

# Terry Blackwood Interview

(Cont. from pg. 1)

married, and we do share the same interests, same desires and so it has worked out real well; it really has and I'm happy for her success, and she's happy for mine and we can share in those successes together because we are now one in Christ!

**TJ:** With both of you in Christian music, contemporary Christian music, and travelling, do you have much time together?

**TB:** We have a lot of time together. Andrus, Blackwood, and Company travels an average of six or seven dates a month. We are gone most every Friday and Saturday but not every Friday and Saturday, and we're almost always home on Sunday and the rest of the time Cheryl and I are together, so actually, when you compute the time, we are together more than a man who goes to work five days a week, 8:00 to 5:00 or 9:00 to 5:00. We're together more than in that kind of arrangement. Our time is important to us, and when we went into our marriage, it was a commitment that we would have the amount of time that it took to keep our marriage solid and to keep it what God intended it to be and it's worked out beautifully. We have enough time together that we feel satisfied that we have made enough time to it, and yet we do have time apart to kind of... you know... everybody needs a little time alone to kind of adjust. For me it was a big adjustment, being married after staying single for thirty-seven years. It took a little time to adjust to having someone in the house. So my time alone is very important to me, and yet it's not enough to really cause a problem in the marriage.

**TJ:** Andrus, Blackwood, and Company is one of the more popular of the contemporary Christian groups, so your group is very popular in contemporary Christian circles, and these days contemporary Christian musicians have become role models, I feel, to Christian youth. How do you accept that responsibility? Do you see it as a responsibility? What are your thoughts on being a role model to young persons?

**TB:** It is a responsibility and it's also a privilege. I didn't

seek it. God called me to sing. I happen to be placed in a position to where people look up to me and they expect me to live a certain way, and I accept that responsibility gladly, because I feel if God gives me a job to do He'll give me the grace and the ability to do it. Kids do need role models and I feel like they're going to look up to somebody, and I'd much rather them look up to somebody who names the name of Jesus and who sings about Him, talks about Him, who tries his best to live for Him as opposed to some drug-addicted rock star who has absolutely no sense of values and has got his life completely messed up. Since kids are going to have role models, then I'm glad it's Christian musicians, people who are in the Christian music field. All the while, while I know they do look up to us, we try our very best to take the attention off of us and to put it on Jesus who should be our only example. There seems to be a tendency among Christians, young Christians, to look to other Christians as their inspiration. Even ministers and evangelists, they (the young Christians) think, "Boy, if I could be as spiritual as this person, I'd be... I'd have it made," but we need to be careful to realize our only example is Jesus Christ. Every one of us is human and we make mistakes and we do things, we have values that aren't necessarily the same as for every Christian in the body of Christ. And so, while I accept that responsibility, Sherman and I both feel very strongly that Jesus Christ should be our example, and we look to Him for our leadership and we try to tell others to do that.

**TJ:** Tell me about your new album, "Step Out of the Night." The song tonight, it was really the first time I had heard it, seemed to have more of a jazz tone to it than some of the previous material. I even heard some things in it that sounded like Al Jarreau. Have you been compared to him or to other secular groups before. Just

tell me about the album a bit.

**TB:** It is what I think is more progressive music than "Soldier of the Light." "Soldier of the Light" was more of a, how do I say, a rock feel although it wasn't all rock. There was a lot of variety on there, but the fastest tunes on the "Soldiers" album tended to go a little more heavy, a little heavier style. The faster tunes on this album are more laid back, and they're more in a progressive jazz feel with less emphasis on the fuzz tone guitars. I don't know if

anyone has compared the style to anything 'cause there's nothing on there that's really... there's no two songs that are alike. The first song on the album, "No You May Not," is almost what they would call an English, a British style, a Cliff Richard... a real different feel and then we had the slow tunes like, "Stones Throw Away," which are very laid back and very, you know, almost... well, it's not a praise song but it's certainly a song that ministers

to people.

So we go from all different styles, and I would say probably it would be maybe, tempo-wise, a step back because I felt we needed to make a statement that we could sing upbeat music and we did that on "Soldier of the Light." So we step back a little bit with a little more progressive jazz feel

which shows that we can sing the Al Jarreau type of songs if we want to, and those kinds of songs are included on the album but it's a lot of variety. There's all kinds of material on there and I think Sherman and I have never been content to just be a particular style of group. I don't like to be branded a Christian "Rock and Roll" group. That's not what I choose to be called even though we do some styles of Rock in our concerts but we also do "He's Here Right Now" and we do the worshipful praise choruses. We try to give people a variety so that someone doesn't come in feeling like we left them out.

**TJ:** Terry, how did you come to know the Lord Jesus

Christ, what was the turning point in your life?

**TB:** Well, I was raised in a Christian home. That's all I ever knew was church and attending church and being in church and knowing Christian people. And so I knew that it was the way to life and to abundant living. So it was just a natural thing for me and it happened in a revival. The evangelist is a well-known television personality who's been on PTL Club and 700 Club quite a number of times, William Cantalon, whose done a lot of speaking all over the world. It was just my time. I came forward because it was God calling me and I made a confession of faith. It was just a natural thing, you know, you're raised in church, and yet it was a decision I had to make for myself and I am so grateful that I was brought up to know that was the important thing in my life; that Jesus Christ and the hope that He offers is... that decision to follow Him is the important decision in my life. It's what my folks taught me and that's the way I decided to live my life.



And the winner is...

## Jamie Johnson Selected King Of Hearts

by Mary Castillo

The King of Hearts Pageant was held on Friday night, February 12, 1983. The judges this year were Libby Bagwell, the Resident Director of McGregor Hall; Patty Hall, a representative of the Admissions Office; Mrs. "A", the Director of Student Activities; Ben Fortson, an alumnist; Dean Larry Wilson, the Dean of Student Affairs; and Julia Roberts,

the Resident Director of Groseclose Hall. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Davis, and his assistants were Julie Etua and Barb Harlow.

The candidates were Scott Fuller of 1st floor Howerton; Jamie Johnson of 2nd floor Howerton; Scott Cox of 3rd floor Howerton; David Jenkins of 1st floor Davis; Eric Wilson of 2nd floor Davis; Scott DiSalvo of

3rd floor Davis. The candidates participated in the shorts and talent competitions, and each answered one question. The person behind the scenes who organized the entire show was Miss Cindy Drake. Entertainment was provided by the women of Groseclose Hall. The king of the pageant turned out to be Jamie Johnson. Congratulations!