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OUR MISSIONS--SHOULD WE CHOOSE TO ACCEPT THEM!

I began working for Stroudavarious Music, which later merged with Bill Ham's publishing companies and became Hamstein Publishing Company, in September of 1992. I had spent the last 2 years developing repackages for Capitol Records but that job was coming to an end with the explosion of a new artist named Garth Brooks! The sales people at Capitol Records no longer wanted to peddle repackages when they had a record selling artist like Garth to hit the streets with.

Not long after I began my stint with Stroudavarious Music we hired a young man fresh out of college to be our "tape copy boy". I don't know what the job paid but I know it wasn't much. It was a starter position for someone who wanted to work up the ladder and get into the publishing business. The young, "wet behind the ears", man's name was Tim Hunze. For those of you who have been around The 515 Studio for a while you are familiar with Tim. He was always eager to come do our pitching and songwriter events.

Tim hung in there at Stroudavarious Music through the merger with the other Bill Ham companies and was responsible for transferring vast amounts of music from tape to cd's and into a computer database. All the while watching us, the song pluggers, and learning the ins and outs of how to pitch songs to A&R people, managers, recording artists, producers, etc. He was quick to pick up on it all. Tim was a natural fit for being a song plugger in the Nashville music business!

Tim has since gone on to head up several large music publishing companies and is currently running a company

called Parallel Music--a music publishing and management company. I am proud of Tim and consider him one of my best personal friends--even though we don't see each other much any more.

But as proud of Tim as I am for his music accomplishments my heart is bursting with joy for the text message he sent me earlier this week. Later on this month Tim will be ordained as a Lutheran minister! I knew he was very active in his church but I didn't know that for the past 18 years he has been studying for and taking classes to become a minister. He will be a pastor in his church's youth ministry work.

So--why am I writing this article about Tim's achievement? It is my belief that we are all here on this planet to accomplish Spiritual missions. Some people seem to naturally fall into their missions--others seem to have to search, sometimes for years, to find out their purpose for being here. And, sadly, there are some who never find their purposes and, unfortunately, many of their lives reflect that fact.

All of us are not going to become ordained ministers. We can, though, all be beacons for God's love and fulfill our Spiritual missions if we live by 3 simple, maybe not so simple at times, "rules".

- 1.) Love God
- 2.) Love ourselves
- 3.) Love and treat others the way we love ourselves and want want to be treated.

Our Spiritual mission for today may simply be smiling and saying hello to a stranger. It may be treating a homeless person with respect. It may be doing our best to forgive someone for something they have done that we feel has

wronged us.

If we take those 3 simple things into our lives, and live them, we are fulfilling our Spiritual missions--no matter how small our actions may seem to be to us. As I have closed with so many times before--living from an attitude of love will make our lives better, making the lives of those around us better which makes this world a little bit better place!

Congratulations to Tim Hunze--and congratulations to all of us if we are striving to live our lives using those 3 simple rules!

God bless-- All my best-- Chip