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ZORO

AUTHOR OF "THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE HALF-TIME SHUFFLE"

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REMARKABLY



BY BRUCE ADOLPH

I became friends with Zoro when we both were placed on the same team helping a drum magazine called "Stick It". I was the ad salesman and Zoro was the editor. The magazine didn't last long but our friendship has. Zoro is not only the kind of fervent friend who is ready to pray for you at a moments notice, but he is also an accomplished musician, author, speaker and educator. I tease him about being an over-achiever and a fashion icon... but that is what friends do :) Read on and see for yourself that this man with the unique name is really quite a remarkable person.

CM: Zoro, it's been a while since we sat down and caught up with you. You always seem to have several plates spinning. Let's start with how you met prophetic minister Kim Clement and then became one of two percussionists with him touring the world. How did that come about?

Z: My dear friend, Nashville pastor Marty Layton, introduced me to Kim in 2009. Since then, Kim graciously invited me a number of times to appear on his global broadcast, "The Den." This led to a deep friendship and bond between us. Last year, Kim wanted to expand his regular ensemble by adding percussion and horns. He asked if I would play percussion and help facilitate his musical vision.

I was thrilled to work with him and recruited my longtime friend and master percussionist, Richie "Gajate" Garcia. Richie and I have worked together often over the years, and he's taught me a lot about percussion. We are like brothers and like-minded in many ways; I knew we would gel instantly.

In addition to us, Kim has a great drummer, Sunil Isaac, and Kim's son Jakob joins us on percussion too. Kim really enjoys percussion and frequently features us, which is an absolute blast as well as an honor.

Worshipping with Kim is a beautifully anointed experience because he is the finest Christian man I have ever known. Besides being a multitasking individual with a powerful spiritual gift, he has an incredibly huge heart.

CM: Kim's ministry seems to be very spontaneous musically. How do you find the musical space to flow as a percussionist in that free-form scenario?

Z: Playing jazz and fusion throughout my career prepared me for the improvisational nature of this environment. My best work as a musician, speaker, writer and teacher results from flowing with the Holy Spirit. Prior to any type of creative performance, I ask God how he would like to use me and then remain open to what that may look like.

I yield myself as an instrument in the

beach photo shoot by Davide Di Padova



Zoro with Kim Clement on his global broadcast, "The Den."

Lord's hands and he plays me as he sees fit for every situation. I simply follow where the spirit leads by using my ears and eyes, and by responding with my heart. The key is to remain malleable in the service of the king.

CM: What gear are you playing now that inspires your best performance?

Z: I'm still thrilled to be using the same gear I've always used – DW drums, Sabian cymbals, Evans drumheads, Latin Percussion, Vic Firth drum sticks, Audix microphones and SKB cases. My detailed setup can be found on my website — zorothedrummer.com, under the clinic tab/clinic rider. As a musician, nothing inspires me more than the instruments I play.

I consider it a privilege to play the finest equipment in the world and be able to work closely with people who are innovative, passionate and supportive. It's a luxury for which I am grateful.

CM: I was totally inspired by your last book, *The Big Gig: Big-Picture Thinking For Success*, which sold very well and made quite an impact around the world. Now you have a new book, *Soar*. Tell us about your vision for it?

Z: I've always had an evangelistic spirit, with a heart to lead people to Jesus and a desire to help them discover God's unique purpose for their lives. My new book, *Soar: 9 Proven Keys For Unlocking Your Limitless Potential*, is a Biblically based life manual packed with an array of inspirational stories, anecdotes, scriptures, motivational quotes and relevant instruction on how to soar and live the life you were meant to.

I share the practical wisdom God has taught me through nine life principles that will equip people with the keys to unlock

their limitless potential, and lead them to a life of intention, impact, and adventure.

CM: How long have you been sharing these life principles?

For the past 30 years, I've shared this truth a myriad of settings. This includes magazine articles and books I've written and contributed to, television and media appearances, speaking engagements, and one-

on-one conversations with countless individuals throughout my travels.

CM: You've had so many varied accomplishments in your life and were even honored at the White House for your influential mentoring work. Where do your visions come from and how have you gone about fulfilling them?

All of my visions come as a gift from God and begin with a dream in my heart. I then respond in faith with courage, diligence, patience and perseverance until the visions come to fruition. I follow the strategic process I lay out in the *Soar* book. These disciplines have led to the fulfillment of every dream God has given me.

God prewired each of us with limitless potential in regard to the gifts he deposited in us. The purpose of our lives is to discover them, develop them and impact others with them in a positive way. Mark Twain is quoted

as saying: "The two most important days in your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." I totally agree.

Most people have no idea why they're here and have yet to discover God's divine purpose for their lives. My intention is to be a conduit, an inspiration and information highway that bridges people to God and the divine destiny that awaits them.

The dream God has for each of our lives will inevitably affect many other people. In essence, his dream for us is never entirely about us. It's really about how the dream will impact his people for his glory.

CM: Why do you think so many people are lost today and have yet to find true fulfillment?

We all long for deep significance, meaning and purpose in our lives. This longing is only satisfied as we come into relationship with our heavenly father and begin to carry out his will for our lives.

It's a mistake to pursue happiness and the temporal trappings of this world, rather than God, truth and purpose. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

God made us to display us, and we're meant to shine brightly in a dark place in the unique way we only we can. Therein lies the deep significance and meaning we all long for.

CM: You've always maintained this burning desire to build, inspire and encourage people, especially young



Zoro ministering to young adults at the Thunder School in Nashville

adults. Tell me about the mission of Zoro International Ministries (ZIM).

Z: ZIM's mission is to develop a rock-solid, Christ-centered foundation that will enable young adults to develop their full potential, fulfill their divine assignments on earth, and impact the world in Christ's name as God intended.

The life lessons God gave me to share are etched in practical simplicity and yield tangible results. These principles can be understood by anyone because they make sense. We tend to overcomplicate things in life. The beauty of God's methods is that they're easy to grasp. The *Soar* book is the next step in equipping young people with necessary tools to flourish in their calling.

With the assistance of a team of experts working with me, the plan is to distribute *Soar* as a paperback and digitally as an e-book. We will then convert it into a full-fledged, multi-media curriculum that will be taught at schools, churches, home groups and other gathering places around the world.

CM: Wow, that's a rather ambitious undertaking and one I really believe is desperately needed. What's it going to take to accomplish this?

No one ever accomplishes visions of this magnitude alone. The Lord knits our hearts together with others who are drawn by his spirit to causes we feel mutually passionate about. He then aligns our efforts in a strategic way that allows each party to contribute their part of the equation.

At this point in the process, I'm looking to partner with like-minded individuals,



Zoro speaking at an event for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America

corporations, foundations and churches who have a heart for young adults and an earnest desire to invest in our world's future. We need people who desperately want to see a cultural shift in our society back to serving, honoring and loving God. We need new partner friends who embrace the vision and are willing to do their part.

My vision is huge. With God's favor and direction and the help of those who feel led to support me in this mission, I am confident this dream will come to pass. My confidence, however, is not in me. It is in God who is with me, who called me according to his purposes and summoned me to this important work.

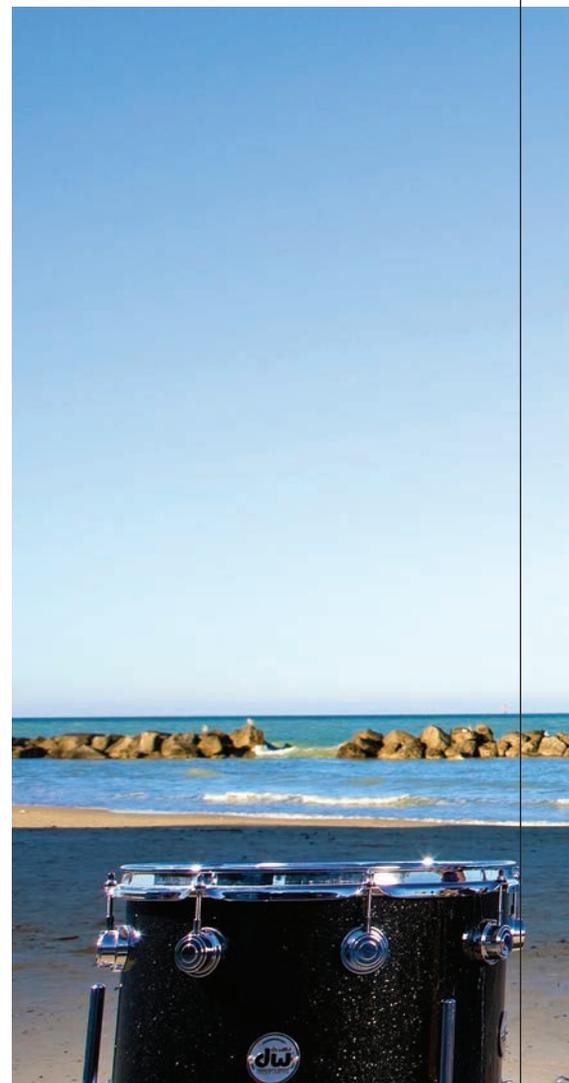
Throughout history, God routinely used simple, unassuming and even unqualified people to perform great exploits in his name, simply because they said yes to him. I am a simple, yet very driven and hardworking man who said yes many years ago.

My steps have been ordered by the Lord throughout my life in preparation for a time such as this. Like an Olympic athlete, he took me through the gauntlet and trained me with years of education, intense labor, testing, pruning and spiritual refinement. This was the cost of equipping me for the level of responsibility it would take to carry this heavy mantle.

I have worked to keep my heart soft before the Lord and remain willing do my part as



Zoro with Governor Mike Huckabee after a performance on the Huckabee show



I've always done. I trust God will do his part as he's always done. Together I know we will be unstoppable!

CM: Why is it so important for you to reach the young adults specifically?

Young adults today are growing up in a complex and confusing world that has turned its back on God and lost its moral compass. There is a strong anti-Christ spirit growing in our world. And as a result, many young people are spiritually lost. They are in desperate search of an identity and purpose. They're also the most neglected demographic in the church; they're departing from the faith in record numbers.

The young adults of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. Plain and simple. They are the future. It's imperative we get a hold on their hearts now for God and his purposes. Otherwise, the world will quickly indoctrinate them into its counterfeit culture.

This Godless theology opposed to Christ leads to a self-centered existence filled with vanity, emptiness, deceit and destruction. It's a cleverly crafted lie that robs people of

God's truth and their ultimate need for him.

Albert Einstein said, "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything." If Christians fail to rise up and draw the swords God gave them, they will inevitably surrender valuable territory to the enemy. This will pave the way to a Godless society filled with rebellion, anarchy and chaos.

God has given us weapons he expects us to use. So we have no excuse for not engaging in the battle. Aside from my musical gifting, my spiritual gifts are that of a teacher, leader, encourager, motivator, speaker and writer. These are my weapons of warfare and the platforms from which I engage in the battle. They are my personal weapons of mass destruction against the powers of hell.

For others, their weapon may be a spirit of compassion or perhaps an administrative skill. For some, it may be acts of service, connecting people or the ability to create wealth. Whatever platform, gift or resources you've been given, you must use them to serve God and build his people because that's what they're for.

One of my favorite C.S. Lewis quotes is this: "There is no neutral ground in the universe; every square inch, every split second is claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan."

There is a lot at stake here, and the spoils of this war are the hearts, souls, minds and eternal destination of men and women throughout the world. I refuse to shrink back from this assignment. I stand firm and fully committed to the vision whose time has come. Right now is the crucial time to strike and fight for the future of God's people!

CM: For as long as I've known you Z, you've always had so much zeal, fire and passion for the Lord and the work he's called you to. What drives you to keep moving forward in the face of adversity?

We must remember that we all die the same. It is how we live that separates us from one another. You have the freedom to spend your life however you choose. But here's the catch. You can only spend it once.

I choose to remain driven by things that

Continued on page 46.





"I started with a vision in my mind, a song in my heart and Vic Firth sticks in my hand. I've never lost touch with any of them."

-Zoro, LENNY KRAVITZ, BOBBY BROWN
and author of *The Big Gig: Big-Picture Thinking For Success*



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“Zoro” continued from page 25

have eternal value, and nothing is more valuable to God than the welfare of his children. Like any good parent, God desires to see all his children flourish and make use of their time, talent and treasure. If I can play a pivotal role in helping his children, then my life will have had significant purpose.

I’ve discovered there are really only two ways in which to live life. You either live a life of self or a life of service. We were created to serve and we *will* serve. It’s only a question of whom we’ll serve and what will be the object of our affections.

Everything God created finds its identity in serving him. If you should choose to serve God and are willing to co-labor with Christ, you’ll be granted the divine privilege of partaking in meaningful and significant work laced with the fingerprints and glory of God. Now I ask you, what can possibly be a better use of your life than that?

I’m here to serve God, my wife, children,



Zoro at the Miami Arena performing with Kim Clement to a sell out crowd

friends and fellow citizens of earth. I’m intent on doing the most good I can with the time I’m given. It’s really that simple for me.

CM: Listening to you share your heart with such conviction gets me all fired up. I sure would love to see you fulfill the vision God gave you. How can people find out more details about your ministry and perhaps support your vision if they feel led?

Z: They can visit zoroministries.org. Under the programs tab, they can download a detailed partner plan that lays out the plans and goals of the ministry. After reviewing it, they can pray and see if they feel led to support the work.

I can’t do this alone. I need all the help I can get because there’s a world out there full of young adults who need to experience God’s love and his purpose for their lives. It’s the only hope we have for our future.

For more info, visit zoroministries.org and zorothe drummer.com

You can follow Zoro at [Facebook.com/zorothe drummermusic](https://www.facebook.com/zorothe drummermusic)

“Coda” continued from page 44

“We missed you this week. We hope you’ll be with us again soon. If you have any need of prayer or visitation, please call the Office.” In other words, it wasn’t really about attendance (“Hey, you missed it”). It really was more about “We noticed and you were missed”.

I don’t mean to stir up trouble here, but I have to tell you that many churches afford the perfect opportunity to hide in plain sight. The sad thing for a lot of folks is that they really can go missing and it might go unnoticed. Of course the most insidious form of this is when you’re physically present and you’re still “missing”. And that missing quality can apply to both you and the folks you’re not really connecting with. But that’s a whole ‘nother column. This is NOT the fault of the Church completely. Most churches are doing the best they can under combat conditions ... it’s insanely hard for the Church to push back against the fragmented and hide-in-our-houses mentality that permeates our age. Sometimes small groups can counteract this congregational anonymity, sometimes not.

So while I’d like to think I’m a practical man with no wish to broad-brush the literal good faith efforts of so many, I still have concerns. If one can “attend” a service in

an overflow room or bookstore with little-to-no difference than actually being in the room where it’s happening, I have to wonder if that needs prayerful review. If the entire service is “other room” and being there mostly means running into friends afterwards or getting that righteous cup of coffee, it begs the impolite question of the difference between actually going to the church or just staying home and watching the video on a web site at your convenience. And THAT is my point. Even for those shut-ins who can’t make it ... thank God for the ability to have church-on-a-screen available to them ... still, that screen should never take the place of a visit from a clergyman or congregant. There needs to be real, observable, touchable incarnation at work.

So, what’s to be done? I’m not suggesting that we rip out the closed circuit wiring in every church. Even though I’m not a huge fan of Video Church on satellite campuses, pleasing me is NOT God’s chosen criteria for our conducting life and worship. But as a Christian Musician, I would encourage my Musical Brethren to make it a priority to be fully in the room yourself when playing or singing. Make it a priority to draw people into something more than just watching/listening. Figure out ways to let them hear their own voices and the voices of others as they sing. Turn off the screens every once

in a while and let the mind be the theater of engagement.

I admit this is a bit of a scattershot missive, but let me leave you with a couple quotes worth reading through to the end for. Dr. Nicholas Perrin has written: “At its worst, Western Protestantism has functionally defaulted to a notion that views the Church as little more than a loose association ... the equivalence of Jesus’ Facebook Friends.”

Recently I was having a discussion with a friend about our various styles of worship. In particular, we were whining about what I call the God Vegas strategy. Then he simply and succinctly quoted a friend of his (I’m sorry I don’t have the attribution) and I’ve been wrestling with it ever since: “What we win them with ... is what we win them to.” Let’s not win them to the True Faith only to relegate them to the overflow room.

Bob Bennett is a lifelong singer-songwriter-guitarist who stores both himself and his stuff in a semi-secret bunker in Costa Mesa, CA. He attends St. Matthew’s Church in Newport Beach and wants you to know that his church is not responsible for any missteps in fact or judgment in the preceding article. As always, he writes about himself in the third person because he’s tried to pass off his bio info as being written by someone else, but it always seems lame and obvious to do that. Besides, who really trusts these things anyway?





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