

Parable: Let me first thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with us.
Lacey: Thank you for sending this questionnaire.

Parable: The band seemed to gain notoriety and success a couple years ago when the self-titled CD hit the stores. Now, I know there were years of work before that. Tell me a little about the early days of Flyleaf.

Lacey: We were very much a garage band playing wherever we could. We played for empty rooms several times. I remember driving four hours to get a \$14 check and another time playing at 3PM in Austin in front of 10 people, the sound guy and Jared's mom. We even felt successful then.

Parable: A flyleaf is that blank page found in the front of a book. What does that symbolize to the band?

Lacey: The flyleaf in a book is metaphoric for clarity. The first [flyleaf in a book] represents the clarity we have when God creates us. The story in the book represents our life and all that that entails: hopes, dreams, all our joys and sufferings, and the search for Truth, Purpose and Love. The last flyleaf represents our physical death and the return to our Creator where all the chaos of this life becomes clear and we recognize that it was all for a Purpose.

Parable: From the outset, you haven't minced words about your faith. Was there an "intention" to talk about your faith in your music, or is that a natural overflow?

Lacey: It is only natural for a person who believes wholeheartedly in a Truth to want to share that Truth with everyone they meet whether they're sharing it in their words, music or life-style.

Parable: You guys are involved in the work of World Vision. How has this outreach impacted what you do as a band?

Lacey: What the World Vision Organization is doing here in the States and over-seas has really reaffirmed my faith in the human race. What we witnessed in Rwanda, the community coming together after genocide, and how World Vision is right in the middle of it helping these communities become self-sufficient gave me hope for the rest of the world. World Vision isn't handing out food and money. They're teaching families and communities how to grow their own food and make the most of their resources.

Parable: You share a label with some pretty well-known mainstream acts. In what ways has being on a mainstream label affected the band?

Lacey: It's difficult to gauge this experience with anything else because we've only been on a mainstream label. I feel like being on a mainstream label has given us the opportunities to go where few bands on Christian labels would ever get a chance to go. We are called to be in the world and not of it and I believe it has strengthened and sharpened our faith.

Parable: Pretty quickly, you began opening for some big names in the rock world. Did you find it challenging to exercise your faith on tours with the likes of Korn, Staind, Stone Sour, and Evanescence?

Lacey: We've never had trouble exercising our faith on any tour we've been on, unless we were dealing with some personal issue. With bands at the level of Korn, Staind, and Stone Sour there is respect for individuals and their beliefs. All the bands have shamelessly engaged in conversations about faith and truth. The most potent exercise in our faith is loving them, and no band is opposed to that.

Parable: It seems that the world really took notice of the band when the video for "All Around Me" hit the masses. I remember the first time I saw that video, I thought "what's with all the blood?!" Then I realized it was paint and I felt kinda stupid for a moment.

Lacey: The All Around Me video was a vision of director Paul Fedor. He is an innovator and is consistently producing videos that beg you to pay attention. Some video stations actually asked for the red paint to be made darker in the post-production because they were afraid of it looking like blood. The video turned out to be very powerful.

Parable: David Crowder recently covered "All Around Me," making it mellow and exposing some of the vulnerability in the lyric. I've always thought that a cover needs to do one of two things to be worthwhile: it either needs to be better or different. Crowder definitely accomplished the "different" condition. But what do you think of his rendition of your tune?

Lacey: David is one of the few Christian artists pushing the limits of sonic imagination. He took a different approach than what we did and it worked for him.

Parable: You guys did a great job with your cover of "What's This?" from the Nightmare Revisited CD honoring the classic film Nightmare Before Christmas. Is director Tim Burton a fan of Flyleaf?

Flyleaf: I don't know if Tim Burton is a fan of Flyleaf, but Flyleaf is a fan Tim Burton. Danny Elfman, who had written "What's This?" penned us a note saying he how loved the version we did. That was a huge honor for me personally, being a Danny Elfman fan. It's framed on the wall in my house.

Parable: Your new record is called Memento Mori. What's the title all about?

Lacey: Whilst we were pouring over the track list trying to conjure up a title for the record we perceived a reoccurring theme: mortality. Death is near for all of us and it is important to make the most of today. Three things last forever: Faith, Hope, and Love. Everything else will go away.

Parable: How does that thought weave through the songs on the CD?

Lacey: The theme of Memento Mori weaves through the CD like a serpent in the leaves. Sometimes you may see it. Sometimes you may step right over it without ever noticing it blending in with the ground, but it is there.

Parable: Now, the idea of "Memento Mori" meant a lot more to you after your acoustic tour to our troops overseas.

Lacey: It was the last thing we did before we finished this record. It was really life changing for us. Everywhere you turn in Afghanistan, you're reminded of your mortality—in a good way. These troops were so thankful that we were there and that they

could just enjoy life for a minute. That's exactly what MEMENTO MORI means. Life's important, and it's brief. You never know when it's going to be over for you or the people around you. You have to make the most of every opportunity you're given. We got to talk to the soldiers about so many things, but there was a bomb the next day and many of them were killed. We came to know these men personally in a short time though. That was MEMENTO MORI at its highest."

Parable: I love the song "Beautiful Bride," expressing the importance of unity in the church. But, Lacey, that song didn't come out of an experience with the church, right?.

Lacey: I'd been dealing with a conflict in my family and this song was born out of that moment. I got a phone call the next day that an amazing reconciliation had come within my family. Both the song and the situation started out painful and ended up glorious. This just proves to me how everything can work together for a greater good. Like a family fight turning into 'Beautiful Bride', a song about unity."

Parable: The song "Arise" is getting some decent exposure right now. Tell me about that song.

Lacey: Arise was inspired by many events. One was a dream I had a few years ago. In my dream, I was woken up by emergency lights shining through my childhood bedroom window. I peeked around the curtain to see my house surround by police units. I ran to my parent's bedroom to inform them of what was taking place. I opened up their bedroom door and saw them sitting on their bed holding hands. They looked very sad, and there was cocaine everywhere like it had snowed in my parent's bedroom. In that moment I knew that the cops were there for them and they were doing drugs so they could deal with me because I was such a bad kid. I really woke up and was very sad, because even though my parents weren't doing drugs to deal with me I was still a very difficult hateful person and I knew they knew it. In that moment I wanted to change.

Another inspiration for the song came from a conversation I was having with a musician from another band. We were talking about how when we're children we dream of growing up to be superheroes. He told me how he got into music because he wanted to do something great. It turned out he grew up to be someone he hated. When I was a teenager I was given a sticky note with a quote on it:

"From the birth of that marvelous wish in you soul – the dawning of that secret dream – was the voice of God himself telling you to arise and come up higher, because He had need of you."

I thought of my new friend and, "Arise and be all that you dreamed" poured out.

Parable: Wow. There's a lot of depth to the songs you write, and I think it's great that the world is taking notice. Thanks so much for your time. It means a lot that you'd open up to our customers like this. As you continue to be the proverbial "light in the darkness," may your faith in Jesus shine brighter than the spotlights, and may dark places in lives be illuminated by the Truth that has changed you...

Lacey: Thanks!

