Sitting in the back because it's closer to my car or the restroom, whichever comes first.



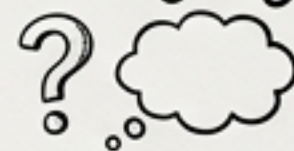
The Sonic Disconnect

Acoustic, backbeat-driven music replaced by homogenous worship tracks where everyone sounds like they're on Prozac.



The Core Feeling

You just don't feel like you have a say in what's going on around you.



The Catalyst:
COVID-19 killed the
touring industry,
enforcing a three-year
reset and prompting
a search for
for a new voice.



Project 1: Nutshell Sermons

*Antagonistic devotions aimed
at veteran believers tired of
hearing out-of-context
scriptures quoted backwards.*

Project 2: Prayers You Won't Hear in Church

*Brutally honest, humorous
reflections on the unspoken
thoughts of believers. e.g., God,
I need you to kill someone.*

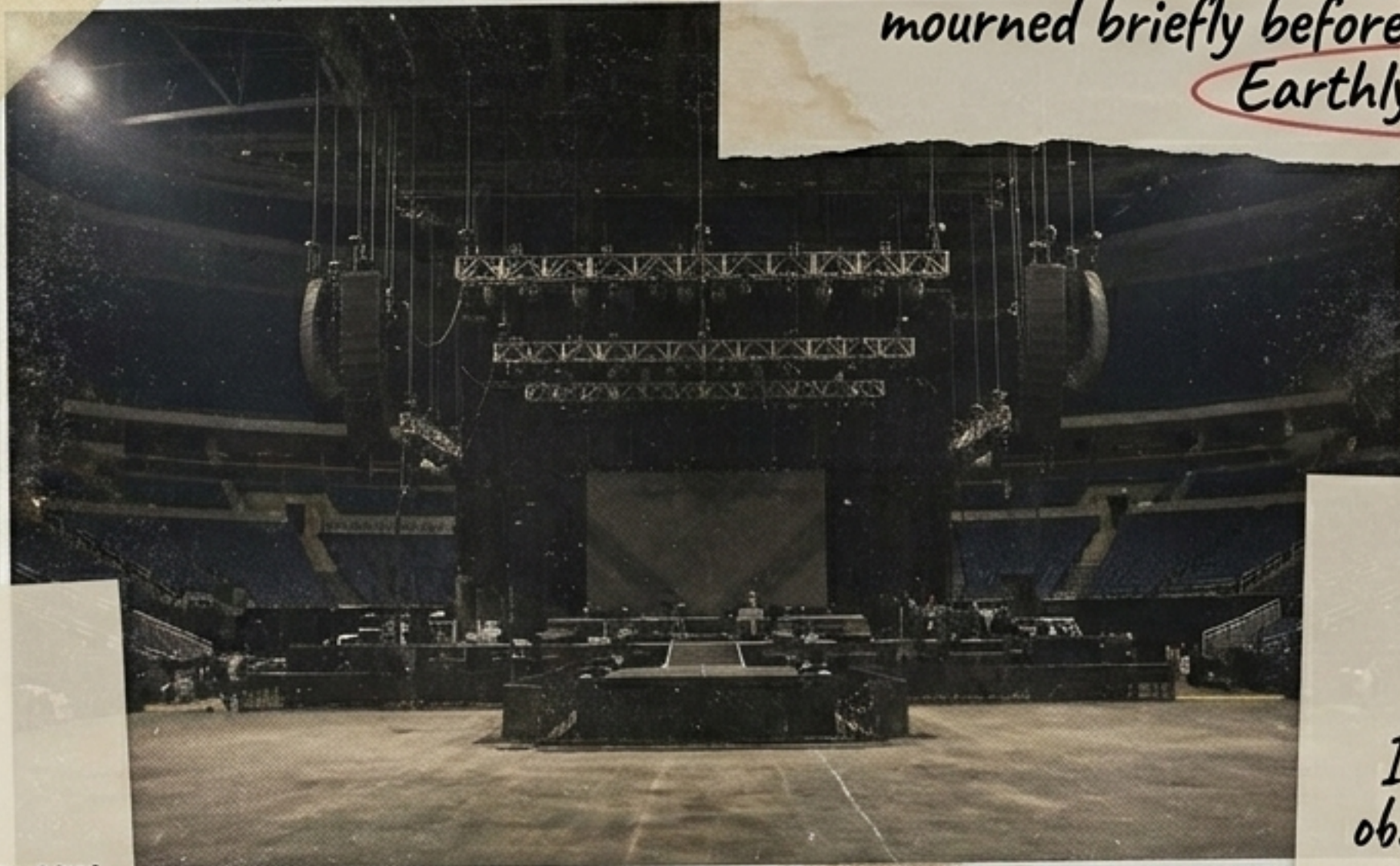


Project 3: Jesus & Music

*A meticulous archival podcast
recounting the real stories, raw
deals, and true origins of the
1970s Jesus Movement bands.*

The Transience of Fame

*Recognizing that even global rock stars are
mourned briefly before the world moves on.
Earthly legacy is an illusion.*



The Eternal Perspective

*I don't need to leave a memory
behind me because I'm going
to still be here in eternity.*

The Ultimate Audience

*In Heaven, human fame is
obsolete. All attention will be
entirely on God, leaving
everyone slack-jawed in awe.*

Look Back



He shaped the foundation of CCM
CCM not with corporate budgets,
but with raw hustle, blood plasma
money, and undeniable vocal
talent.

Lean In



He refuses to stop creating.
Through his digital pulpit,
he continues to write
the diary of his faith for
the disenfranchised back row.

Leave Behind



He has discarded the pressure of
a manufactured human legacy,
trading the anxieties of industry
fame for the peace of eternal
perspective.

Listen to the full story on the CCM LegacyCAST or explore nutshellsermons.com