



# The Joshua Tree

**June 13, 2023**

## **BETRAYAL: A JOURNEY IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY**

Rotarian and Victor Valley Transit Senior Marketing Manager/PIO, **Chris Ackerman**, has been part of the local business community for 25 years, but had a very interesting life before that. One aspect of his life not many know was the years he spent in the music industry as the vocalist for a Christian heavy metal band called Betrayal.



foremost, focusing on kids who were deeply involved in Satanism and leading them to Christ.

Based on their demo tape "Reveling Darkness", in 1991 the band were signed to Wonderland Records out of Chicago and proceeded to Illinois to record their debut album, "Renaissance by Death". Ministry still at the

His story began when he was only 15 years old in North Hollywood where he began to work as a Roadie for a variety of bands on the famed Sunset Strip. After accepting Christ at 17 years old, his journey led him to roadie and soon become Stage & Road Manager for a Christian band called Martyr in 1987. Chris loved his work and was happy to be running things in the background and out of the spotlight.

forefront while the touring cycle continued, but one fact was made apparent to Chris, even for a highly respected Christian label, money was more important than ministry.

The band splintered apart in 1989 and were left without a vocalist. The remaining members of Martyr convinced Chris to do one show as front man, to his vehement objections, since he was the only one who knew the words to all their songs. After that one show, the band said there was no other choice, Chris would be the vocalist of this new band called Betrayal. This band's mission was ministry first and

A perfect example is the band made a half cent on each CD sold, and even less for cassettes. Before the band saw one dime, they had to pay back all recording costs, marketing and promotion from those sales. The objective was to keep them playing live and selling more albums. In fact, Chris did make money during all the years in Betrayal; one royalty check of \$14, for a song he wrote for their follow up album.

By the time their sophomore release, "The Passing" hit the streets, ministry took a backseat and "making it" was all anyone from band members to the record company spoke about. After a failed showcase show for major label Interscope Records and horrible accident while on their way for a tour of Texas, the band were spent emotionally and spiritually. Chris left Los Angeles and moved to Apple Valley where he cut off his hair, denied ever being in a band, and left Christianity behind for the next 20 years.

But something happened in 2018. Chris found Christ again and rededicated his life, more mature and focused than before. After rebuilding his walk with God for about a year and a half, Betrayal's albums were re-released on CD

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### **This Week's Functionaries**

**Invocation:** **Bill Edwards**

**Flag Salute:** **Bob Basen**

**4-Way Test:** **Ryan McEachron**

**Fine Master:** **David North**



## ARSALEE'S AVENUE

Thank you to Chris Ackerman for bringing his unique presentation on his years in the music business as a Rock Star!

It was refreshing to hear him admitting his own failings and speaking on how it made his faith in Christ even stronger. It was so interesting to see this other side of Chris that many didn't know about him. Can't wait for the new songs



to come out later this year. Great photo of us doing our "Metal Faces"!

Just a

couple more weeks until my Demotion party at the home of Dan & Kris Dever. If you plan on attending, please make sure you let Steve Murray know so we have a good head count. This is a free event, and family and friends are invited. There will be a swimming pool, D.J. and more!

Margaret Cooker shared that if you aren't a Paul Harris Fellow, be on the lookout for an email. Incoming President Steve Murray wants our Club to be a 100% Paul Harris Fellow. Presentations will be conducted at the Demotion Party.

Movie Night at the Hove's is coming on August 19th at 6:00pm and the movie has been selected! This time it will be the 1958 film "Auntie Mame" starring Rosland Russell and Forrest Tucker. Jon and Linda are looking for attendees to sign up to bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert.

Finally, "Magic is believing in yourself. If you can make that happen, you can make anything happen."

*Arsalee*

## Ackerman

*Continued from page 1*

with bonus tracks plus put out on vinyl for the first time ever, which led to an online renaissance of the band to fans old and new. In 2022 he was contacted by three different bands from around the globe who were influenced by Betrayal, and asked him to provide vocals on their upcoming albums. After 31 years away from the mic, God brought Chris back Christian metal music and by the end of 2023, all three songs will be available to the public.

Who knows where the journey will lead from here, but Chris just waits to see what other doors God may open. Betrayal's two remastered albums can be purchased at girdermusic.com.

## Rotarian Travel Log



**Steve Murray** and **Jon Hove** have been on some travels! The friends and their spouses, **Pam Murray** and **Linda Hove** recently returned from Melbourne, Australia where they attended the International Rotary Convention. In the Murray household growing up, Steve was able to spend some time with Rotary exchange students as a youth and beamed when he spoke of reuniting with them after the Convention in New Zealand. Both Steve and Jon shared Rotary flags from around the globe they traded with others in Australia.

In addition to attending classes, breakout sessions and more, the group did a lot of sightseeing, not only in Australia but in New Zealand.



**IMAGINE  
ROTARY**



# IMAGINE ROTARY

## Big Blue Dice



*Chris Ackerman had the chance to grab the Blue Dice, but picked a white one and saved the chance for another Rotarian. The pot continues to grow next week with 6 Dice and \$400 for the lucky Rotarian who can grab the Blue Dice.*

## Raffle

This week's raffle was huge! **Chris Ackerman** donated a Micro-Link USB that will be used by **Arsalee Morales** and a VTA bean bag phone holder won by **Margaret Cooker**. Chris himself received two goodie bags with \$10 gift cards from **Terry Saenz** at ICR Staffing. Goodie bags from ICR also went to **Steve Murray, James Murray** and **Bill Edwards**. Bill donated packs of cupcake sprinkle mixes, that will lead to a baking competition between Steve and **Jon Hove**. Also raffled by Bill were a dog biscuit baking kit to **Mike Page**, a grill cover to **David North** and hot cocoa mix to **Terry Saenz**, who also won a Bob's Tire tumbler from the younger Murray. The senior Murray gave away a sleeve of golf balls that were enthusiastically received from **Rob Kilpatrick**. Finally, Mr. North gave away a bottle of wine, that was won by **Mike Page**.

## Rotary Guests



This week we welcomed **Pat Thomasson**, the new VP of Sales for El Dorado broadcasters, who attended as a guest of **Arsalee Morales**. **Linda Hove** also attended with **Jon Hove**. We were also reunited with **Dr. Paul Stanton** who attended as a guest of **Margaret Cooker**.

Our Stand-ins this week was **Terry Saenz** for **Robert Lovingood** and **Stefanie Montoya** for **Bryan Gillespie**.

## Fine Session



**David North** was our Fine Master and began by listing a long list of offenses on **Mike Page**. These charges included his 35th Rotary anniversary, birthday, his daughter graduating college and making Nationals in track and field. All this netted him a fine of \$100.

**Bill Edwards** was penalized \$10 for missing the budget meeting to speak at church. When Bill protested that he was speaking to 79 kids at church, the fine was raised to \$79!

## Proposed Member

*If you protest the admission of this member please respond in writing by 5 p.m. June 19 to President Arsalee Morales.*

**Pat Thomasson**

**El Dorado Broadcasters**

**Vice President of Sales**

**Classification: Marketing: Radio**

**Sponsor: Arsalee Morales**

## Spoon of Exception

**Terry Saenz**, Stand-in for **Robert Lovingood**, had the Spoon this week, and shared the exciting news that Robert is now a Public Member of the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District.

Over at ICR Staffing they handle H.R., Risk Management, Performance Management, and much more. ICR now has reach across the county, as they recently opened a location in Johnson City, Tennessee. Find out more at [icrjobs.com](http://icrjobs.com).

## The Polio Pig

**Collected this week: \$12.00**

*Polio Pig: \$7 • Dice (Chris Ackerman) \$5 = \$12.00*

**Collected to Date: \$19,771.52**

**Total equals: 100,531 Doses!**

**One dollar equals 2 Doses of Vaccine!  
\$500 pays for a Polio Clinic!**



# Rotary

## Club of Victorville, CA



The Joshua Tree is a Weekly Publication of the Rotary Club of Victorville  
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If you are not receiving your newsletter, please contact Editor Chris Ackerman at  
chris@signifydesigns.com or 760-559-1686 to be added to the e-mail or mailing list.

### VICTORVILLE ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

#### Board of Directors

President 2022-2023 .....	Arsalee Morales
President 2023-2024 .....	Steve Murray
President 2024-2025 .....	Bryan Gillespie
President 2025-2027 .....	Bill Edwards
President 2027 - 2028 .....	James Rightmire
Immediate Past President .....	Jon Hove
Treasurer .....	Donna Wells
Executive Secretary .....	Margaret Cooker
Club Service .....	Steve Murray
Community Service .....	Bryan Gillespie
International Service.....	Ben Tafoya
Youth Service/RYLEA & TLC .....	Ryan McEachron
Vocational Service .....	Bill Edwards

**Members-at-Large:** David North, Mike Johnson, Rob Kilpatrick & Ron Boyd

#### Positions & Committee Chairs

BOD Secretary .....	Pam Murray
Billing Officer .....	Esther Mears
Dan Stover Music Contest.....	Dawn Quigg
Flowers and Gifts .....	Linda Hove
Foundation & Grants .....	Margaret Cooker
4-Way Speech Competitions.....	Mike Johnson
Fundraising.....	Arsalee Morales
George Hensel Ethics Essay Contest .....	Ron Boyd
Joshua Tree Editor .....	Chris Ackerman
Membership.....	Steve Murray
Programs .....	Mike Page
Publicity/Public Relations .....	Rob Kilpatrick
Public Service.....	Rick Bessinger, Teresa DeAtley, Jeff Armstrong and John Wickum
Sergeant At Arms.....	Steve Murray
Scholarships.....	David North
S.T.A.R. Students .....	Maureen Mills and Michal Krause

**The Victorville Rotary Club meets every Tuesday for fellowship at 11:30 a.m. and meeting at 12:00 noon at the Bear Valley Country Club, 13229 Spring Valley Parkway, Victorville**

#### Make-up Days and Locations

<b>MONDAY:</b>	San Bernardino East, Imperial Palace, noon
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Rancho Cucamonga Sunrise, 7:15 a.m. Empire Lakes Golf Course Rancho Cucamonga, 12:00 p.m., Etiwanda Gardens
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	High Desert/Hesperia Club meets 7:00 a.m., Mile High Cafe, 8832 Orange St., Hesperia San Bernardino Crossroads, Hilton, noon, Barstow, Rositas, 540 Main St, 12:00 p.m.
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Apple Valley, Thursday various meeting locations and times. Ontario, 12:15 p.m., Doubletree Hotel San Bernardino, Denny's at I-15, 7 a.m. Redlands, Masonic Temple, noon
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	San Bernardino North, Elks Lodge, 12:05 p.m.

## Calendar Dates

- June 24: Demotion Party**  
4:00pm • Home of Dan & Kris Dever  
13166 Waco Road, Apple Valley
- July 10: Board of Directors Meeting**  
5:00pm -Fellowship  
5:30 pm Board Meeting  
Robar Enterprises  
17671 Bear Valley Road, Victorville, CA
- Aug 19: Movie Night at the Hove's**  
6:00pm • Home of Jon & Linda Hove  
Film: Auntie Mame  
*Please sign up to bring an appetizer,  
side dish, or dessert*

**Rotary**

Club of Victorville, CA

## Upcoming Programs

- June 20:** Tony Winkel, Senior Hydrologist,  
Mojave Water Agency **TOPIC "2 Dams  
and a River"** (Page)
- June 27:** Arsalee Morales and Donna Wells  
**TOPIC "Club End of Year Update and  
Celebration"** (Cooker)
- July 4: DARK: HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!**

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