

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 29, 2017

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Local Worship Leader Draws Crowd for EP Release

Michael Strollo

ATLANTA, GA- Young Christians across the country are yearning for a spiritual connection through praise and worship during church services ultimately pressing to transition from traditional hymns to contemporary Christian music. Commonly referred to as the “Jesus Movement,” this culture shift has sparked a revolution in the millennial generation creating a growing trend of worship leaders and bands both locally and nationally with hopes of making an impact or even getting their big break.

Take for example Hillsong Church in Sydney, Australia. Originally named Hills Christian Life Centre, Hillsong was founded by Pastor Brian Houston in 1983 and has now amassed to a membership of over thirty-five thousand people weekly. Hillsong is typically thought more of as a band simply because of the church’s notable music. To say Hillsong has been successful would be an understatement. Commercially, the band has released over one-hundred and twenty albums and has sold more than sixteen million records across the globe topping Australian charts achieving gold and platinum sales status. In September of 2016, Hillsong released *Hillsong: Let Hope Rise* an emotionally moving, spiritually uplifting American Christian documentary film on Hillsong United by Pureflix Entertainment.

With the new retro-hipster Christian movement sweeping the nation in churches like Elevation Church in North Carolina and Passion City Church in Atlanta, I received an invitation to a local EP release at Trinity Chapel Church in metro Atlanta. I had the pleasure of attending “REVEAL”, an EP album release party for locally known Christian artist Pete Calhoun of Powder Springs, Georgia which drew in an impressive crowd of over two-hundred attendees.

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Founding and Advisor Pastor Jim Bolin of Trinity Chapel described Calhoun as an “incredible worshiper and gifted songwriter.” Calhoun who is a twenty-year-old leader at the church seemed to be the talk of millennials in ministry. Bolin made a point stating that “this generation matters,” and that these kids have a place and there is opportunity for them. One of the things the church has been working hard on is

“finding these young men and women who have gifts and talents and abilities instead of making them wait until they are thirty, forty, or fifty years old before they really get engaged and do anything meaningful. We’ve felt that it’s necessary that some of us older ones’ step back so they can step up, yet they still have us there to teach, train and guide and help their gifts and talents to really flourish” said Bolin.

Not only were the vocals and instrumentals flawless, but Calhoun’s stage presence was impressive, almost as if it were natural. Calhoun’s cousin and Student Ministries Pastor at Trinity Chapel Church told me that there were days Pete would come in without his guitar or a microphone. “He would just walk the stage and pray. Any opportunity he had, Pete would play at the local coffee shops, in the children’s ministry, any opportunity. He just took it and ran with it” said Aaron Calhoun.

The dedication, heart, and passion poured into the release of “REVEAL” were evident. “Isn’t this band amazing?” Calhoun asked from the stage. Between songs, Calhoun paused and addressed the crowd saying that “It would be a missed opportunity if we had this many people in a room together and didn’t worship for a second.” Calhoun said in a statement on his website that his goal when leading worship is to “connect people to the ‘Three in One.’”

Calhoun and his worship band played an encore at the request of the audience closing out the night with a cover of “Glorious Day” by Passion ft. Kristian Stanfill. The band stayed after the show

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to take pictures with fans and autograph copies of their album which were available for sale for ten dollars each or two for fifteen. More information about Calhoun can be found at petecalhoun.com.

As for Pete and his worship band, I expect we will be seeing remarkable things from this young man in the future.

END OF RELEASE

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Michael-Chase Strollo is a student speaker, preacher, and internet personality in Atlanta, Georgia. Michael is a well-known speaker at conferences, churches, ministries and schools around the country where he shares his walk of living to know Jesus while making Jesus known. Michael is also a popular voice on Twitter (@mcstrollo) and works for WFSH-FM, and FM radio station in Atlanta and a hybrid of Christian pop and clean secular music branded as "104.7 The Fish".