**Great Music Opportunities but They Never Amounted to Much**

**Elem/HS years… but could have, but were shut down…**

 Typical bullied skinny kid in elementary school

1. Non-athletic but did well in them
	1. Thick glasses hindered me
	2. Coach belittled me because of skinny and glasses
	3. Always had the big play / big shot fail to count
		1. 33 / 36 points in 1st two games in 6th BB but then had to take off glasses; then couldn’t see or be strong enough to be effective, BB career was over!
		2. Let a kid catch ‘a bomb’ against us in football – couldn’t see the ball!
		3. Could have set the quarterback back 10 yards but missed his flag.
	4. I just became a silly character couldn’t be serious
2. Two brothers did very well in their lives
	1. Great and successful HS Band director.
	2. Great HS Choir director and great pianist
		1. My college piano teacher said, “You aren’t like your brother!”
		2. It was always. “You’re Dennis’s/Gary’s little brother, right?
	3. Fame chances crashed
		1. 6th grade – piano Gypsy Rondo – wasn’t announced…
		2. Senior year – pride, didn’t prepare, lost the competition.

Typical skinny clown ‘loser’ reputation I had to fulfil

**Never Amounted to Much in High School years**… but could have… chose not to.

1. Mostly enjoyed marching band season.
	1. Director was Sousa band member’s son.
2. Kept up my reputation of irritating teachers – happy with C’s.
3. Already lost my desire to shine on piano.
4. Dental problems – braces or trumpet… chose trumpet / career in music
5. Didn’t practice much piano/trumpet but got good anyway… never over the top, though.
	1. All first blue ribbons at contests since 4th grade
	2. Gold pin winners in piano guild – memorize 10 songs and judge picks.
	3. Even did my own senior solo piano recital… Rach, Beethoven, Haydn – all memory
6. Didn’t enjoy the ‘rock music’ scene until Chicago and Chase came along because of their use of ‘band instruments’ – brass!
	1. Learned about the words in later life – surprised (Cecilia, etc.

**Never Amounted to Much in College years**… my fault!

1. Music knowledge was horrendous – I had none!
	1. SD didn’t teach music theory, nor did my piano teacher
2. Was a lonely, homesick and ‘in love’ – went home every chance I could.
	1. I wasted most of my college time worrying, etc. Hated the tiny practice rooms – had little self-discipline to study much.
	2. Scared – 11,000 students
3. Had politically incorrect radical nuts for a few teachers
	1. Vietnam war and protest years… marched a few just because everyone did.
	2. Started to lean liberal without even knowing it!
4. Had my first (and last) queer experience – scared me to death!
5. Marching Band was all I wanted musically
	1. Played a fancy herald trumpet
	2. Shoe came off in major tv halftime – humiliation continued
	3. Learned to write marching ½ time shows.
	4. Didn’t drink or party – thus no friends at all!
	5. Bully roommate
	6. Drove ‘home’ all the time – even in blizzards 250+ miles and no other cars on the road – just to see girlfriend, not family.
6. So lonely, called “Dial a Prayer”
	1. Lutheran with doubts
		1. Clean the altar story
		2. Had to carry the cross during Easter – scared to death
		3. My confirmation memory work didn’t match scriptures.
		4. RSV came out but mother insisted I stay with KJB forever.
	2. Lutheran pastor came to visit
		1. Took me home to watch tv!!!!
	3. Went to college campus center – weirdos in prayer, etc.

**I actually graduated – even got hired** at a school after first interview.

1. Had to learn to fight the school board right away my 2nd year over music and their students.
2. Had to learn to learn to fight parents my 3,4 years.
3. Lots of marching parades and ‘unique’ ½ time shows
	1. Gun show / field show
4. – the bands were nothing when I got there but we grew and did well in my two years at each – and then I would change jobs to move up.

Hired over phone to Las Vegas!

**Las Vegas – life changing…**

1. Fantastic job opportunity
	1. 3000 HS students
	2. 225 band members – great bands
	3. Fantastic marching band – the showband of Vegas
	4. Band played in Vegas casinos, etc. and for conventions, etc.
	5. Trips to LA, Disneyland, Havasu City, etc. all over West area
	6. Award winning band AND students – scholarships, ‘strip’ lessons, etc. Great musicals, etc.
2. Accidently got involved in a KJB church from NY graduate.
	1. Got involved right away – made sense to me… tossed my Living Bible.
	2. Claimed to be ‘saved’ – but now I know it was only ‘religion’ I got!
	3. Pastor was abusive and manipulative – only wanted my piano playing and music knowledge.
		1. Pastor ‘talked’ me into starting up a private school. Was admin, history, English, grammar, literature and bible teacher. (lots of stories…)
		2. Pastor never did support me – needed parent’s money!
		3. Belittled and mocked me as well as my family daily!
		4. Fought the KJB issue when it got involved with music
		5. Fought a choir lady over her blouse button.
		6. Met Dr. Ruckman and Rex Harrison
		7. Made a name musically – but he was driving me away…
		8. Took a huge pay cut while he bought a fancy sports car… so we left…

**Moved to Idaho** to help a new pastor start a new church.

1. The pastor was the associate pastor of Vegas church – wife had an affair.
2. I Became a Culligan man and pt mortician – tossed all my music books, etc.
	1. Got involved with Bible study – until I heard from Chuck Swindoll
	2. Lit my fire, never to be put out, on the KJB vs NIV.
	3. Suddenly became a KJB Believer vs KJB Baptist.
	4. Wasn’t that well accepted by pastor, though
	5. Pastor was willing to compromise for numbers and money!
3. We moved to help a new little church getting started a few miles away… which caused friction, of course, with first pastor….

FRICTION ALL THE TIME WAS WHAT MY LIFE SEEMED TO CREATE.

**Phone Call took me FBBC in New York**

1. Lost $5,000 from a house sale we had just purchased – and had to sell asap. (I thought I was “being led by God”, etc. to start a band / music program at their 500 kids Christian school. (Rochester was ‘heaven on earth, according to all I had ever heard – Kodak days).
2. Eventually did ‘it all’ for 1500 people.
	1. Choir of 90 adults
	2. Orchestra of 20 adults
	3. Wrote and transcribed music from ‘records’ and ‘cassettes’
	4. Took kids to NYC for street tract work – preaching and playing in a ‘supposedly’ KJB church.
	5. Led singing from 800 to 1500 people.
	6. Taught Bible in JH/HS
	7. Drove Bus of JH to Canada, etc.
	8. Camp bus driver and maintenance guy
3. Lived in poverty level – car barely worked but believed God would honor sacrifice.
4. Noticed serious changes were brewing in school and then in church:
	* 1. KJB was losing ground
		2. School was more interested in worldly knowledge vs spiritual growth
			1. Was told by the principal to drop ‘salvation’ message to non-baptist kids because the school needed their tuition money (a Lutheran was the example)
		3. Sports became the most important element in both school AND church.
		4. Music was changing in the ‘Christian Scene’
			1. Amy Grant, Steve Green, Sandi Patty came into the scene.
			2. CCM because a denomination with doctrine of faith, etc.
			3. Modern bibles were ALWAYS in the forefront.
			4. The music changing drastically – sounded like the world which was totally against the KJB!
			5. Music conferences I attended was showing us how to make the change musically and instrumentally.
		5. Music and Bible became my ‘burden.’
			1. Rex introduced me to Bible and music!
			2. Ruckman taught me about classical music and church history, etc.
			3. Rick Sowell in Ohio gave me a reprieve when I needed it…
			4. Kept on studying my bible, just like the pastors preached for us to do!
		6. I ended up fighting for KJB and tried to keep this popular modern Christian music from entering the church.
			1. Had people on my side, but not the pastor – got fired - again.
			2. Very, very difficult time in my life.
			3. Fired from church religion job – already in poverty
			4. Had no teaching certificate – saw only the gutter coming.

**Able to move back to SD** –

* and the day before schools started, (living in a campground in a tent with U-Haul truck for our vehicle) I was hired to teach music in 4-8 school – and learned I could renew my teaching certificate that year.
* Had serious back surgery right away – taught 4-8 grades – actually, we did well – had a hugely supportive principal that nobody liked – neither did I, but I just chose to be the Christian in works, not so much in words this time around.
* Constantly bickered with co-music teacher, though.
* Did a few musicals – arranged and performed all the music (with my own kids being the ‘pit orchestra).
* Had a bible club for kids – met after school. Fought the superintendent – won all three battles. The kid’s club, The Sword Club” was all about the KJB.
* I was the typical gospel preaching Baptist prideful fighter for the KJB through it all trying to maintain a musical standard of excellence at the elementary level. Very popular with the kids, etc.
* Even got a chance to play the accordion and sing Christmas ‘religious’ hymns in the auditorium with 500 elementary voices while we were waiting for the buses to come and take the kids home during a huge prairie blizzard.
* Also had one student die on a school field trip – she was my oboist and a ‘Christian’ girl – so I was asked to preach at her funeral to the entire student body, parents and the administration, etc.
* I was also having a home church at the time – had some serious members for about 1 ½ as it was about the KJB, etc. Even had a local bible conference with evangelist Sam Gipp come and preach for a few days of meetings. Had a heavy influence and eventually a friendship with Dr. Ruckman.

**Phone call from Touchet took em to Touchet, WA to be their pastor!**

13 years

* At first, I was a Ruckmanite independent cloned Baptist – then as I was preaching and teaching – questions starting coming to me – even during the preaching. Something was just not right.
* Thus, the personal ‘discovery’ of rightly dividing the word of truth.
* Results were as follows:
	+ Unbelievable riches understanding the Scriptures.
	+ Even more depth into the modern version scandals and satanic conspiracy leading to the Tribulation.
	+ Putting ‘grace’ before the ‘law’.
	+ Putting our ‘words’ into personal action now.
	+ Learning to follow PAUL only – after studying and preaching Paul’s books – then the gospels through to Acts 8, and then Hebrews to Jude.
	+ There were daily – I mean daily ‘new’ things being learned – tried to put to action into the families and homes of the church family.
	+ Website begun with many live listeners from around the country – later, from around the world.
	+ Music and Scriptures became part of my ‘burden’ from the pulpit, etc.
* A list of results personally, pastorally, familically could be expressed now.
* Also:
	+ Lost financial and pastoral support eventually – suicide preaching series on T, T, T (Timothy, Thessalonians and Titus) was very hard on local families.
	+ Verbally crucified and scourged and slandered world-wide in a Ruckman International bulletin.
	+ Missionaries came by and spread lies wherever they went.
	+ Lost friendships and associations with all KJB Bible pastors, including the ‘biggies’ like Ruckman, Gipp, Sowell and ALL the small KJB churches.
	+ Local church people killed their chance to be the local church to take Paul by reigns and have an affect worldwide, instead turned into the people taking me by the reigns and through lies, rumors and hatreds, encourage me to move on and move away.
		- I knew their growing families were going to take down that local church eventually and the preaching and teaching wasn’t going to prevent that. A local church by Paul isn’t what the goal of preaching Paul is, anyway.
	+ So, I moved and tried to start a local church by Paul – which bombed before we even arrived. The local Baptist pastor saw to that – and a wife in the church who didn’t4 want her husband to continue to be as excited as he was – started her rumours, etc. So, ‘been there, done that’ and wasn’t about to go that again…
* left asap – got a job teaching music again. And renewed my teaching certificate again.
* And today – continuing with the website for it’s 15th year, I think… and now with a new part II site… I am teaching music in a ND K-12 public school.
* You know those ‘golden years’ of retirement, etc. ha! They don’t exist – at least for me, anyway.
* Pretty much all financial support to help me personally as well as the website has all gone by the wayside… If it wasn’t for one left who helps this all continue, this stuff would no longer be available as it continues to be a strain on me personally, financially as well as my time and fading energy as age takes it’s toll little by little - as well as with my family relationships.
* But I have some of the greatest friends a ‘Former KJB Rightly dividing pastor, musician and music preaching man can have – just not in the same town… or even in the same state… or even anywhere close or near to me. Soon, as the internet is taken over, these websites won’t survive. In the meantime, ‘all kinds of music’ will continue to move people closer to global ‘everything.’

It isn’t going to be we haven’t tried to teach and preach the truth, eh! However, it certainly took me a long time to get to this point.

Do you ever wonder what your / our / my life would have been like if we had been taught the simplicity of Christ many years ago? What if we had simply read our bibles and left the church gospel – the great commission – years ago! What if the pastors had done the same – and not gone to their seminary or bible institute, etc. What if the love of money wasn’t so prevalent in the churches / homes, etc.

What if… a thousand ‘what if’s’ –

Well, my sites still exist for those who want to find something to study – to have that true way to have that ‘real’ relationship with Christ’ that the modern imitation Christians claim that they have (their relationship is either with themselves or with their pastor).

The KJB Café is still open for customers… for bible teaching and for music learning or BOTH!