

Greetings Sonshine Crew;

I want to start by thanking every one of you, from the Sups to the youngest of rookies; you are to be commended for the incredible job at Sonshine. Your efforts did not go unnoticed and I am proud to have each of you on the team. We faced many huge changes this past year, providing great challenges to us all, but without exception you were up to the task. This recap officially marks the end of Sonshine 2011. It was a wonderful and special year, as they all are. It was a year marked by hordes of unrelenting mosquitoes, thick as clouds it seemed. We endured quite a bit of rain, flooding out huge areas of tent city and effectively keeping us from spending time visiting with the campers in tent city, which was a huge disappointment for many. We were thrilled to see the return of some old friends, most notably **Jeff Melberg**. We saw an incredibly gifted and spirited class of rookies, all blending together so well with the vets of many years. There was certainly no shortage to the odd characters we encounter at Sonshine or the “shake your head” situations we find ourselves in. What follows are the stories of Sonshine 2011.

On the very first day, a number of crew boarded the short bus to get their photo ID's taken at the Police Station. **Michael Curran** storms onto the bus, runs full speed down the bus aisle and with his head down, promptly runs into the A/C unit with his head. He falls backward, catching himself on the seats, and sympathetically rubbed on the A/C unit asking if it was ok.

Of Note: There were other fun “short bus” stories, but suffice it to say it was QUITE a sight to have multiple busloads of people wearing “prison orange” being transported to the police station in a white bus, especially when we would be hanging out the windows crazily waving at cars.

**Kim Hereid, Scott Fisk, and Chris Brown** were cruising around on the last night of the Festival when they stumbled upon some Sonshiners packing a bunch of people in one porta-potty. They stopped to watch for awhile, even taking pictures of them. As more security arrived the crew began trying to convince petite little Kim to make the number double digits inside one biffy. Finally, she agreed to get in there. While in there, someone asked her, "Hey you're security, aren't you supposed to STOP us from doing this?" She replied, “What would be the fun in that?”

From **Pastor Ray Jarosik**: Everyone knows working HM can get a bit rough at times. Therefore, the Pit Crew is instructed that as soon as we have "a bleeder", we are to escort them outside the facility as quickly as possible, avoiding any blood on the floor that would possibly shut down the stage. Towards the end of Friday night a person came up to me and said he was bleeding from his knee and needed a bandage. I could see his pants were all torn up around the knee area so I assumed that he had a nice gash. I quickly escorted him to where EMS was stationed outside. EMS was not there so I spotted **Suzanne Anderson** back inside and promptly asked if she knew if EMS was on their way back. Suzanne asked what was wrong and this guy again tells her he was bleeding and needed bandaging. He then proceeds to show Suzanne and I what he needed treatment for. He had a tiny scrape on his knee that was no bigger than a 1/2 inch long, already dried up, and looked like a paper cut. Suzanne looks at me, I look at the guy, and both Suzanne and I say, “Please wait outside for EMS”. Once the guy leaves, Suzanne turns to me with big boo-boo lips, and in a childlike voice mockingly says to me, “Mommy can kiss it and make it all better, he has a boo-boo and it needs a bandage”. It was priceless!

While patrolling overnight, **Jessica Eddy** and **Alex Schmidt** ran into a boy carrying a big wooden stick by himself in the shadows. The boy calmly said he was looking to kill demons. We told him to make sure not to hurt any people. He looked at us with a straight, serious face and told us he was only killing demons, not people. He proudly said he was a demon hunter and had killed 6 but he thinks there were about 9 at Sonshine and we should watch out. We looked at each other confused, and told him as long as he doesn't hurt anyone that isn't a demon to have a good time.

From **Nora Nutt**: I was heading to HM and walked up to say hi to **Lizzy Alexandr** when he grabbed me and rubbed his extremely sweaty face all over mine. After a second or two of recovery time, I told him I was going to dub that the "Lizzy Kiss". He replied no, THIS is a "Lizzy Kiss" and he licked the WHOLE side of my face! Truly memorable!

As **Joe Kendall and Mike Curran** stood in line at the Green Mill truck for food, they were asked by a young lady how she could become security. They (sort of) jokingly replied, "You need to have a personal relationship with Jesus". She left with a puzzled look on her face as the guys couldn't chat further with her. Well, I guess God had other ideas because when Joe, Curran, and **Mike Krubsack** walked their line into the Tobymac crowd they stopped right in front of that VERY SAME girl. They chatted some, and Joe eventually asked if she wanted to continue their conversation from earlier. She said yes, and took a picture of Joe's ID Badge so she could add him on Facebook. Well, much later that night, around 2am, on FB chat, the Holy Spirit used Joe to share the Gospel with Raelin. After some difficult moments of explaining, in the end she prayed to receive Christ. She even told Joe she'd been crying a little after praying. Isn't it amazing how God orchestrates HIS plan even in the midst of Sonshine!

The 6am morning shift throughout Sonshine was rather dismal with the rain Thursday and Friday and the heavy fog on Saturday. To keep spirits up, **Ben Chase** would ride in the cart with **Carl Skaro** and shout out "Good morning!" to anyone that made eye contact. This got some varying responses from smiles to looks of "why won't that creepy guy leave me alone?!" Saturday night at HM stage, a young woman emerged from the crowd completely soaked and did a double take when seeing Ben. She walked up, and asked, "Aren't you the 'Good morning!' guy?" She gave Ben a fist pound and bounded away.

**Tracy Fuller** should know by now that Lizzy's threats are NOT empty ones!! During the security meeting, he showed her \$100, saying he had offered a reward to any of his pit crew who found her after a show and gave her a dreaded sweaty hug. Tracy told me, "HA, never happened! One of them, shoot, I forget his name, came to hug me and I asked him if Lizzy offered him money and when he said no, I told him that Lizzy was offering OTHERS money so he should hold out to get some...AND it worked...no hug." Sadly, I doubt the ploy works next year Tracy!

**Leah Preble** and others saw some kids at the HM stage dancing around an object that looked like a sledgehammer. Thinking it was a toy one or something, she decided to check it out. She walked over and picked it up, and it was definitely real. She quickly told the kid that he had to take it out right now. He immediately said ok and walked it out calmly and nonchalantly, leaving Leah to wonder...who brings a sledgehammer to a concert in the first place?

An amazing, never before seen thing happened during the beautiful, yet slow Demon Hunter ballad, "*My Heartstrings Come Undone*". **Todd Hensel**, a rookie, masterfully orchestrated FOUR walls of death, one after the other. After some initial help from other pit crew separating the crowd, he calmly strode into the middle of the pit, raised his hands, and keeping to the melodic beat of the song, counted down with his fingers from 4, 3, 2, and 1, threw his hands down, and waving the two opposing masses of kids to charge one another. Absolutely amazing!!

On the final night there were a couple of kids persisting in their make-out session on the high school loading dock. They had been warned a few times to stop when finally **Scott Fisk, Kirk Partello, Terry Post, and Kelly Lowe** decided to put an end to it. They arrived on the scene and found them each in their own chairs, innocently holding hands. Deciding to have a little fun and maybe catch them in the act, Fisk took off all his gear and started to sneak down the side of the building and around the dumpster. Just as he was about to round the corner, Kirk radioed him to hold on for a second, as the girl got back up and seated herself straddling the boy, slightly less innocently than earlier. Well, they are now full on making out as Fisk creeps up to the edge, stands up abruptly right next to them and says with a loud voice, "What are you doing?!?!?" The girl literally FLEW off the boy's lap and back into her own chair. Now THAT was good fun!!

In a momentary lapse in judgment, **Kelly Lowe** snuck over to HM stage to see Children 18:3 and catch the opening of Flatfoot 56. Thinking she was hidden out of the way of the crowd, she hears **Leigh Lundy** call out the charge of, "run! run!" and just as suddenly appears Lizzy in front of Kelly. He hijacks her, takes her radio and gear, and marks her with a glow bracelet so as not to lose her in the chaotic crowd. They pulled Kelly into the front pit of Flatfoot announcing LOUDLY to the crowd that she was a "pit virgin". The first song starts and within 30 seconds Kelly reports getting punched in the face! She bravely makes a couple more rounds around the pit with Lizzy and **Jamie Radich** before retiring to the safety of the FOH stage. From there she watched the giant circle pit around the stage, all the while thinking, "You people are CRAZY!" Kelly returned to the relative peace and tranquility of her Main Stage with a new appreciation.

Working Artist Escort on Thursday evening, **Bou Gazley** was relaxing with the members of Skillet backstage before their performance. Just before taking the stage, Jen Ledger, Skillet's cute female drummer, shoots Bou a definite smile and a wink. Bou swooned to the point of fainting, turning so red, and his heart skipping several beats. We think Bou is in LOVE!

Speaking of SRT members working Artist Escort that "just might be in love", **Anna Walters** and **Vaughn Minger** were covering the Newsboys as they were getting ready to play Saturday night. The band's manager came over to the trailer the guys were in, banged on the door, and told them it was almost time to be on stage. Soon the trailer door swung open and standing there, dressed ONLY in a towel, was Michael Tait. Anna quickly turned her head and covered her eyes. Currently, well let's just say Anna is having trouble sleeping since then. There is no truth to the rumor that Anna went out and bought a life-size poster of Michael Tait for her bedroom.

Following the very last show of Sonshine, Demon Hunter at the HM Stage, a young girl went down in the middle of the crowd. Almost immediately someone from security covered her protectively and the rest of the crew filled in to form a bubble around her. As they cleared a path for the EMT's, many of the crew reached down and laid a hand on her in prayer. Still others

simply stretched their hands out to her in a moving display of love. When the EMT's took her out on a stretcher the crowd started to clap for her and it was a very cool sight.

#### Quick Hitters:

- The newest RAGE at Sonshine? The “Porta-Party”, were groups of kids “actually” CHOSE to hang out in a biffy and pass the time!
- **Tyler Todd** honestly did not know the golf carts were gas powered!
- **Laura Nerness** went sightseeing at night with Kelly Lowe in order to photograph “night people” in their element.
- The Pit Crew gladly initiated and led the Wall of Death during Flatfoot 56 since the band was told in their contract they could not.
- **Anna Walters** reported an “all girl mosh” during Skillet and a seated pit during Switchfoot.
- Seeing such wonderful friendships develop between crew meeting for the first time on a shift together.
- **Donald Doolittle** on ATV caught a beetle in his eye and got two scratches to his cornea.
- Sonshine 2011 WAS INDEED the year of the mosquito – worse than I’ve EVER seen! Stuck at the Vehicle Gate late one night, **Aiste Miskinis** quickly realized **Jeff Quiggle** was not kidding when he compared the mosquitoes to one of the Plagues of Egypt!
- **Adam Jennum and Steven Broll** used their bodies as shields for the camera guy in the middle of the Disciple pit, helping him and his video camera survive unscathed.
- The GIANT game of red rover and Ninja at Main Stage Saturday morning in the mud!
- We learned many things from the Canadians including the capital of Canada, Ontario, some BAD jokes and the National Anthem... yes there is more to it than Oh Canada! :)
- Friday night the boys got so hungry that **Terry Post, Kinsey Anderson, and Donald Doolittle** had Dominos delivered to Access 2.
- The Motto of Sonshine 2011, courtesy of a sticker on **Brandon Jennum’s** camelback, “HYDRATE OR DIE”. We may just keep the Motto for next year!
- According to **Amy Pavlo**, LOT’S of very clever excuses and trickery that was played out with the VIP passes. Way to stay on your toes Amy and all those that worked gates!

From **Steve Coleman**: My knee got destroyed in a pit. I could not bend it, put any weight on it, and could barely walk. The EMS crew did not know what was wrong with it when I went in twice. I awoke Monday morning, after asking friends to pray for me the night before, and was healed. I got out of bed and did jumping-jacks. No pain, full motion, just a bruise to tell the tale.

**Leah Preble** got injured several times and made several trips to EMS, as did many other pitters. One injury occurred during the wall of death outside at the Showmobile during Triple Stitch. Leah says, “When the song kicked in I started running and almost grabbed the lead singer, but at the last moment someone hit me hard from behind and I went flying onto the ground and smashed all my ribs on my left side. It didn’t help that I was trapped under a bunch of people that had fallen on top of me. Of course I thought I was fine, I thought I just bruised myself badly, and I didn’t visit the EMS until the next day when the pain began to become unbearable. That’s when I found out that I had severely bruised my ribs, or potentially broken them.” Much to her dismay, Lizzy was forced to exile her (for her own protection) to the sound board platform.

What makes this story SO FUNNY is not so much what was done but *the way it looked*. What I (**Jeff Quiggle**) was about to witness firsthand Saturday night after Demon Hunter had finished at HM was the good-natured consequence of pouring a bottle of water on an HM Supervisor, in this case **Leigh Lundy**. Earlier in the day **Scruff Eaddy** had been guilty of such an action, with Leigh promising revenge. Well, as the crew relaxed and caught their breath for a few minutes after the show, **Lizzy Alexandr** called for the “disciplinary” action to take place. He ordered the bigger SRT guys still at HM to grab Scruff’s arms and legs, pick him up over their heads, and carry him outside where he was about to be doused with 4-5 gallon jugs of water. Well as I said before, it was all innocent fun...we knew that...but consider *how it looked* to the throng of kids still hanging out in HM. Picture this: A tall bald-headed white guy with tattoos (Lizzy) has ordered this group of white people (the pit crew) to roughly haul the black kid (Scruff) outside, all the while shouting things like, “**Ya!, get him!**” and “**He deserves what he’s gonna get!**” I was following the mob, watching Sonshiners jaws drop and all eyes staring wide-eyed at the action. I even shouted for them not to do anything to him until the photographer was out there to take pictures (Jessica Sievers was trying to get out there as quickly as possible). As he’s being carried out, Scruff cried out, “I’m calling Obama!” Once outside, his punishment was quickly administered, absolutely soaking him, and teaching ALL others, you DON’T MESS with Sups!

Sunday morning at about 3 AM, **Suzanne Anderson, Kinsey Anderson, Kirk Partello, and Todd Hensel** were having a conversation on Arena Drive. Suzanne hadn't worn her wedding ring all day, and Kinsey took advantage of that. He whispered to Kirk, "Does Todd know we're married?" Kirk said "I don't think he does!" Kinsey giggled and told Todd, "Hey, Suzanne's super cool. You two should totally date!" Todd replied, "Well, I'm flattered, but I AM married." Suzanne, Kirk, and Kinsey couldn't stop laughing.

Be careful or even **Bob Poe** will tease you with his dry humor. **Tracy Fuller** was dancing (as she is known to do!) by the vehicle gate when Bob comes by in his cart and in a serious tone, said, "None of that is allowed here." She couldn't tell if he was serious or not because in her 5 years of doing security, she'd seen him smile maybe twice, and this was not one of the times. When he came back through, Tracy was sitting and he sternly said, "That's better." He got ya Tracy!

**Jamie Radich** learned the hard way that God will punish you if you don't read and follow your schedule! She was supposed to work as Main Stage Crowd Control during Tobymac, but instead went to HM. Unfortunately, there she received a hairline fracture in her foot getting stepped on!

From **Leah Preble**: Something very special happened before Sleeping Giant's set at HM. **Matthew Mika** told us that the lead singer of Sleeping Giant wanted to pray with the entire Pit Crew before the show, so all of us gathered in front of the stage and prayed as a group pretty much until the band started. We just cried out to God to touch people and to move powerfully. It was great because there were kids standing around us just staring at us, not in a judgmental way, actually the ones I noticed wore intrigued expressions, as they heard US praying for THEM. It was so wonderful uniting the pit crew in prayer and seeing that we were all there for the same reason. We love the music, but more importantly we love God and we love those kids! It makes it all worthwhile for me!

This was added by **Ben Chase** about the same Sleeping Giants story: The lead singer had opened a "popcorn" style prayer and then let security continue to pray while the band did sound checks. Security was still praying when the checks were done, but when the lead singer was told, "We're ready!" he responded with, "...but they're not" in reference to the still praying security crew. Throughout his set, the singer would interlude songs with comments along the lines of "This isn't about \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, it's about praise!" Between songs he shouted out, "Are these the kids from Sonshine that PRAYED away a TORNADO last year?" Lastly, the band closed their set with praise tunes, finishing with "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus", which ended up having the hands of every person in HM raised to the Lord with voices raised in praise to Him. The Spirit absolutely rested upon the entire crowd. How cool was that?

While **Jeff Quiggle** and **Suzanne Anderson** were out and about in a golf cart, they kept hearing a canary sound. Jeff soon realized that it was a young man walking by the golf cart. When he pointed him out to Suzanne, Suzanne forced the poor young man to ride in back of the golf cart, saying, "You must keep whistling. It pleases me." We kept the kid hostage for nearly an hour.

**Sarah Hayes** had a "package" delivery for the overnight SRT on Wednesday night. **Luke Gruhlke** brought 18 dozen cookies she had baked for us and a special package for **Nigel Masters**. The package turned out to be a pink clipboard for Luke that said "Nigel's Secretary" and a pen attached with a pink ribbon. Apparently Sarah thought Luke would make a great secretary since she would not be there until days later. Well, most of the cookies were eaten in minutes but I don't know if Luke became Nigel's secretary or not.

Rookie **Eric Erickson** saw a golf cart heading for the Security trailer one evening. Thinking it was one of us, he asked for a ride. The driver agreed, although he was a bit amused at the request. Eric found out later that it was **Bob Poe**, our beloved Sonshine Director and boss.

From **Michelle Hopkins**: On Friday morning around 10:30am, an elderly woman, probably in her late 60's or early 70's, along with her adult daughter and 2 grandkids, were at the Skillet merch table looking at t-shirts. I looked away for a minute and when I looked back, the elderly woman was disrobing. She unbuttoned her shirt, took it off and laid it on the table to try on the t-shirt she was looking to buy. Let's just say that a woman that age in a sports bra is not a pretty sight.

One unnamed crew member found out the hard way NOT to drink an ice cold smoothie and drive around in a golf cart in the cold night air. It leads to lots of frantic arm gestures attempting to cover up to avoid extreme embarrassment!

The last night of Sonshine, **Carl Skaro, Vaughn Minger, Don Doolittle and Anna Walters** were working artist escort, and with nothing going on at the signing table, they took it upon themselves to play a little prank on people passing by. They quietly wrote "Sonshine All-Stars" @ 6:15 on the whiteboard as the next band to be signing autographs. People promptly started lining up for their signatures, not knowing "the band" was just security playing a big joke on the fans.

The most appropriate closing story from Sonshine 2011 comes from Leah Preble, a testimony in her own words of God's amazing power and love that reigned over HM on Thursday night. Many of you saw it, including myself, and her account still brings me to tears. From Leah:

*Last year For Today's show was incredible and God really moved and convicted and touched a lot of people, including myself. So after that show I began praying for this year's show, that For Today would headline, and that it would be an opportunity for God's glory and power to be shown. After praying for this show for a whole entire year, when it was finally happening I was elated not only because I love For Today and the ministry that they do, but in my times of prayer over the last year I felt that God was saying to me he was going to move powerfully at the HM stage, so I came to Sonshine with great expectations, and readiness to act. I felt the Holy Spirit fall shortly into their set and I began to see that God was touching hearts. At the end of their set the lead singer Mattie challenged people to come before God and spend time with him. He said that this was a chance for them to respond to God, and to spend time listening to what the Lord was saying to their hearts. So they walked off the stage and put some worship music on and that is how they ended their show. People were praying and crying out to God. I personally prayed with many girls, and I saw many others on the crew praying with kids as well. **Brandon Floyd** said he prayed with multiple guys who opened up to him and were even crying because they were so moved. People were staring in wonder at what was going on; I saw the workers and maintenance people from the Civic Center staring through the windows in the doors and then they came into the arena area just to see what was happening. I heard a story about a kid who didn't even know who For Today was and he somehow ended up coming to the ending part of the show and he was completely amazed and touched by what happened. Jesus was drawing people to that stage that night! In all honesty, it is completely unheard of for a band to do something like this, even at a Christian Festival, and it is especially unheard of for a band in the hardcore scene to do something like this. Generally a band headlines for a reason, because they are popular, and generally headlining is about the band and a chance for them to shine and be awesome, it almost always is NOT about God (even when it comes to Christian bands), so you have to understand how amazing this was! That For Today used this headlining opportunity to hand all the glory back to God, that they committed that time after the show to Him is why, I think, God moved so powerfully. The real "headliner" of the night was the Lord Jesus Christ, and it was such a privilege to join Him in his work that night. THAT is why I go to Sonshine!*

***-Leah Preble***

And so... we come to the end. And while it's always so sad to know this recap puts a close on another Sonshine, I prefer to think about already being in pre-Sonshine 2012 mode. Are you already pumped for next year? I am! Sonshine Security is indeed "an experience you'll NEVER forget" and now is the time to share that enthusiasm and passion with others you'd like to see join the team next year. By having friends fill out an Application even now they can eventually see and feel in 2012 what you did in 2011. At the Wednesday meeting I promised by Saturday EVERY rookie would "be able to share in the same stories, know the inside jokes, and be able compare scars, bruises, and blood stains". But above all else, I said you would WISH it wasn't over... I know most of you now understand what I meant. The sense of family found in this group can be overwhelming, especially if you let other crew "in". We look forward to each of you clearing your schedule and planning to join us again at Sonshine 2012 for more great times!

***Jeff Quiggle***

Director of Security

Sonshine Festival