

BREAD & BUTTER FOR WORSHIP SONGWRITERS

FIVE THINGS EVERY WORSHIP SONG WRITER NEEDS TO KNOW

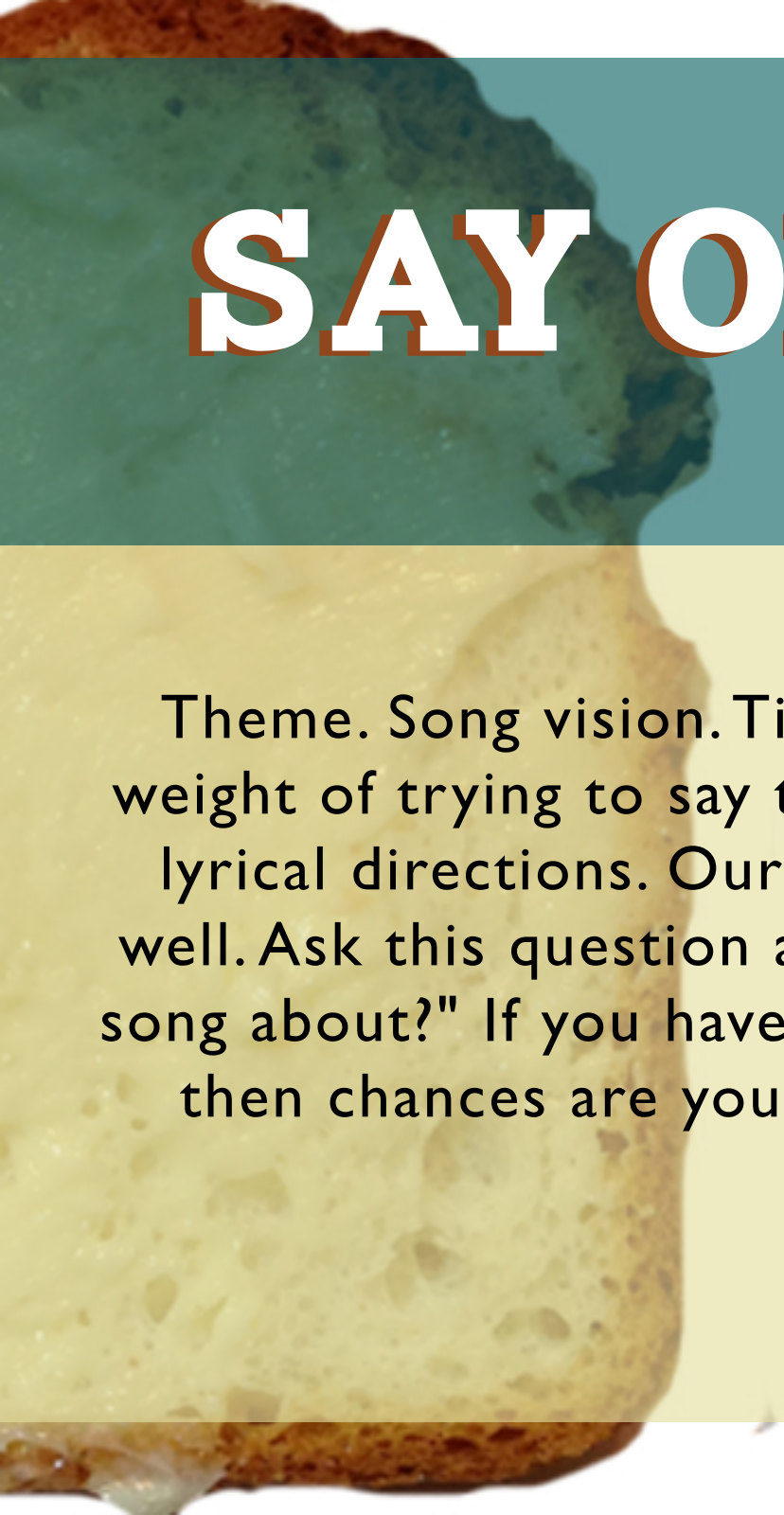
| CASEY CORUM |



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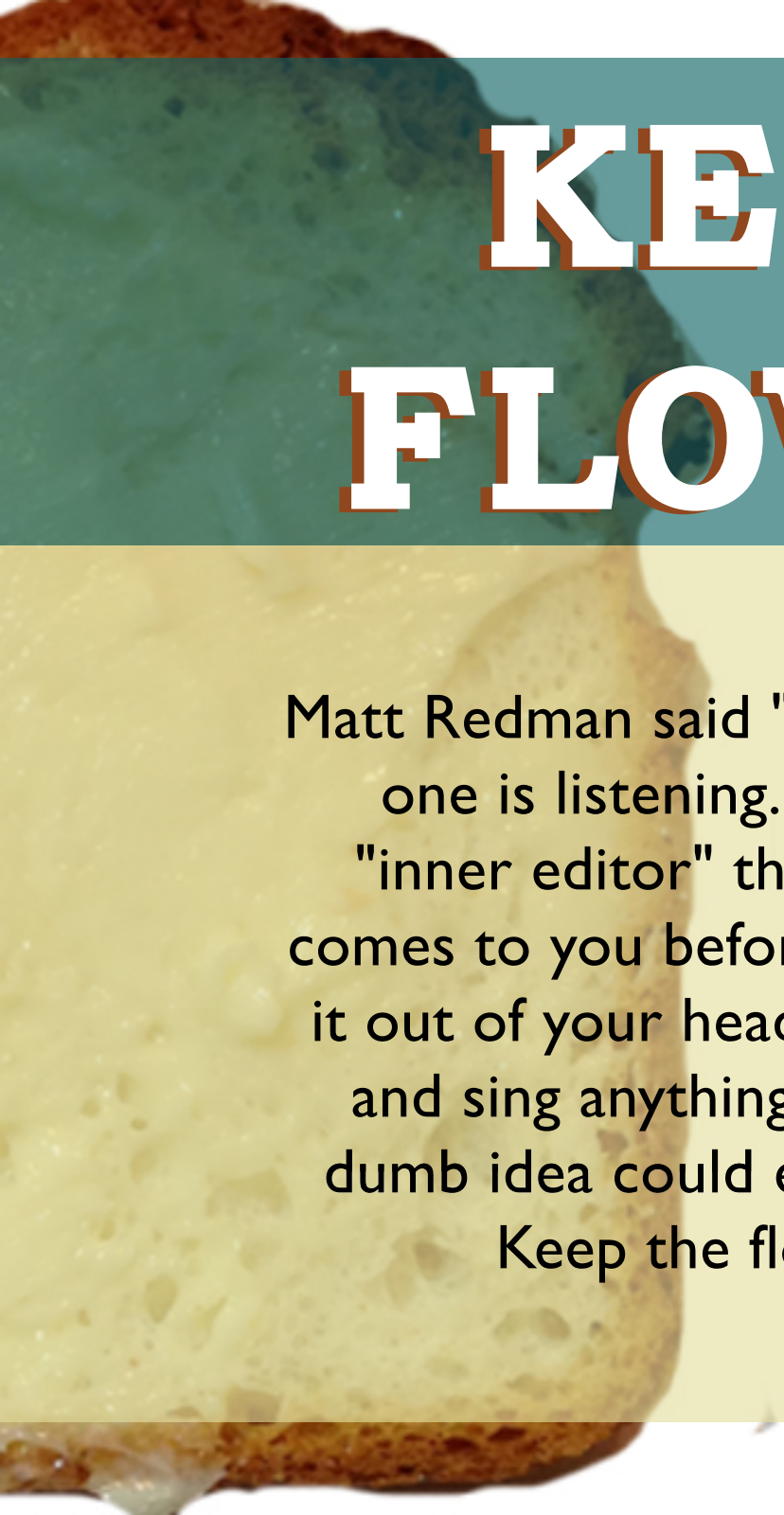
The Bible commands us in Psalm 96:1 to "Sing to the Lord a new song!" This is reason enough for new songs to continually arise from the Church. New songs also play a powerful role in unlocking our hearts toward God. New words, new melodies, and new sounds bring fresh life to timeless truths.

Here are 5 things every worship songwriter needs to know:



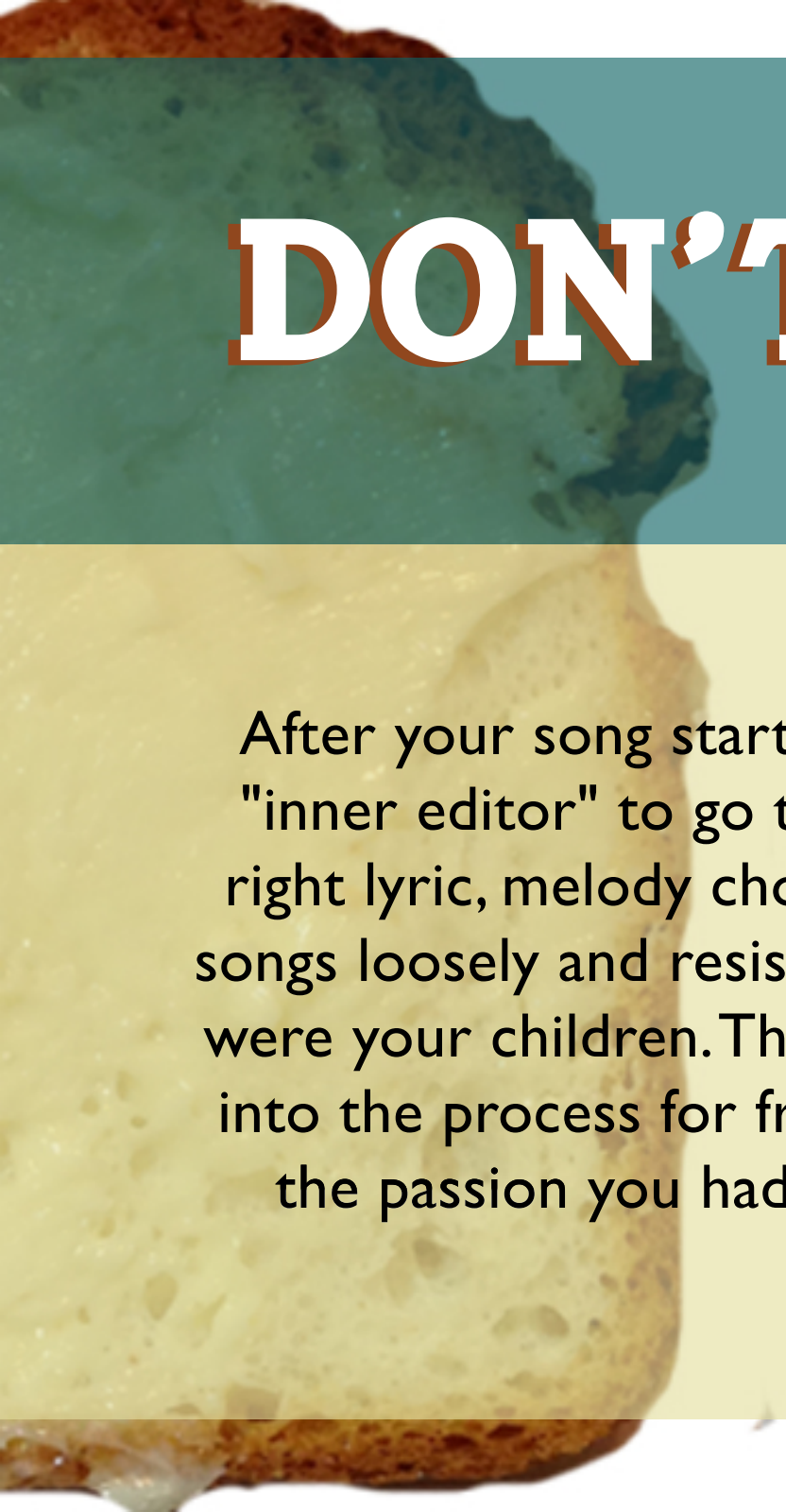
SAY ONE THING

Theme. Song vision. Title. Songs commonly suffer under the weight of trying to say too many things going in any number of lyrical directions. Our songs should say one thing and say it well. Ask this question about each of your songs: "What is this song about?" If you have trouble answering this question simply, then chances are your song needs some work in this area.



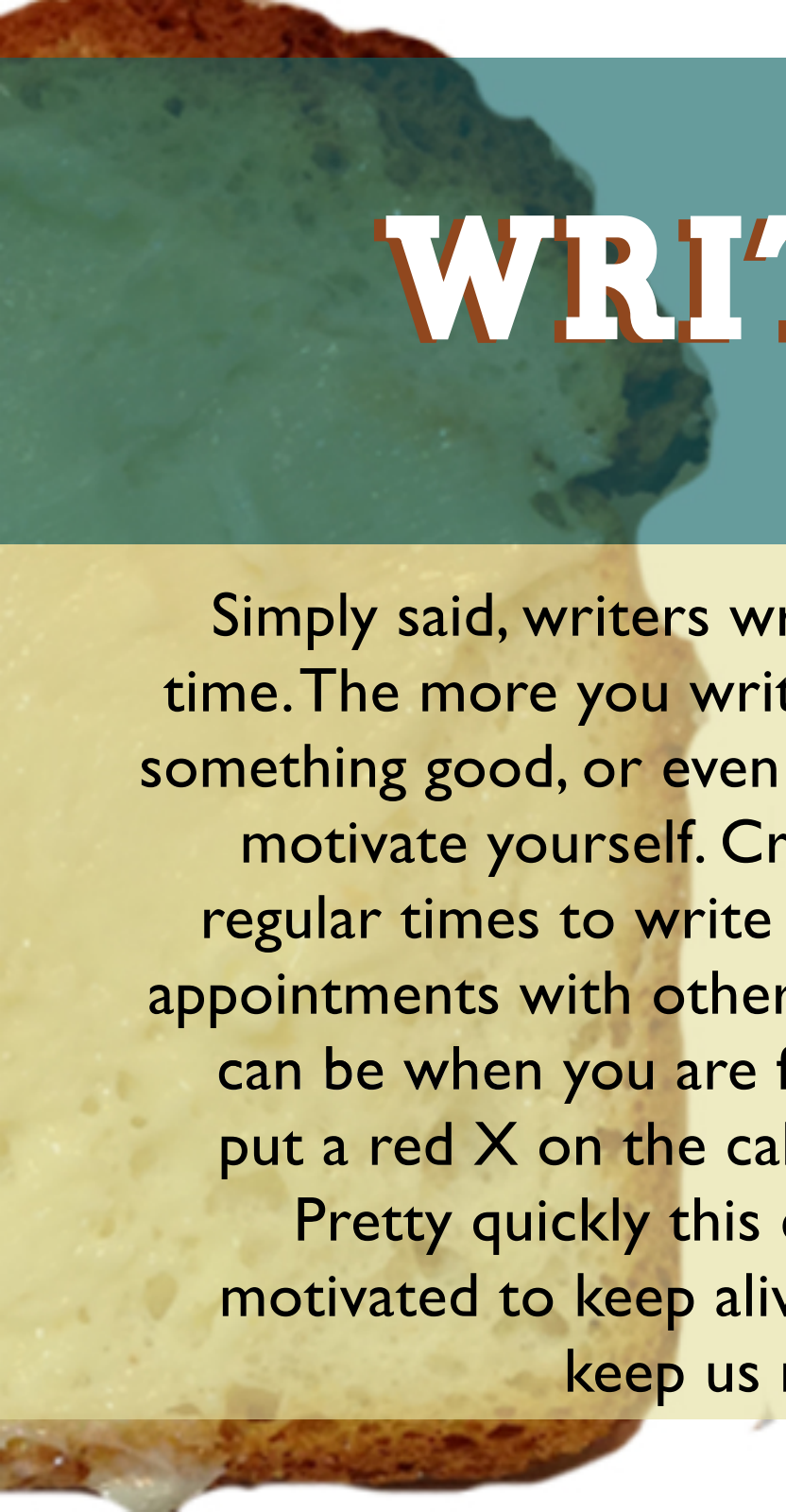
KEEP THE FLOW GOING

Matt Redman said "write with the door closed" like no one is listening. The idea here is to turn off that "inner editor" that wants to judge every idea that comes to you before it has had a chance to even make it out of your head. Give yourself the freedom to say and sing anything, even if it seems dumb. Your first dumb idea could eventually lead to something great. Keep the flow going as long as possible.



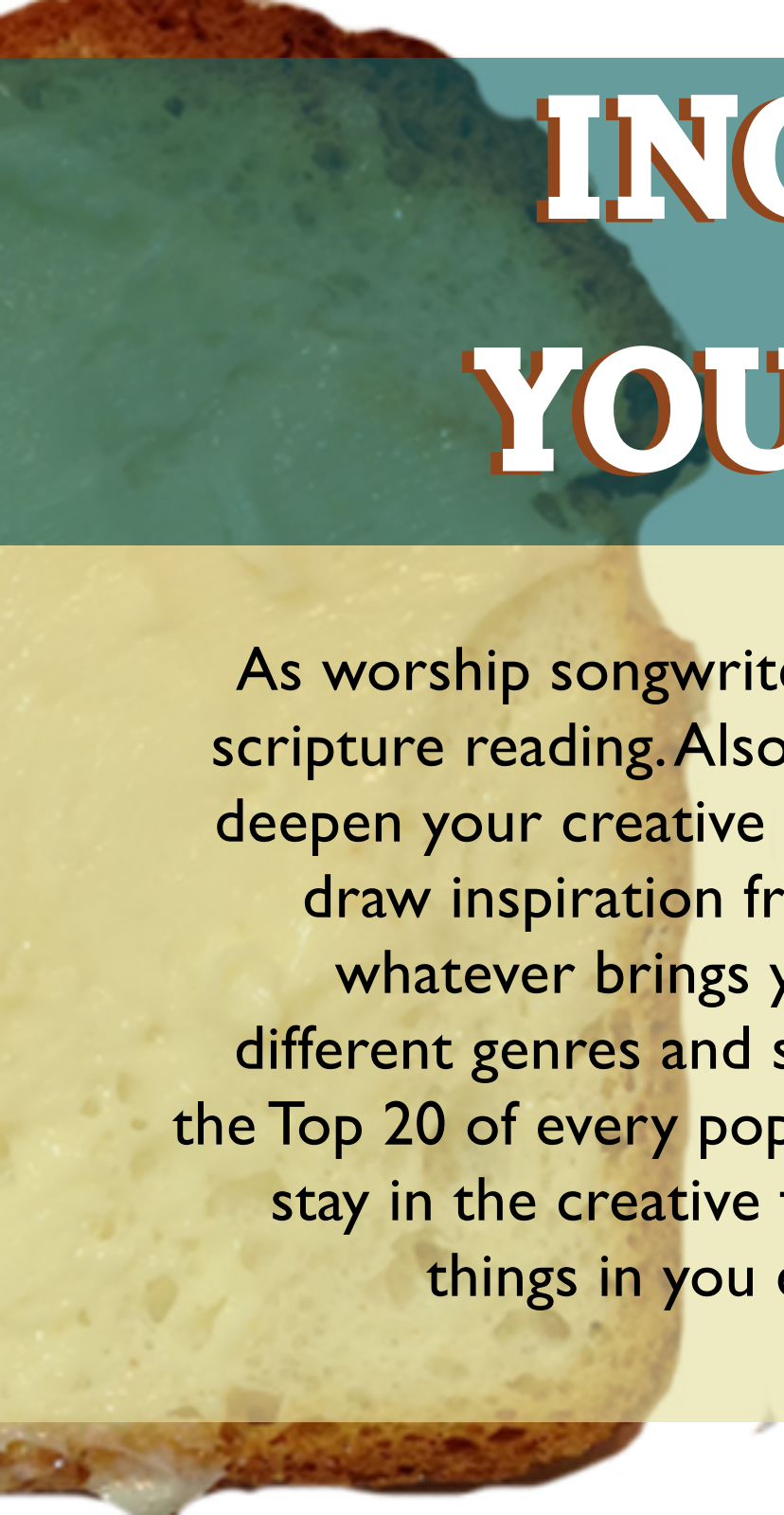
DON'T SETTLE

After your song starts to take shape, then it's time for that "inner editor" to go to work. Be relentless in pursuing that right lyric, melody choice, chord progression, etc. Hold your songs loosely and resist the urge to treat your songs as if they were your children. This is a great time to invite other people into the process for fresh perspective. Be careful not to lose the passion you had for your original idea in the process.



WRITE A LOT

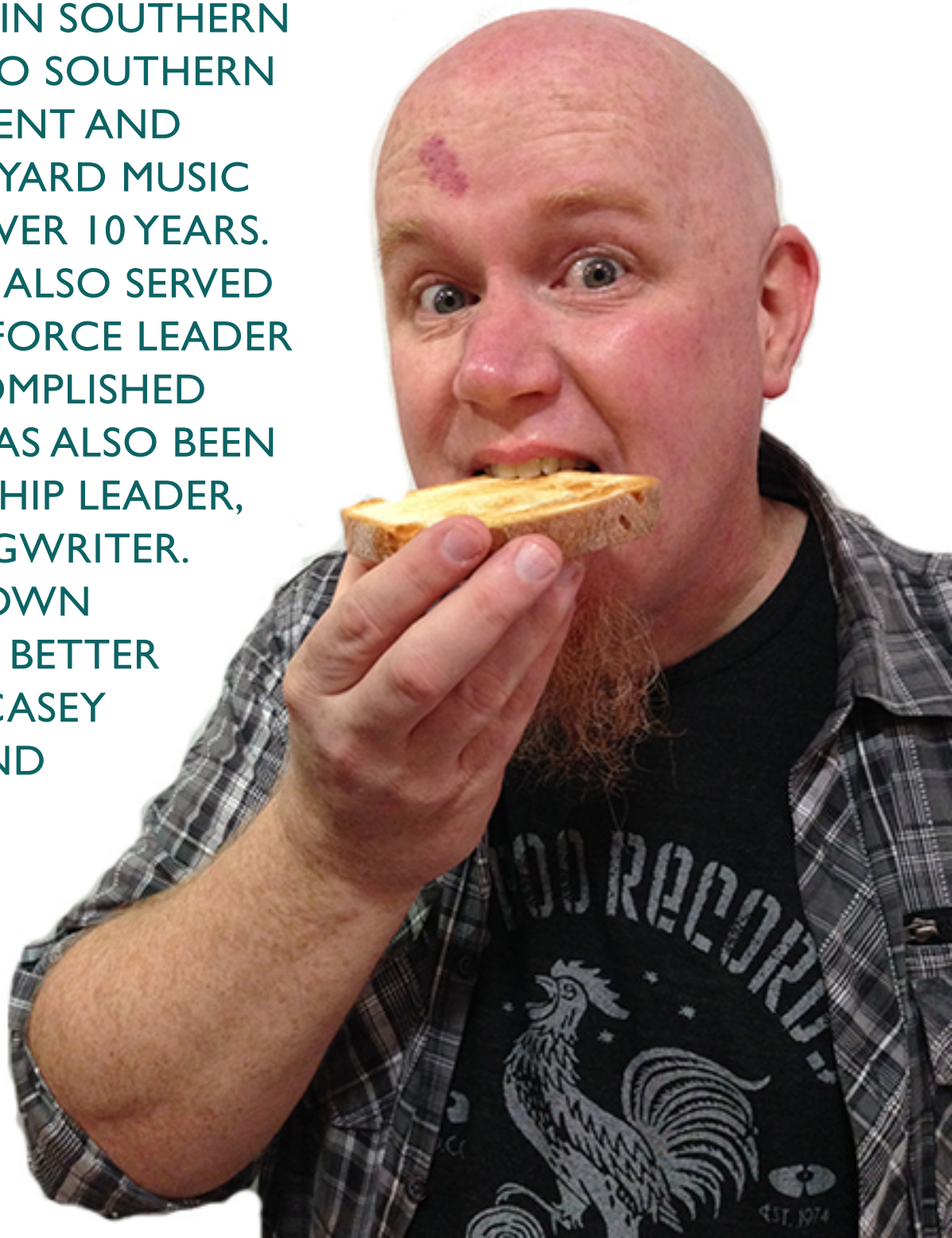
Simply said, writers write and successful writers write all the time. The more you write the better your chances are of writing something good, or even something great. Do whatever it takes to motivate yourself. Create deadlines both real and false. Set regular times to write and to be creative. Schedule co-writing appointments with other people. It's amazing how productive you can be when you are facing a deadline. Jerry Seinfeld used to put a red X on the calendar every day he'd write something. Pretty quickly this created a streak, which he was then motivated to keep alive. Using simple tools like this can help keep us moving forward creatively.



INCREASE YOUR INPUT

As worship songwriters we should maintain a steady diet of scripture reading. Also, add books on theology to help further deepen your creative pool. Be curious. Explore new ideas and draw inspiration from film, radio, the arts, television, or whatever brings you life. Listen to lots of music - all different genres and styles. Michael Jackson used to listen to the Top 20 of every popular music genre every week to help him stay in the creative flow. These ideas can help inspire new things in you each time you sit down to write.

CASEY AND HIS FAMILY ARE BASED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. PRIOR TO HIS MOVE TO SOUTHERN CAL, CASEY SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER FOR VINEYARD MUSIC (NOW VINEYARD WORSHIP) FOR OVER 10 YEARS. IN ADDITION TO THIS ROLE, CASEY ALSO SERVED AS THE NATIONAL WORSHIP TASK FORCE LEADER FOR VINEYARD USA. HE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIAN AND PRODUCER AND HAS ALSO BEEN AN INFLUENTIAL VOICE AS A WORSHIP LEADER, CONFERENCE SPEAKER, AND SONGWRITER. SOME OF CASEY'S MOST WELL-KNOWN SONGS INCLUDE FORM US, DWELL, BETTER THAN, & YOUR LOVE IS AMAZING. CASEY HAS A PASSION TO ENCOURAGE AND EQUIP WORSHIP LEADERS FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY. CASEY IS NOW THE WORSHIP PASTOR FOR THE VINEYARD ANAHEIM. CASEY AND HIS WIFE ANGIE HAVE FOUR DAUGHTERS AND ARE VERY GLAD TO CALL VINEYARD ANAHEIM HOME.




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