

Heavy metal rock star seeks to share the light of Christ

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MIDLAND—When Brian "Head" Welch left the heavy metal band Korn in 2005, the announcement triggered significant speculation as people wondered what led the rock star out of the darkness and into the light.

Brian "Head" Welch, formerly of Korn, promotes his book <i>Washed By Blood</i> .

During his tenure as Korn's guitarist, the group earned Grammy awards and sold more than 30 million albums internationally, but Welch paid a high price for success. Wild parties, drugs and alcohol made his life spin out of control and left him feeling completely empty inside.

No matter what he did, nothing could fill the void in his life—until he found Jesus.

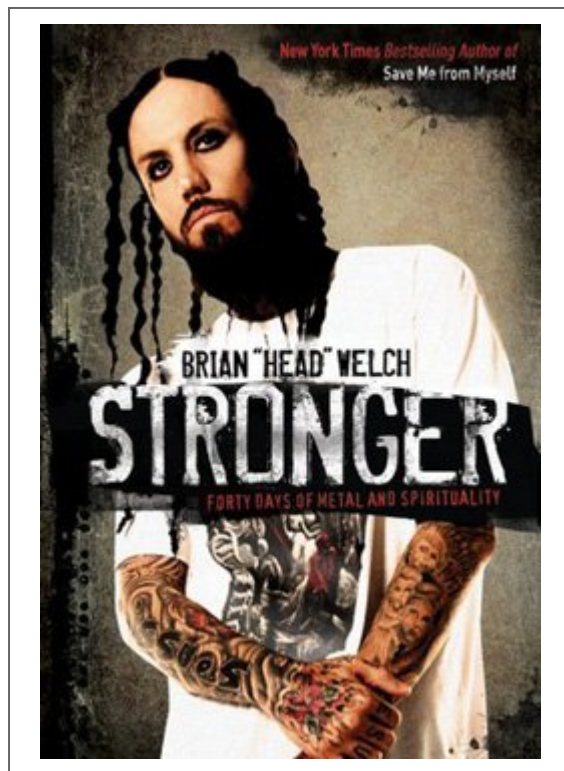
Welch had an eye-opening experience of what his life was becoming after his wife no longer could care for their young daughter because of the effects of drugs.

Desperate to find help, Welch visited a church service.

"I remember crying out to God that night saying: 'Jesus, if you are real like that pastor said, then you've got to take these drugs from me. Come into my life. Come into my heart. Search me right now. Search my heart. You know that I want to quit these drugs. You know that I want to be a good dad to this kid. She is going to lose me if I don't quit. I need your help.'"

During the weeks that followed, Welch continued performing with Korn and struggled with his decision to give his life to Christ. However, Welch knew

he needed to change his lifestyle and come clean. One day while praying about his decision, he felt compelled to throw out all his drugs and quit the band.



Realizing he had been given a second chance at life, Welch wanted to spend it living for Christ.

"When Christ came into my life, I gained a new understanding of life," Welch said. "We were created to live for him and to be with him. It is the most incredible feeling, being exactly where you belong when you find Jesus. Contentment comes from a relationship with Christ. You do not have to look anywhere else."

When Welch performs concerts and speaks at events, he is committed to sharing a message of hope and redemption. He will perform Aug. 2 at [Rock the Desert](#) in Midland.

"I want people to know that there is more than this world," Welch said. "Everyone lives for here and now, but these years are flying by so

fast. If people would take their eyes off of this world and onto eternity, how different things would be. It's crazy how everyone is so focused on this place that is quickly fading away. Obviously, you can still enjoy life, but you need that foundation of eternity and focusing on the things to come."

Welch has written several books about his transformation through Christ, including [*Save Me From Myself*](#) and [*Washed By Blood*](#). He also has written a devotional book, [*Stronger: 40 Days of Metal and Spirituality*](#). His music also is featured in the faith-based film, [*Hardflip*](#), and he recently shared his testimony on a commercial for [*I Am Second*](#).

"My favorite thing to do is talk about the Lord," Welch said. "But if I go to a rock concert or hang out with friends who aren't Christians, I know when to stop talking, just be a friend and let them see a change in me. I'm blessed to be alive today and to be able to tell others about how Jesus has changed my life. If he can do that for me, then he can do that for anyone."

"I'm not perfect by any means, and I still have struggles, but I'm so much happier than I've ever been in my whole life—even on my bad days. My life has changed in every single way, definitely for the better. I went through some tough times to get to where I'm at today, but looking back, I think that I had to go through the pain to get to the peace."

"Now, I want to be able to walk through any circumstance in life and be strong in the Lord. In order to get to that place, you have to go through many trials. It says in Psalm 56:3, 'When I am afraid, I will trust in the Lord.' I think that's the mark of true maturity."