

(Christmas card by Sven Kramer)

We have more new readers. A big welcome to you and please feel free to contribute to the newsletter in any Russ related way.

Keep reading into next year...it could be an exciting year coming up!

I would like to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and thank you for being with us.

Sue

## THE LAST MONTH

Russ: *"Before I go back and tell you about November past....I want to say somethings about my Dear Friend Greg Lake. who passed away last Wednesday. I really came to know Greg thirteen years ago, when I was asked by Roger Daltrey if I would like to play some songs at a 'Teenage Cancer Charity' event.....I said I would and when I arrived at the rehearsal studio - On the stage, the bass player in the group was unmistakably, Greg Lake - I say 'unmistakably' because Greg was larger than life physically and personality - wise. Initially, my intention was to play one or two shows, however, we played together for seven years in what became 'The RD Crusaders'....Greg on bass, Richard Desmond on drums, Zoot Money on Keyboards and Simon Townshend on guitar....Richard worked hard on arranging venues, finance and everything needed for the events. Richard, like me, very much loved working with Greg. He wasn't only a great bass player but also a brilliant song writer, guitar player and singer. In our down time, breakfast and lunchtime, Greg would talk about all kinds of things and have all us musicians enthralled with his stories, not only about music, but all aspects of life. The past four years Greg, Richard and I have seen each other frequently.....I'll miss his stories, his company and the laughs. He knew he was ill but when we met for dinner he was the same old Greg, Fun-loving and warm. We were talking about doing a tour together....That was four years ago, however, 'Stuff' got in the way.....also seven years ago he asked me to work with him on an idea for Christmas - His plan was to make a Christmas gift to sell to the public. The 'Gift' would be a package - consisting of a board game or two and other 'knick knacks'. He also wanted to include in the package, a CD of new Christmas songs....I did write a children's song, however, again, the 'package' never materialized.*

*I've had a productive month, writing tunes, although, I haven't finished much. I record snippets of songs on to my iphone recorder.....If I like them enough when I hear them again I'll record in my studio....As I look at my mobile I see 9th Nov....'Good Gospel Thing' - I take a listen and you know,*

*it's pretty good...just a piano and voice....no words. I always liked Elvis's 'Peace in The Valley' E. P. I might finish this sometime.....10th Nov.....The memo says 'Souly Bit' - it's just a vocal with no words and no instrument, in fact there's background noises - I think I must have been watching football on TV as I made this...not great, anyway, it only lasts 32 seconds.....11th Nov.....'Guitar bit' This piece is only a guitar phrase - I like it...there's no melody but the guitar part is nice. 17th Nov.....'Great Gospel'.....What is this thing with Gospel? I'm playing piano and murmuring but it sounds good. There's nothing formed but it sounds moody, 3mins and 43 seconds of nothing really but I like it. 19th Nov....'End of Chorus' Just another idea for the last 'Gospel' thing ....Pretty!!*

*I met with Bev Bevan, Trevor Horn and Chris Norman...You music fans will know TREVOR is a Brilliant musician, writer and producer. CHRIS, was lead singer of the group 'Smokey' - apart from being an excellent Guitar player, he's also a Great singer...and BEV, too one of the best drummers in the U.K. - We met, booked a rehearsal room and played for a couple of days, with the view of playing some shows...We all thought it sounded brilliant and who knows, when everyone's finished their commitments we could be treading the boards together.*

*I've had some people write to say I haven't replied to messages on FB....Well, I promise I'm going to get it together in the next few days....I apologize!!*

*To all my friends that read the Newsletter, I'd like to say, Have a Great, Happy and Healthy Christmas to You and Yours and lets hope it's more peaceful in 2017....It's got to be, surely. Love, Russ x"*

## **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

*Russ: "This TFTM is Greg related....If you have the chance to do something exciting or unusual, DO IT!! - Tomorrow might be too late! - There was a great song that I loved years ago....it was recorded by an Elvis*

*sound alike called Ral Donner - The song was "You don't know what you got until you lose it" "*

**RD CRUSADERS**

**With Greg Lake and Russ.**

<https://youtu.be/o41jS4YYw5g>



[Nikki Lamborn and Roger Daltrey - Start Me Up /](#)

[Gimme Some Lovin](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Nikki Lamborn and Roger Daltrey perform a duet of Start Me Up and Gimme Some Lovin at the 2004 RD Crusaders charity Concert. TWITTER - [https://twitter.com/Ne...](#)



## ANOTHER VIDEO

We have to have this one at Christmas.

<https://youtu.be/nMs3nnFj-FQ>



[Argent: -'Christmas For The Free'](#)

[youtu.be](#)

From the album: -'In Deep' (March 1973)

## LETTERS

By coincidence I heard a very special new recording of Hello's glam classic „New York Groove“. It is presented by a Bavarian ‚Fun-Metal-Band‘ called J.B.O. The four musicians are from Erlangen near Nürnberg. On their new

CD („11“) they present a version of NYG in Franconian dialect. For people outside Germany the song „Nürnberg Groove“ will sound very strangely. J.B.O.'s version is dedicated to their homeland: the region around the Franconian center Nürnberg (maybe you know the Christkindlmarkt). Listen to the song (or at least to excerpts via Amazon) and you will be slightly astonished at „Nürnberg Groove“!

Best wishes from Germany  
Markus Linten

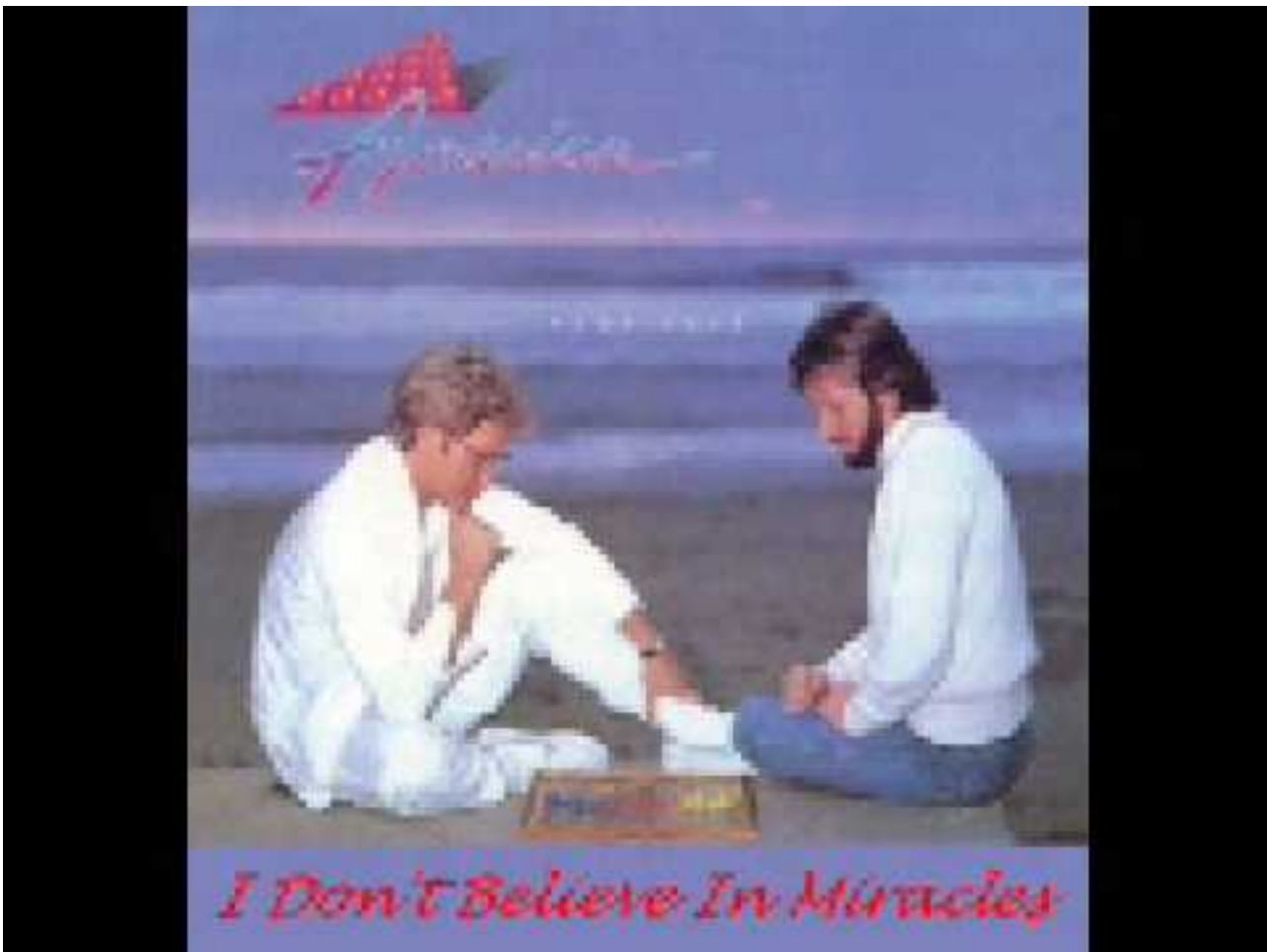
[I can't find this on YouTube but I found this snippet here...Sue]

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01G7WHFCK/  
ref=dm\\_ws\\_tlw\\_thmb1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B01G7WHFCK/ref=dm_ws_tlw_thmb1)

### **RECORDED BY OTHERS**

As it is Christmas, here is everybody's favourite song. And I know from correspondence I have had after including previous America tracks, many readers' favourite band.

<https://youtu.be/pqukokk0WzA>



## [America - I Don't Believe In Miracles](#)

[youtu.be](#)

Written by Russ Ballard

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