



METAL CHURCH

***** New 'The Weight of the World' Album
Released July 26th on SPV*****

Kurdt Vanderhoof	Guitars
Kirk Arrington	Drums
Ronny Munroe	Vocals
Jay Reynolds	Guitars
Steve Unger	Bass

Seattle Power / Thrash Metal band Metal Church are set to release a brilliant new studio album, 'Weight Of The World', on SPV on July 26th. The follow up to their 1999 'Masterpiece' album, 'Weight Of The World' marks a return to the group's more traditional metal roots, inspired originally by the New Wave Of British Heavy Metal of the late 1970's and the West Coast Metal Scene of the 1980's.

Now celebrating the 20th anniversary of their critically acclaimed self-titled debut album, described as 'An overlooked classic of straight-ahead American-bred heavy metal' by the All Music Guide, the renowned Metal church have brought new blood to the altar. Original members Guitarist/songwriter and producer Kurdt Vanderhoof, and drummer Kirk Arrington are joined by new vocalist Ronny Monroe, the ex-Rottweiler front man who has been described as 'Rob Halford meets Dio', guitarist Jay Reynolds (ex-Malice) and bassist Steve Unger.

Formed in 1981 in guitarist Kurdt Vanderhoof's flat, epicentre of the fledgling Seattle thrash scene, and dubbed 'The Metal Church' by its congregation, the band soon signed to Elektra and set off on a very successful tour in support of 1984's 'Metal Church' album with label mates Metallica.

Next came 'The Dark', the fury of its opening track, 'Ton of Bricks' was championed as one of the premier metal releases of the 80's. 'The Dark' also led to one of a few lineup changes with the departure of vocalist David Wayne. However, more success was yet to come. With the addition of former Heretic vocalist Mike Howe, and Metallica guitar tech extraordinaire John Marshall, the riffing became heavier and the subject matter deeper. They tackled political and social issues of the day with the releases of 'Blessing In Disguise' and 'The Human Factor'. At a time when heavy metal bands moved from the underground and became part of the hair band/pop fad, Metal Church stayed true to their roots.

During the mid 90's, the members of Metal Church headed in their own directions. Kurdt Vanderhoof worked on his namesake project, Vanderhoof, while Kirk Arrington played on various sessions, including a recording with Sir Mix-A-Lot. 1999 led to a well-received reunion of the original Metal Church lineup with the release of 'Masterpeace'.

And now, five years on, Metal Church are back with 'Weight Of The World', a *stunning* full length heavy metal album that more than Rocks with a Capital Fuckin' R!

Metallic – Roland Hyams on 020 8677 8466/ 020 8769 6713. June 17th 2004. www.spv.de