

Campus preacher offers hope for future



By Mark Baldridge
Senior Reporter

Curt Brandon has a special calling.

Although he makes his living working nights on the docks at Meadowgold Dairies, he recently has been called to evangelize to University of Nebraska-Lincoln students.

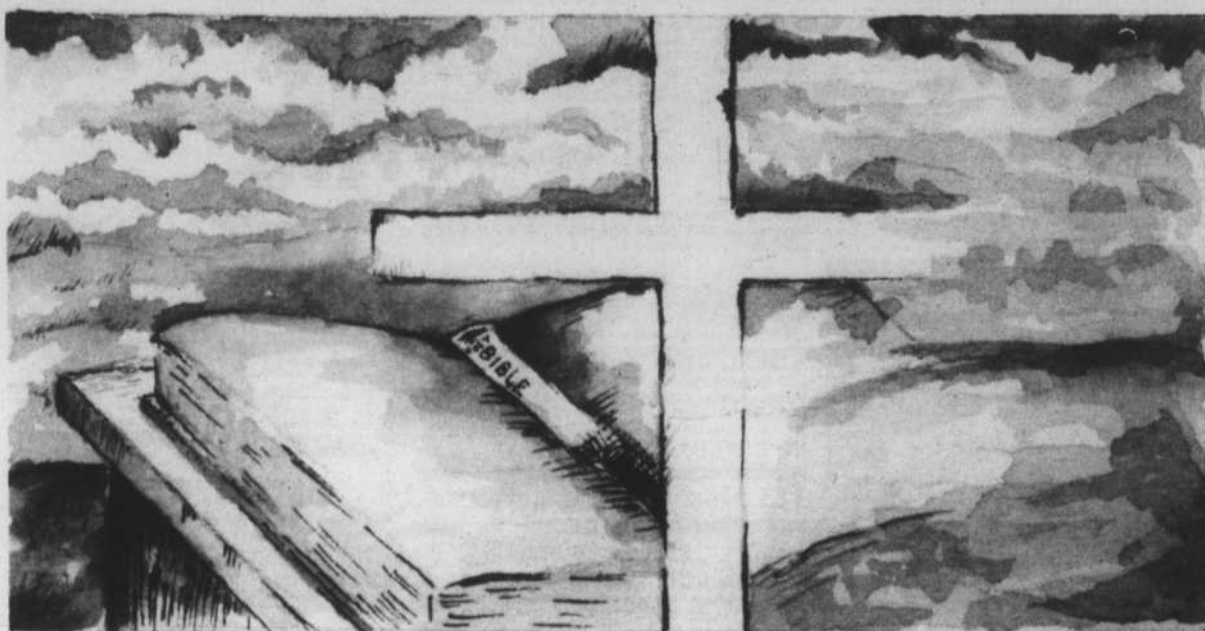
Monday he preached — for the first time ever — near Broyhill Fountain. He was back again on Wednesday, and I got a chance to talk with him on Thursday morning.

Curt is a highly intelligent person. With his clear eyes and sincere manner, he seems like a person at peace with himself.

He was a little nervous, however, as we began to talk.

He wanted to make it clear that all the good things in his life come from God, and that he takes no credit for anything.

"Seven years ago I didn't really have a faith in Jesus," he said. "It was in January 1986 that I was born again.



Robert Borzekowski/DN

"I was in the Air Force ROTC. I had a pilot slot. After I was sworn in I was asked, 'What would you do if you were given orders that would mean killing 6 million people in China?'"

Curt said that's when he started to question himself.

He had been struggling to come to

terms with right and wrong.

"I went out and bought a Bible. I read the Koran. I read some books about Buddha and other religions," he said.

"I asked God to lead me. I felt I was led by the spirit to the Bible. The truth of the Bible really came alive to me."

And he believes in miracles, he said.

"The same power that was available to Jesus is available to anyone who comes to God," he said.

Once he was instructed by the spirit of God to visit his neighbor, an elderly woman. When he got there, he found she needed his help.

Curt is careful to distinguish between the voice of God and his own thoughts, and one cannot help but believe him when he tells of his experiences.

He admits he is subject to temptations. But, he said, "I've recognized my enemy and I know how to fight him."

Recently Curt was given messages about the future, which he told to me in hopes that the truth of the word of God would lead people to Jesus.

"God's people need to turn and hear the voice of the Holy Spirit."

He said this was an important part of what he was told, but there is more: "Within the amount of years you can count on the fingers of one hand, there will come a four-year drought.

"And the heavens will be shut upon the breadbasket of this nation because the people have not heeded the voice of the Holy Spirit."

When he told me this, I have to admit it made me feel strange. I suddenly felt hot.

But Curt also wanted people to know, especially now with the stress of finals and graduation, that we can all have hope, that we shouldn't dwell on our problems.

We don't have to live in fear of the future.

Because, as he said, "With God all things are possible."

Concert

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him to join another band was the respect Rolie and Chalfant had for each other.

"He didn't really know me, but he opened up the door and let me do what I do and actually pulled out of

me more than anybody else ever has," Chalfant said.

Both lead singers said they were concerned about the quality of their songs.

Rolie is in charge of quality control, Chalfant said.

"If they're not good songs," Rolie said, "this band won't do it."

Chalfant said they wanted to cre-

ate a sense of depth in their songs by putting a lot of punch into their music and a lot of passion into their singing.

"I guess you would call it passion with punch," he said.

The combination of Chalfant's passion and Rolie's quality control seems to be working for The Storm.

The Storm's success, Rolie said, was "one of those things that as you

get older, you realize that falling into a bucket and coming out smelling like a rose is not all that easy."

Selling bumper stickers, buttons and boxes of T-shirts imprinted with Bryan Adams and The Storm logos during the 60-some city tour, David Bason of Kent, Ohio, summed up The Storm in two words.

"High energy," he said.

Well-written pop, influence of Atlanta anchor Uncle Green's big-label release

Reviews



Uncle Green
"Book of Bad Thoughts"
Atlantic

Question: What the opposite of Pink Floyd?

Answer: Uncle Green.

At least according to frontman Matt Brown, that's what the members of the Atlanta-based band were thinking when they originally conceived "Uncle Green." It eventually became the name of the band, which has just released its fifth album, and its first on a major label — Atlantic Records.

In case you don't remember, Uncle Green is the group that delivered a killer set at Duffy's Tavern last August as an opening act for its dB label

mates, The Reivers.

Sometime last fall, an Atlantic representative saw Uncle Green and (wisely) signed the band immediately. The current product is called "Book of Bad Thoughts" and, as usual for Uncle Green, it's an album of good songs.

The Atlanta influence has left its mark on these non-Atlanta natives. Particularly evident on this album is a touch of REM. Two songs written by vocalist Jeff Jensen provide the evidence. "Wake Up Now" displays the exact harmonic vocal techniques that are REM's trademark. "In Good Time" follows a similar course.

Another obvious influence on this album is Elvis Costello. Brown admits being into Costello and the Clash as a teen-ager. "She's Storing It Up," and "You're Getting Into It" have the formula Elvis vocal dorkiness and pop progression (good dorkiness, that is — no thick glasses).

Perhaps the most blatant blast from

the past on "Book" is the last song, "I Always Knew You'd Come To Me." This song sounds exactly like Uncle Green. That's because it is. The song makes its second appearance on a UG album after being included on the successful dB release from last year, "What An Experiment His Head Was."

Apparently, Atlantic liked the pop hook so much (and it is a good one), that it wanted to promote the song on its own label.

All and all, Uncle Green is a song band. No killing slasher guitar solos or jack-boot drum solos will be found in the band's work, just well-written pop. The music survives on its own, despite the lack of glitz.

After the band's show at Duffy's last August, Brown said he was impressed with the crowd and wanted to come back for another show. With the backing of a major label, it should only be a matter of time before Lincoln gets another taste of Uncle Green.

— Carter Van Pelt

Tribe

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"I didn't expect restrictions on the record company and radio station slots. ... (I) expected things to be a lot freer here."

Americans must be aware of controlling industries like the music industry, Robb said, calling it "the beast."

Robb became aware of the "beasts" in South Africa at a young age, he said. He was angry because he wasn't allowed to have long hair or take poetry classes. He was forced to wear a school uniform, compete in sports and join the army.

"All this bullshit was pissing me off long before I knew what was going on with the black people. And then, when I found out what was going on with the black people, I was even more determined and more pissed off."

Along with its diverse history, Tribe After Tribe has diverse influences, from Led Zeppelin, Deep Purple and



Courtesy of Megaforce

The Who to the tribal drumming of Swaziland.

"We thought, 'If there's some way we can blend rock with those drums, we would have a very magical kind of music.'"

"I like to say to the people, 'We are


in another time now,' and give them a chance of dropping everything they have brought with them."

Tribe After Tribe plays at 8 p.m. Pearl Jam starts at 9 p.m. The concert is sold out.

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