

max

M A G A Z I N E

LAURA KACZOR

INTERVIEW

Nashville recording artist, songwriter, worship leader and speaker Laura Kaczor released her new album 'Love Enough' in 2010 through Universal Music Christian Group/Fontana distribution on LifeThirst Records/IE. She's an artist that is creating a buzz within Christian music becoming a name well known to radio with her song 'Invisible' currently at #9 on the national Christian Music Weekly Worship Chart. Her journey didn't begin with record contracts and radio success though but interestingly enough, through tap dancing.

"I was small – probably in 3rd grade or so. It's actually a funny story! My best friend's great aunt was a tap dancing instructor in Philadelphia in the 1940s, and when we were kids (she was in her late-60s), she taught us dance lessons in her basement! Every summer we had a recital in her garage, and she liked to incorporate music, so she encouraged us to sing. That was the first time I actually sang in public, and my parents saw I had some natural ability..."

It's amazing how the simple little things we do as children allow our parents (who are our life guides) to see the potential within us and do something about... Literally taking on the scripture of Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Laura's parents took the gift they saw seriously and invested in her.

"I enjoyed listening to music and was probably subconsciously influenced by various musical styles... but I was most influenced by my choir teachers and eventually my voice teacher, Susan Dash, who I've been studying with since I was 13."


Even as a young person in high school Laura was involved within the creative arts taking an active role with the school activities helping her hone her skills and exemplifying the passion and desire that you see in those who have a desire to be successful. Of course that didn't come easy and with a lot of children in high school there were

issues too.

"I actually really enjoyed High School. I was a very serious student, so my primary concern was excelling academically. And I was also extremely involved with the Arts – both music and drama. Loved it! Being in plays, musicals, and concerts really defined my high school experience, and formed so tremendous and lasting friendships. But High School was not always easy! Socially, I faced the same challenges I'm sure many of your readers face! - Struggles with self-image, being "popular," and even struggles about my future, trying to determine what my purpose was."

On her website Laura spoke of a "life changing encounter with the Lord through worship" in her senior year of high school. An experience that led to all we see now in Laura's life and the ministries she represents.

"I was at Creation Festival – a huge Christian music festival held annually in Pennsylvania. My youth group organized the trip, and at the time, I



had never really experienced any concentrated amounts of modern worship. I met God in those moments, very intimately, and I experienced how worship (through music – my passion!) can bring people closer to the heart of God. It was absolutely transformative, and I decided then that I wanted to use my gifts to serve God and to bring others close to Him, the way I experienced it.”

It’s always a great thing when you find your calling or it’s confirmed and God wants you to use what you’re passionate about to bring people to know Him and have encounters with Him. It’s one thing to have a ministry and know that you’re

called to be a blessing in your church or local area but how does a young lady who started off tap dancing with a friend’s great aunt end up with such great success. How did she go about breaking into the music industry?

“I don’t know if there was ever one moment of breaking in... it’s been more like a slow and steady chipping away! Everything has been a learning lesson. The first album. The second album. Radio promotion. My Mom is essentially my manager at this point, and she has been the greatest asset to this ministry and my greatest cheerleader! I wouldn’t be where I am without her tireless efforts on my behalf.”

Continued

It's great to see such humility and a down to earth attitude and also the realisation that success for most people doesn't happen overnight but with hard work and also learning how to balance the business with the ministry. They're 2 very different things but are very important to the effectiveness of each other.

"First and foremost, it's about ministry. That should be the only motivator. However, it takes business acumen to keep a ministry going... so you have to view money (or the business side of it) as a means to an end, but not the end. That's where the need for balance comes in. In the end, it's all about heart motive, and in an industry where all kinds of idols can creep in to steal your initial vision and your initial purpose, you have to always stay on guard, always check your motives, and pray pray pray!"

It can be quite easy for artist's to want to minister so badly and reach souls for Christ that the business side of things isn't taken care of. It can also be easy to just think about the money you can make but as Laura says you have to continually check your motives.

One thing we've noticed about Laura is how much she loves to give to those around her... She gives of her time, resources and life experiences to help others progress in life and in ministry. She speaks of checking her motives but the way she leads her life shows us that her statement "First and foremost, it's about ministry," is true.

"It's what it's all about. That's the reason that I sing at all. To help people, to minister to them, and to help them understand the heart of God towards them. I believe that God allows us to get wisdom from our past experiences specifically for the purpose of pouring that wisdom into other people's lives."

One way that Laura does this is through her ministry called 'LifeThirst'.

"LifeThirst is a concert/conference, worship, evangelism, teaching ministry that my husband and I started to incorporate our love of music and our heart for young people. Music is a great disarmer – everyone loves music, especially young people. So if you can create an atmosphere of fun, where people can experience awesome music and worship... it creates a great platform to deliver solid Biblical teaching and the gospel."

Through 'LifeThirst' Laura has seen a great impact in the lives of those who've attended. Souls saved, lives changed and the opportunity to travel around the country doing something practical to impact the lives of all those who attend.

It's a great unifier. There are no denominational affiliations, so it's brought together youth and young adults from many different walks. In the 5 events we've done so far, we've seen over 100 people come to Christ or recommit. It's been powerful, and we hope to bring 'LifeThirst' across the US and abroad. In the most recent one held at Valley Forge Christian College, Jan. 30, it united and involved the students and especially the youth ministry students for an outreach to the youth and young adults in the community. They were so excited to be used! Their band and drama team participated and youth ministry students volunteered. We had almost 800 attend and there was such a response! About 10 teens accepted Christ for the first time and more than 50 students were at the altar for prayer and re-commitment. It was like a revival on the college campus and it was a huge witness to the teens in youth groups! We are going to go back next year and the Lord is opening doors for a 'LifeThirst' college tour throughout the country. (See last section for 'LifeThirst' comments from students.)

Another way Laura gives back is through "Lift Up U"iversity Girl's/Women's conferences which is based on Leviticus 26:13, God being the lifter of our heads. Laura is a full time recording artist so having time to do 'LifeThirst' was impressive but to also have a ministry

dedicated at impacting the lives of women is great and just proves that no matter how busy you are, if you have a giving heart you'll always find time to give.

"It seemed like a natural extension of what we were doing with 'LifeThirst'. As a woman, I have a natural inclination to help other young ladies as they are discovering their place in this world. It's a difficult journey, it can be so bitter-sweet, and I wanted to be able to share my experiences and the things that God has taught me over the years. I want them to know His heart is for them, not against them, and that their beauty and worth is not determined by the things we see in the natural world – but by Him."

This is an awesome message and one that we see being 'preached' by many different women all over the world...Why? Because it's a message that is very much needed in a time where lot's of women feel inadequate because of what they see through the media or because of past experiences.

Doing all of these things and having a giving heart doesn't make all Laura does any easier to do though and she like all of us from time to time still feels like stopping sometimes but thank God she hasn't given in yet.

"It's not an easy road, as I'm sure most artists would tell you! And when it is difficult, it can be hard not to just want to throw in the towel. But God is good, and so gracious, and He has always encouraged me to keep pushing forward."

Laura's album 'Love Enough' is doing really well in the radio charts right now and this album is really establishing her in the industry but there's a deeper reason for the album than radio/chart success... Laura clearly had something she wanted to say and a message about love that she wanted us all to hear.

"'Love Enough' is all about grace, and I think that's a good way to describe where I'm at, at this point in my life. Experiencing the miracle of grace! That I don't have to be good enough, or accomplish a certain goal, to have worth in His eyes. He loves me for me, unconditionally, and loved me enough to send His own Son to die on the cross."

There's more to it than that though... Laura continued to share the message she hopes will resonate in the hearts of everyone who hears 'LoveEnough'.

"I really want people to know that God loves us enough to find us wherever we are, heal our deepest wounds, give us the gift of salvation, and bring us into a relationship with Him!"

After listening to 'Love Enough' we can say that we've heard this message in her music. Laura has many plans for 2011 and is working hard to make sure that her ministry reaches as many people as possible.

"I am going to release two more singles off of the 'Love Enough' album to Christian radio. My next release will be "Alive In You", April 1st and I'm looking to film and release a music video before Summer 2011. I'm also in the beginning stages of recording another album. I am excited about concerts and the 'LifeThirst' college tour this year and also "Lift Up U" girls conferences taking off. Other than that, follow me on face book and my website to see where I'll be singing across the US!"

There's still so much more to look forward to from Laura and she's determined to go on changing lives and being a practical influence in the lives of others. We can see all over Laura's life that she's living the 'Love Enough' lifestyle, knowing that God's love is so amazing and unconditional... The question is; are you living a 'Love Enough' lifestyle?

LifeThirst - Facebook Comments (this is why I do what I do)

Laura, thank you so much for coming to our area Sunday night for LifeThirst. I can't even begin to explain what a night like that did for me, and many others I'm sure! There are no words to describe it. Basically God was there. God shook the very ground we stood on. He made His presence known and it was a beautiful thing to see ♥ Keep spreading His Word and reviving the fire in us all! - Janine Truppay, Valley Forge Christian College (VFCC)

Lord, thank you for LifeThirst tonight. It was a night in which your power, love and grace were so evident! My yearning for prayer was as strong as it was at Passion! You broke so many people, and you lifted them up. You humbled them, and you showed them compassion. You are more than words can describe. {Ephesians 3:20-21} - Janine Truppay, VFCC

LifeThirst was a breakthrough that I have desperately needed in my life... I want to be a youth pastor and for a while I was running from that call... words cannot express my thanks....Laura, I feel like you stole my diary by the way... your lyrics wrecked me.... thank you!!! - Nicole Berkibile, VFCC

Laura, what a great evening!!! The special music from you and Jonny Diaz was great! The lyrics you both sang came from the heart. But add the Praise and Worship to it = amazing. I sat in the back due to having a friend in a wheel chair. It was great though because I could see everyone in front of me. And YES, God WAS moving. At one point during worship, I looked over and saw a college student on his hands and knees just praying out to God!! I could sense his outpouring. It brought tears to my eyes because I saw God moving in such a powerful way. Thanks for the wonderful evening!! And keep sharing until the whole world hears!! - Christina Adams

I was so blessed by you and your music at the LifeThirst Conference at VFCC! You are so talented and God used you in mighty ways! Thank you!! - Gina Stein, VFCC

You did a fantastic Job at Lifethirst. I know your music touched many lives. You're such a wonderful woman of God! I am so blessed by you! Thank you!! - Tabitha Johnson, VFCC

LifeThirst was awesome! Thank you so much for sharing your music with us Laura! You have such a beautiful voice, and are so beautiful inside and out! God bless you! I especially loved "Invisible!" - Becky Moyer, VFCC

Get your FREE download of Invisible on <http://www.laurakaczor.com/store> - You can also listen to it on our music player.

Links

<http://www.facebook.com/LauraKaczorMusic>
<http://www.laurakaczor.com/store>
<http://itunes.apple.com/us/album/love-enough/id365799831>