



Media Release



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Casting Crowns tour Middle East

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – Third Army chaplains sponsored three concerts featuring the Grammy award-winning Christian-rock band Casting Crowns, an Atlanta-based band from McDonough, Ga., Nov. 14 through 16.

“This is totally new for us,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gary Taylor, the Ali al-Salem Air Base chaplain from Morrisville, Pa.

“Chaplains are charged with the religious support of the Troops,” Taylor said. “We bring in entertainment that will support the Troops in their particular religious faith.”

Third Army chaplains coordinated the tour in an effort to strengthen Soldier spiritual fitness.

Taylor explained how spiritual fitness improves professional performance.

“Think right. Act right,” Taylor said. “Chaplains believe that getting your heart right and spiritually fit will also make you fit to do your job.”

The Casting Crowns have built an enormous fan base, many of whom serve in the Middle East.

“I have all of their stuff on my iPod. I love them,” said Navy Seaman Kaitlyn Stone of Lebanon, Ore.

Like many Servicemembers, Stone has listened to the band for years.

“Back at my church in Oregon, my best friend sings their songs,” Stone said. “That’s how I first heard about them a few years ago and I’ve been listening to them ever since.”

Stone also shared why she believes the Casting Crowns’ music is spiritually fulfilling.

“I like their words. They’re meaningful.” Stone said. “They talk about real-life situations. My favorite song is “We are the Body”, which talks about being accepted, accepting everyone and bringing everyone into your group. I think that’s good for us in general because everyone in [the military] is so different.”

Before the performance to a packed chapel on Camp Arifjan, Maj. Tim Vibbert, a Third Army aviation operations officer from Louisville, Ky., shared his excitement.

“I don’t think I could be any more excited unless Jesus Christ, himself, was on stage,” Vibbert said.

Vibbert also explained why he is a fan.

“They are so committed to their mission, just like we are,” Vibbert said. “We get over here and we can get distracted away from what our purpose is, but events like this are good reminders. I think this type of event is like a lightning bolt. It’s like plugging into a wall. It energizes folks.”

Mark Hall, lead singer of the Casting Crowns, shared the inspiration behind their latest release — “Until the Whole World Hears”.

“Our songs sound like stories because they are stories. They’re things that are happening every day, things that are happening in our families and our lives. They’re very important to us,” Hall said.

The Casting Crowns spent \$25,000 of their own money to perform for the Troops because they have personal ties with those who serve.

“As a youth pastor I’ve had several students who’ve gone on to serve in the military,” Hall said. “I hear of so many artists coming over and being able to play music over here, so I thought this would be a great ministry for a Christian artist to share some hope.”

He also had a message for Servicemembers.

“We wanted to invest our time as a tiny thanks for all you invest in our freedom and the freedom of people around the world. That’s why we’re here. I hope that everything we do here the next few days encourages you,” Hall said.



Casting Crowns 1 < 101114-A-0613R-037 >

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Casting Crowns' guitarist, Juan DeVevo, performs during a concert held in the Zone 1 chapel at Camp Arifjan Nov. 14. Third Army chaplains sponsored three concerts featuring the popular Christian-rock band Casting Crowns, an Atlanta-based band from McDonough, Ga., Nov. 14 through 16. (Photo by Pfc. Dan Rangel, 27th Public Affairs Detachment)



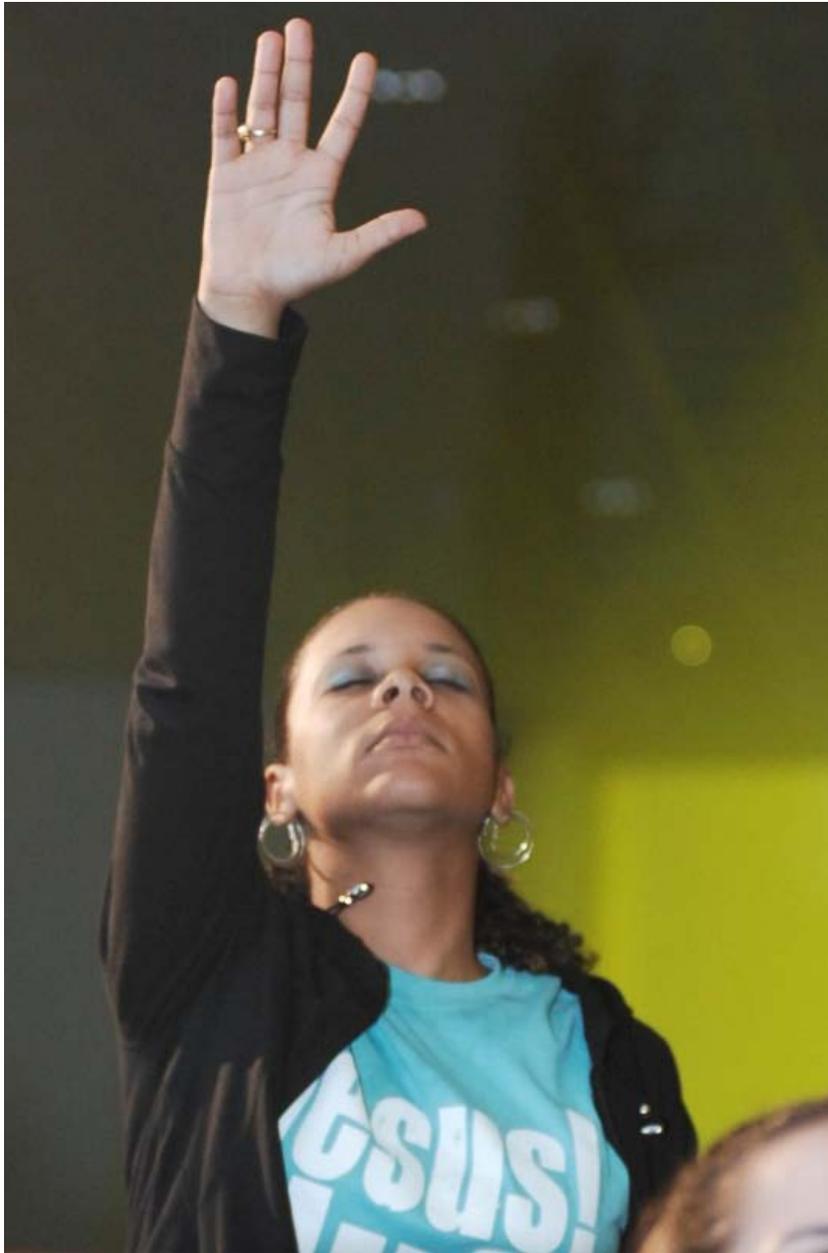
Casting Crowns 2 < 101114-A-0613R-032>

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Casting Crowns' vocalist and violinist, Melodee DeVevo, performs during a concert held in the Zone 1 chapel at Camp Arifjan Nov. 14. Third Army chaplains sponsored three concerts featuring the popular Christian-rock band Casting Crowns, an Atlanta-based band from McDonough, Ga., Nov. 14 through 16. (Photo by Pfc. Dan Rangel, 27th Public Affairs Detachment)



Casting Crowns 3 < 101114-A-0613R-046>

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — The Casting Crowns perform during a concert held in the Zone 1 chapel at Camp Arifjan Nov. 14. Third Army chaplains sponsored three concerts featuring the popular Christian-rock band Casting Crowns, an Atlanta-based band from McDonough, Ga., Nov. 14 through 16. (Photo by Pfc. Dan Rangel, 27th Public Affairs Detachment)



Casting Crowns 4 < 101114-A-0613R-023>

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — A Casting Crowns fan enjoys the band’s performance at the Zone 1 chapel at Camp Arifjan Nov. 14. Third Army chaplains sponsored three concerts featuring the popular Christian-rock band Casting Crowns, an Atlanta-based band from McDonough, Ga., Nov. 14 through 16. (Photo by Pfc. Dan Rangel, 27th Public Affairs Detachment)



Casting Crowns 5 < 101114-A-0613R-034>

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait — Casting Crowns' drummer, Brian Scoggin, performs during a concert held in the Zone 1 chapel at Camp Arifjan Nov. 14. Third Army chaplains sponsored three concerts featuring the popular Christian-rock band Casting Crowns, an Atlanta-based band from McDonough, Ga., Nov. 14 through 16. (Photo by Pfc. Dan Rangel, 27th Public Affairs Detachment)