

MICHAEL GLEN BELL

Bell has been known to say, “If it isn’t creative, I’m not interested”. Born in northwest Iowa, music has always been a part of Bell’s life. The son of a professional musician and band leader, Michael first played trumpet before turning to the guitar in his early teens and playing with numerous local bands. Leaving Iowa at the age of 18, he moved to Ohio to become part of a faith community and, eventually, became the prime mover in a community of Christian musicians who played across the American Midwest and Canada. During this time, Bell shared the stage with musicians as diverse as Larry Norman, John Michael Talbot, Paul Clark and the Jessy Dixon Singers.

Returning to Iowa in his late twenties, Bell earned his undergraduate and seminary degrees while concurrently serving as a youth minister in numerous churches. For several years he was on staff in campus ministry at the University of Iowa. Involved with the visual arts as well as composition and performance, Bell settled in Indiana to work on musical projects with his long time friend, Duane Arnold.

A guitarist from the “school” of Michael Hedges and David Crosby, Bell has become known through the years as more than simply a singer/songwriter. A deep contemplative note is always present in Bell’s concert appearances, combined with a keen cultural awareness that draws from his love of theology and history.

DUANE W.H. ARNOLD

Arnold has often said, “I’ve been able to live several lives in one”. Born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Arnold spent his childhood and teenage years outside of Cleveland, Ohio. In his mid-teens he left home and roamed Canada and the United States, eventually joining a Christian commune in Oregon. Returning to the midwest at the age of 20, he embarked on a path of higher education. In all, he has earned seven degrees and diplomas, including a PhD in church history. In the course of his career, Arnold has held numerous academic positions both in the United States and abroad.

As a writer, Arnold has authored nine books and numerous articles for scholarly journals. Certain of his works in the study of church history have become standard references in their field. His volume, *Prayers of the Martyrs*, has been translated into nine languages.

Although he was first a pastor among evangelicals, Arnold became a priest in the Anglican Communion in 1987. As pastor and priest, he has served churches and educational institutions from the American Midwest to New York City to Northern England.

Arnold’s involvement with music dates from the earliest days of Contemporary Christian Music, promoting numerous Solid Rock artists, organizing concerts in the midwest and managing solo artists and groups from within his own faith community. His friendship with Michael Glen Bell stretches over three decades.

THE PROJECT

The Project is the joint musical endeavor of Michael Glen Bell and Duane W.H. Arnold. Their first album, *Martyrs’ Prayers*, was released to great critical acclaim and utilized the gifts of guest artists such as Phil Keaggy, Randy Stonehill, Glenn Kaiser, The McCrary Sisters and numerous others. A single from the album, “Romero”, became the unofficial anthem for the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero in 2015. Their current album, *Mystic Chapel*, was released in December 2015. **For more information go to TheMartyrsProject.com**

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