

Alternate radio for youth on WKMT

By RENEE WALSER

Sex and drugs. That's what contemporary Christian music is not.

"We know that contemporary Christian music is good," said radio show producer Richard Young about his new radio show, High Spirit, on WKMT in Kings Mountain. "It's all positive. The majority of it has a Christian message."

And now Young and a group of high school students in the area are bringing it to the air waves every afternoon Monday through Friday from 3:45 to 5:30 p.m.

"It's there for them now," said Young. "It's good. . . . By no means is it all professional, but they're doing a good job."

Young started the germ of the idea by holding a seminar on alternatives to rock music, which a great deal of has a bad message, he says.

Jay Rhodes, of Carolina State Bank and a parent, took it further and said, "Why can't we have that available to the youth in this area?"

So he asked Young if he would train some high school volunteers to run a show with all contemporary Christian music.

Rhodes got the financial backing for the program from interested parents and citizens in the community. Some of the sponsors advertise on the program.

The show started the first week of December.

The students represent: on Mondays, Bessemer City; Tuesdays, Burns; Wednesdays, Kings Mountain; Thursdays, Shelby; and Fridays, Crest.

The two students acting as DJs on Wednesday were Jill Jimison and Angela Hardin. They said they got involved because they were members of the Christian Athletes at Kings Mountain.

"It has renewed my faith in their commitment," said Young.

The students write their own news of high school happenings. Some have even learned to run the board.

"Some are looking at it as a career now," said Young.

The style of music is "anything the young would want to listen to," Young said. It includes rock, rap, light ballad rock, heavy metal and even country will be added. All Christian artists are used like Amy Grant and a new group, Petra.

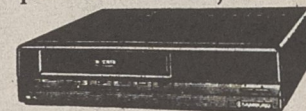
To find out who's listening, the station gives away tickets and High Spirit T-shirts almost every day. The tickets are to such events as Hornets games and concerts.

"These people had the vision, they made it happen," Young said. "We want to know there's people listening."

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