



photo by @thefreelenser

You don't have to wear white to be one of the good guys. You don't have to be a choir boy to know right from wrong. Steve Zing epitomizes a punk/metal musician visually, but the man understands what this time of year is really all about.

Interview by Dan Lorenzo • Layout dannyrome

Dan Lorenzo: For people who might not know you, tell our readers what you've been doing every Christmas.

Steve Zing: 5 years ago I was in a supermarket and a guy that was in front of me with his little daughter didn't have enough money to pay for all his groceries. He was putting back regular food. It was about \$30 worth so I paid for it because I felt bad. The guy got all choked up because he had lost his job, he had a newborn at home and his wife was sick with cancer. Right there I felt that I needed to do something. This was just a regular person who was down on his luck. The woman at the register told him to check out the Center for Food Action. So I checked it out the next day and decided to start auctioning off some music related items and donated a large part of the proceeds to them as well as a woman's shelter and a no-kill animal shelter.

Do you think the fact that you didn't grow up rich gave you more empathy towards others?

I grew up with just me and my mom. We were on welfare my whole childhood. She sacrificed to provide for me but I remember getting the bag of groceries every week delivered from the welfare department.

Although we both grew up Catholic and believe in Jesus, we are both are distrustful of any organized religion. I never knew why eating fish on Fridays became a tradition. Remind me what you told me recently about that.

Well...organized religion for the most part is a deadly thing. How much longer will the Catholic Church keep paying for their legal bills and pay off the families whose children were sexually abused by the priests? So much for religion. And that goes for all organized religion. They all have their corruption going on. It has nothing to do with what your belief in God is. It's the organizations that turn it into the chaos that it is.

I know you're very generous and you want to help people who are in need. We both have acquaintances who are healthy, low on income and just lazy. What's your position on giving to people like that?

I'll be the first one to give you the shirt off my back but if you are truly capable of making a living and choose not to because you're lazy, then I don't want to hear your bullshit. I came from nothing. Everything I have, I worked for. A friend

once accused me of being a drug dealer because he saw that I drove a nice car and would buy recording equipment. He couldn't understand that I actually make a decent living in the music business.

Anything else you want our readers to know?

If you can, always try and help someone out that's truly down and out. People are out there that are sick, down on their luck due to a job loss or struggling mentally. My younger daughter just started a non profit organization called (PAT) People Are There. A childhood friend of hers was suffering from depression and took his life. She is trying to help those that are suffering mentally so hopefully something like this can be prevented. Next time you're sitting at the table eating a nice meal, just take a second to be thankful and realize how many people like yourself don't have the basic necessities. It starts with each and every one of us!

@SteveZingSamHain



photo by
Maurice Nunez

steve zing