

## About Daniel Alan...and the music –

The journey of the music has run parallel so closely with my life that they had to be included in the same story. Both are a story of relationship and purpose and have come full circle in so many ways, it's hard to find a starting point.

Like so many musicians, my musical career began in nightclubs and then moved to church (with some it happens in reverse, but I got a lot out of my system early). With well-meaning intentions, I used words to share my beliefs and often found myself delivering a message that many didn't care to hear. That, however, didn't deter me from spending a lot of money to try to deliver a message repeatedly met with rejection. I spent most of my life as a writer and songwriter playing in the "Last Light Band" an award-winning Inspirational Country Music group that received a great deal of recognition over many years of singing and performing with the same people. We spent most of those years just trying to find the most effective style for our unique brand of Country Music.

I recorded a project called "Signed with Fire" that was a project of original songs that reflected the personal journey of my faith and my Worship time with my creator. This Project included song titles like "Make Me More like You Jesus," and "Your Life Is Not Yours". It was a well-produced project and got a wonderful response from the Christian community, but it was a Project that was deeply rooted in my spiritual journey and it clearly related to the Christians that understood the battles of the Christian commitment.

In the Bible, Jesus told His disciples He would teach them to become "fishers of men." It began to occur to me that this process was something that could be taught and learned.

I began to notice that there were many mainstream artists that had a positive message in their music and that message was well received when delivered in the right context. The style of music we played had a country flavor, and at that time, there was "Country" and there was "Christian Country". Often the only difference in the two seemed to be the label, so why have the label separating the two?

We became affiliated with CCMA (or the Christian Country Music Association) which later became the Inspirational Country Music Association (ICM) in Nashville, TN. Armed with some new insight; I recorded a second project, self-titled Daniel Alan. This Project was all original songs that were all about everyday life. I sang about topics that would appeal to the audience that I wanted to reach and the audience that the ICM was attempting to reach. The content and presentation, however, still had to change if we were to become more effective. It was important to share my faith and my story from a place that it could be received, so we began pioneering a new sound and a new unique brand of Country Music. The ICM soon moved from a genre inside Gospel Music to a genre inside Country Music, including moving our annual award show to the Ryman Auditorium stage in Nashville, TN. The show also broadcasted on the Great American Country network or (GAC) and reached millions with a positive message that pointed people to Christ.

There seemed to be a shift in the thinking to pioneer this new method of delivery for an age-old truth.

We also had an opportunity to begin doing family-friendly concerts at several locations including NASCAR tracks around the country. We wanted to take a message of hope, freedom and family, and avoid any appearance of any judgment or condemning attitudes. We therefore named the show "*The Freedom & Family Tour*" and used an opening band, a headliner, and a comedian that was one of the most effective family shows NASCAR ever experienced. I found myself involved in several aspects of the show. We did a Friday night show of wholesome (Inspirational) country and southern rock that entertained large crowds, and promoted a second show to be held the next night.

On Saturday night, we began the show with a similar music lineup, but also set aside time to pay honor to our U.S. veterans and troops. When we asked the crowd to participate in prayer for our soldiers, we were always pleased to get a very positive response. Then at the close of our Saturday night show, we would offer prayer and ministry to those who were interested and were often amazed at the large response we received. We were learning to be more and more effective in sharing our faith with audiences that were very open to our bold approach to come into their world to share the Gospel of Christ. We were able to see thousands come to know Christ all across our nation. We worked with some of the top names including the award winning group Cross Country the Band, Branded, Comedian Barry McGee, Charley Daniels, Ricky Skaggs, Craig Morgan, Josh Turner and many others.

Many miles and a lot of music later, I have found myself at a place I couldn't even see only years ago. I'm not responsible to convince anyone they need to change their life and surrender to God's will. I'm only responsible to be obedient to do what He leads me to do. He began teaching me that the music notes themselves could be so infused with his Spirit and anointing that even an instrumental song anointed by the Spirit of God could plant a seed that could change a heart and transform a life. This is not something I could have seen in years past and many Christians cannot conceive it still today. The first one to ever discuss this concept with me was Phil Driscoll, one of the most recognized trumpet players in the world, who had recorded over 30 instrumental Gospel records. He challenged me to consider the sounds that we make and that God did not create sound, God was sound. He believes that the sounds of God have been distorted by an enemy and God wants to restore His sounds if we could believe it as we play.

I know that when we play an instrument and sounds go forth that are dedicated to our creator, there is a new sound that people hear and feel. Things change and that's an exciting freedom. When a farmer plants a seed, he never doubts that if the DNA in that seed is watermelon, that's what the ground will grow. Anyone who puts watermelon seed in the dirt expects watermelon and the ground can't decide to produce cucumber. If in the image of the Creator, we plant seeds of abundant, eternal life, then we can be confident that abundant, eternal life is what we will get. Armed with this new revelation, I had a desire to capture the sounds of God, presenting them in a style of music that would not typically be considered spiritual. I believed there could be a spiritual pull that would capture you and point you to a place of surrender, then lead you to a personal relationship with Christ. I was ready to record my first Instrumental record that would feature an instrument that I had been playing for most of my life. My wife Tonya Lynn had been after me for a number of years to do a recording featuring my harmonica playing which I had never considered in the past. So, it was through her encouragement that I began my latest project.

The title of this special recording project is called "Royal Street" and it is songs of rhythm and blues and features sounds from the bayou and deltas of Mobile, Alabama. I worked with one of the top producers in Nashville, TN. to assemble the best studio players available. We recorded in "Omni Sound", one of Nashville's top recording studios where over two hundred number one Country songs have been recorded. The quality of the sound was held to an extremely high standard, the players, my Producer, mixing and mastering engineers were considered to be the best in the business. My Producer was Jeremy Medkiff who is one of Nashville's leading WORSHIP leaders. He understood the mission and together we PRAYED over every sound, each frequency and throughout the process that we could capture the sounds of God in this recording. I have had so many positive compliments regarding this special recording project and it continues to amaze me how God uses "Royal Street" to touch people in his own unique way. This is a CD worth listening to!

God also went one step further. In 2010, he honored me with a Pioneer/Legend award from ICM in Nashville, TN at the 16th Annual Award Show. My journey is far from over and I can only imagine what is next. I have learned so much and yet I know so little. I guess that is why Jesus called us his disciples or (LEARNERS). My Prayer for everyone that takes the time to read about my experience and my musical journey, is that you will discover how much God loves you and that you will surrender your life in service to Christ. He is LORD.....