



"Cross Connection"

Radio Ministry of Hope Wesleyan Church and Wells of Salvation Ministries
Ultimate Oldies Radio – FM 97.7 and 101.1, Huber Heights, Ohio



Series: Christian Messages In Secular Music

01/07/09

Program 63 "Live Like You Were Dying" © Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman

"...Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover"
– 2 Kings 20:1

The Song ¹

- From 2004 album of the same name by Tim McGraw
- Reached #1 on U.S. *Billboard* country music charts and held their for 7 weeks
- Named as the #1 country song of 2004 by *Billboard*
- Linked to McGraw's father, former Mets pitcher Tug McGraw
 - Hospitalized with a malignant brain tumor in March 2003
 - Given 3 weeks to live, he survived 9 more months
- Music video ends with clip of Tug McGraw pitching final strike in the World Series for the 1980 World Champion Philadelphia Phillies

Artist – Samuel Timothy "Tim" McGraw (1967-) ²

- American country singer and actor; married to country singer Faith Hill
- Hits include "Indian Outlaw", "Don't Take the Girl", "I Like It, I Love It", "Something Like That", "It's Your Love" and this program's featured song
- 40+ million albums sold
- 11 consecutive albums debuted at #1 on the *Billboard* albums charts
- 21 singles hit #1 on the Billboard Hot Country 100 chart
- 3 singles named #1 country song of the year; ("It's Your Love", "Just To See You Smile", and "Live Like You Were Dying")
- Awards: 3 Grammy's, 14 Academy of Country Music awards, 11 Country Music Association (CMA), 10 American Music and 3 People's Choice
- Active supporter of charities and humanitarian causes
- Wants to run for governor of Tennessee someday
- Didn't know Tug McGraw was his father until age 11; Tug denied paternity until Tim was 18; they became close until the elder McGraw's death

He said: "I was in my early forties,
"With a lot of life before me,
"An' a moment came that stopped me on a dime.
"I spent most of the next days,
"Looking at the x-rays,
"An' talking 'bout the options an' talkin' 'bout sweet time."

- How would you react to such news?
- What is something that you have always wanted to do?
- How much time do we have in life?
- *"My times are in Your hand"* – Psalm 31:15
- *"Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure"* – Job 14:1-2

¹ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_Like_You_Were_Dying_\(song\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Live_Like_You_Were_Dying_(song))

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_McGraw

I asked him when it sank in,
 That this might really be the real end?
 How's it hit you when you get that kind of news?
 Man whatcha do?
 An' he said:

- Don't take tomorrow for granted!
- Is it wrong for Christians to do such things? Why or why not?
- Who do you know whose life turned around due to tragedy?
 - How did it change?

"I went sky diving, I went rocky mountain climbing,
 "I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu.
 "And I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter,
 "And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying."
 An' he said: "Some day, I hope you get the chance,
 "To live like you were dyin'."

- Should we live this way now?
 - Why or why not?
- Do we take the time to tell the special people in our lives that we love them?
- I took my Dad fishing in his sunset years; returning the favor from boyhood!
- It's not enough just to have a Bible; do we read it, meditate upon it, live by it?
- Read Romans 8:28. As difficult as your life is, would you do anything differently if you had it to over? How has God used the trials in your life?

He said "I was finally the husband,
 "That most the time I wasn't.
 "An' I became a friend a friend would like to have.
 "And all of a sudden goin' fishin',
 "Wasn't such an imposition,
 "And I went three times that year I lost my Dad
 "Well, I finally read the Good Book,
 "And I took a good long hard look,
 "At what I'd do if I could do it all again,
 "And then:

(Chorus)

Like tomorrow was a gift,
 And you got eternity,
 To think about what you'd do with it.
 An' what did you do with it?
 An' what can I do with it?
 An' what would I do with it?

- A new perspective, a greater appreciation for life
 - Have you thought about what life will be like in eternity?
 - *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him--but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit"*
- 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

"Sky diving, I went rocky mountain climbing,
 "I went two point seven seconds on a bull named Fu Man Chu.
 "And then I loved deeper and I spoke sweeter,
 "And I watched an eagle as it was flyin'."
 An' he said: "Some day, I hope you get the chance,
 "To live like you were dyin'." (x5)

- Greater appreciation for God's creation... animals, fresh air, fields, sky, celestial bodies

Final Thoughts --

God has done some wonderful things for us through doctors. But the final authority concerning when we leave this life is the Author of life! When Mets pitcher Tug McGraw was given 3 more weeks to live by physicians, the Great Physician said, "Let's make that nine more months!" Even when God, through his messenger the prophet Isaiah, told King Hezekiah to put his house in order because he would not recover from an illness, but rather would die, God changed His mind and gave the king 15 more years of life! The Bible tells us that the hairs on our head are numbered. Our Lord knows that number, and nothing is over until He says it's over! This has consistently been my prayer for the seriously ill, even if they are in hospice care. Praise God that our lives are in His care!
