

## JOHN PAUL WALTERS

### KICKS OFF FALL TOUR

JIM PRITCHARD

It was like no other concert I'd ever seen! As a matter of fact, it wasn't even like a concert. It was more like an evening with a few friends, sitting around playing guitar and singing favorite songs. I'm speaking of the John Paul Walters concert held one Saturday night in September in Gaither "Coliseum."

Granted, he was no Billy Sprague, but he was an enjoyable performer and talented musician. He approached the concert with a calm, comfortable, and laid-back attitude which created an atmosphere which lasted throughout the evening. John's style (not John Stiles) revealed a "play what the people want" format, including "If An Angel Came to See You," "Carolina On My Mind," and "The Cat Came Back." The audience participated in a

heart-warming rendition of "Old McDonald" and the Beverly Hillbillies theme song, which this reporter was paid \$5.00 to sing while John played the banjo lead (backup vocals by Tod Holtet). Does this make me a professional singer now?

Most people who have heard of John Paul Walters probably saw him at one of the many youth conferences he has played around this area. John enjoys the familiarity of performing at Gaither, describing the experience as "Just like coming home." His love for Montreat and for Mrs. A is the main reason John returns to play here.

I hope to continue seeing performances like John's in Gaither, and we can thank Lou Johnson and Josh Pearman for their efforts this year in providing entertainment.

## THE BOYS ENJOY A H-AC WEEKEND

HEATHER EDWARDS

When the doors opened at 7:00 pm Friday night, the chapel quickly filled with students, church groups and people from the neighboring communities to hear the long-awaited concert of the Mid-South Boys. The crowd was enthusiastic as they worshipped the Lord.

Songs from their newly released album "One of A Kind" were featured. The song "Satisfied" was definitely one of a kind. It was simple and straight to the point. "I'm satisfied with my Jesus, I'm satisfied with my Lord, I'm satisfied with my Jesus. Every day I live, I'm satisfied."

Introduced at Friday's concert, for the first time to the Montreat community, were the two newest members of the Mid South Boys. Filling in for Robby McGee, Steve Secrese from Little Rock Arkansas on keyboards and Kent Humphrey from Pennsylvania on acoustic guitar and vocals. Kent was formerly with the Dixie Creek Melody Boys. During the concert, the Boys sang a song called "Please Let Me sing In the Choir" by the Dixie Creek Melody Boys. The song brought tears then cheers from the audience.

Robby McGee, manager, keyboardist and vocalist, was injured in a scuba diving accident 6 weeks ago. He started walking with a walker last week and is expected to be walking with the aid of crutches in about two weeks. Still unable to travel with the group, Robby will hopefully return to the group near Thanksgiving.

When asked how the replacements have affected the group, electric guitarist Joe Cook said "It has brought

the Mid-South Boys closer together and brought us closer to God. It has also given us the realization that God can bring us through anything."

After Friday night's concert, a surprise birthday party was held in MA-Hall lobby for singer and bass player Bobby Bowen. The lobby was decorated with banners and streamers. Outside, a huge poster hung from second floor proclaiming "Happy Birthday Bobby." Coke and punch were served and games were played afterwards.

Saturday afternoon at the Harvest Festival the Boys had a booth at which they sold cassettes, CDs, and their newest item...sweatshirts.

Opening for the Boys at Saturday night's concert was Pam Grimsley from Florence, South Carolina. One of the most touching songs that she sang was called, "Love That Paid A Higher Price."

Greg Howard started the Mid South Boys' Saturday night concert with an automatic standing ovation. The Boys then jumped right in. They sang hit songs such as "City Lights," "That's My Child," and "I Wanna Hear That Trumpet Sound."

During a break, Joe Cook emphasized to the audience that the Mid-South Boys portray our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. He also mentioned Sean Sellas, the teenager on death row in Minnesota who was interviewed on the Geraldo Rivera special, "Devil Worship: Satan's Underground Exposed." Sean had been involved in Satanism when he killed both his parents and a convenience store clerk. During his interview with Geraldo, Sean emphasized that "the only way out of the clutches of Satan was through the love of Jesus Christ."

Midway through the concert, Pam Grimsley and her 11 year old daughter Keri sang a duet. Pam proudly exclaimed "That's my child!" when they



## DONNY LEWIS: GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

HEATHER EDWARDS

A quiet little guy on the streets, Donnie Lewis explodes on stage. He is the drummer for the gospel group, The Mid-South Boys, from Sheridan, Arkansas. Donnie, originally from Dayton, Ohio, started in his profession by banging on pots and pans as a child. He has never had drum lessons but he taught himself to play.

When asked how he got involved with the Mid-South Boys, Donnie, an avid tennis player, replied that he used to play tennis with Robby McGee. "I learned they needed a drummer through Robbie and tried out," he smiled, "so here I am." Donnie has been with The Boys for about five years and is now co-owner of the group.

Saved in Ohio at the age of twelve, Donnie's life was influenced by gospel music. He said, "I hope that by listening to the Mid-South Boys' music and testimonies, others will come to know Christ and be saved." Music is an important part of Donnie's life and his enthusiasm can be seen as he plays to glorify the Lord.

Near the end of Saturday night's concert, Donnie told the audience of a follow tennis player who was not a Christian. This guy had a hardened

heart and was a most unlikely character to be saved. Donnie left one of the group's tapes in this guy's car one afternoon. The guy called wanting to play tennis, but they never made it to the tennis courts. The guy had listened to the cassette and God had touched his heart and that day he became saved.

I asked Donnie if there was anything God had done in his life that might help others. He answered with the brief details of an accident he had. Almost three years ago, Donnie was in a serious car accident. He faced possible amputation of one leg. Donnie refused to accept this diagnosis and put the situation fully in God's hands. The Great Physician does heal all. Exactly five weeks after the accident, Donnie began playing drums again with a cast on one leg.

When not traveling or in the studio with the group, Donnie plays ping-pong, tennis, and collects sports memorabilia such as old gloves and uniforms. He also substitute teaches. He is twenty-seven years old and not married... yet!

finished. Good things do come in small packages as we found out when this little gal told us to "Wise Up" as she sang the popular Amy Grant tune.

As the second half of the concert began the Boys really began to "cook". Singing the title track song from their new album "One Of A Kind", they followed with the song "Child Come Home".

Kent Humphrey, told the audience that young people today need a role model and we should be that role model by living our lives in Jesus Christ. "Soon we will be going home and I want to take other people with me", he said. He emphasized that no matter what crazy things we may end up doing, God always has our best interests at heart."

An open fellowship and altar call at the front of the chapel ended the concert. Hugs, tears, and prayers were shared as believers came together to encourage and appreciate one another. Some were saved and many others rededicated their lives to the Lord.

After the concert, the Boys started packing up, still taking time to talk to those who needed someone. Loading up their one of a kind pink bus marked "The Boys" they headed home to Sheridan, Arkansas. Even though the Boys are gone for now, the message they brought still stands in our hearts and lives. "Were satisfied with our Jesus and satisfied with our Lord. Were satisfied with our Jesus, every day we live were satisfied".