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**LEELAND'S THE GREAT AWAKENING
DELIVERS A WORSHIP REVIVAL EXPERIENCE SEPT. 20**

***The Great Awakening Encouraged By “Fathers of the Faith”
While Recalling Band’s GRAMMY Nominated Debut *Sound of Melodies****

July 29 Add Date for Radio Singles “I Wonder” (AC) and “The Great Awakening” (CHR)

(Nashville, Tenn.) **July 12, 2011** – Since the debut of **Leeland’s** acclaimed *Sound of Melodies* (2006), the three-time GRAMMY and eight-time GMA Dove Award nominated progressive worship band has become one of the most respected and influential voices in worship music. With its upcoming fourth release, *The Great Awakening*, **Leeland** recaptures the essence of its debut album while delving deeper into its spiritual roots; drawing from the wisdom of theologians including Salvation Army founder, William Booth. *The Great Awakening*, described by band members as an 11-track “worship revival experience,” was produced by Paul Moak (Third Day, Matt Maher) and releases **September 20** on Essential Records.

Leeland’s writing and recording process brought together founding members - lead singer Leeland Mooring; brother, Jack Mooring on keys, and drummer Mike Smith – along with new member (and Moorings’ younger sister and bassist) Shelly Mooring, who replaced the band’s original bass player, Jake Holtz. Holtz, the Mooring’s cousin, left the band to serve in the U.S. Army.

As a newly formed unit and fortified with contagious inspiration, *The Great Awakening* finds **Leeland** at its most complete. Each of the 11 songs is skillfully inspired by historical “fathers of the faith,” including theologian Jonathan Edwards and Salvation Army founder William Booth, whose depths of belief and passion for God started stirred revival wherever they went.

Recording every song live-to-tape, this process allowed the band mates to capture **Leeland’s** signature energy found in its live performance. It comes naturally as the band members have history with harmonizing and playing together. “When we were kids, our parents were traveling pastors,” Jack Mooring shares. “The three of us would jump in the car with them and lead worship services and revivals.”

Along with the natural rhythms and harmonies that were molded when they traveled the country as a family, recording for *The Great Awakening* brought a deep sense of musical resurgence and together, the band felt a fresh stirring of both personal and global revival. **Leeland** feels it captured the passion of the “revival experience” that often occurs during its compelling live set.

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The band's recent visits and concerts around the world, visiting everywhere from Peru to Japan for its support of Food For The Hungry, also inspired and helped shape *The Great Awakening*. "We've all been going through a personal revival in this band," says Leeland. "We've felt God taking us out of a plateau, shaking us up and saying, 'Don't cruise anymore.' That's where we are; feeling like God wants to bring a great awakening to this generation."

Over the years, **Leeland** has amassed tremendous favorable regard within the artist and worship music communities. Fellow artists esteem this collective not just for its ability to create moving songs that inspire and elevate, but also for its transparency, which manifests most obviously in the live setting. "The first time I saw Leeland, I was amazed by how vulnerable they were," notes revered artist Michael W. Smith. "They are incredibly talented but when they are leading worship, they have the ability to transcend the here and now. They disappear into the worship experience and it's impossible not to share in the experience when you're in the room."

Smith, who tapped Leeland Mooring to co-write more than half of his *Stand* project (11/7/06) continues, "This band has an ability – and it's demonstrated keenly on *The Great Awakening* – to make you stop and listen. This is the rare type of album that will make you take a long pause in the middle of your busy day and instantly you'll feel God's presence."

The album's first two radio singles, "I Wonder" and "The Great Awakening," go for adds on July 29 at AC Radio and CHR, respectively. To promote the record, **Leeland** will be visiting Chicago market radio, media and retail July 18 and 19. Additional album promotional dates are forthcoming.

Known for its bold and passion-filled live worship experience, **Leeland** looks forward to sharing these new songs on the road and personally connecting with people in each of the communities they visit. "A big part of our heart is to invest in the people in each city," explains Jack. "As our schedule allows, we want to have a church service before the concert and just worship, pray for people, lay hands on people, believe in God for healing and salvation; awakening, basically." **Leeland** is on an impassioned journey straight to the heart of God, and they are more than ready to share with the world *The Great Awakening*.

LEELAND LIVE

Along with performing at concerts in both Sweden and Norway next month as well as numerous festivals across the nation this summer, **LEELAND** will appear in such markets as Portland, Ore., Birmingham, Ala, Oklahoma City, and various dates in their home state of Texas. **Leeland** will also be part of this fall's Sounds of Hope Tour with Building 429 and Royal Tailor, which is sponsored by Food For the Hungry. For the most updated tour dates, visit www.leelandonline.com.

For more, visit www.providentpress.com. Follow **Leeland** on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/leelandofficial> and find them on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/leeland> and at their website, <http://www.leelandonline.com>.

ABOUT LEELAND:

Hailing from Houston, Texas, GRAMMY-nominated progressive rock act **Leeland** has been known to deliver songwriting beyond its years and worshipful rock so genuine it disarms the honest cynic.

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Often quoted as one of Christian music's most gripping live bands, the 2006 debut *Sound of Melodies*, 2008's *Opposite Way* and 2010's *Love Is On The Move* established **Leeland** as a leader in the worship community and beyond. All three of their previous albums were GRAMMY nominated and drew a combined eight Dove nominations.

In February, Leeland and Jack Mooring were selected by the White House to participate in the Compassion in Action Roundtable spotlighting the innovative leadership of an emerging generation of social entrepreneurs in America. On top of non-stop touring across the U.S. and Japan, the band also partners with Christian relief organization Food for the Hungry, and has recently taken outreach trips to Africa and Asia, and attended Hillsong Church's 2008 Conference in Australia. **Leeland** is: Leeland Mooring (lead vocals, guitar); Jack Mooring (keyboard, background vocals); Shelley Mooring (bass); and Mike Smith (drums).

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