

with is developing my talent to be the best for God.

DH — In what musical direction is Petra going?

BH — Right now I see us going into a wider type of stuff — lighter stuff too. I hope we're going to get a chance to do another album. It would probably be a better balance of heaviness to our music. On our first album, there's a lot of heavy songs — that's about all we had.

Our lyrics are progressing too. (They are getting away from) the "normal" Christian lyric. For example "Killing My Old Man" has something to say in a Christian way, but it isn't said in the ordinary way either. It communicates to a lot of people — maybe people that wouldn't listen to a typical Christian song.

DH — How does the Lord give you a song?

BH — The Holy Spirit inspired men to write every single word of the Scriptures, yet He employed their own vocabulary and characteristics completely without error. In the same way (not putting myself on that level) God gives people songs. He uses their own knowledge of music, uses their own vocabulary and their own ability to put a song together. And he inspires it.

DH — Is there really a Lucas McGraw?

BH — No, there isn't, but there's another idea that is said in a different way. It's something that's common and all Christians can relate to persecution by other people who don't understand what has happened to them. Yet it's said in a way that's light and brought to them that it might give them a different outlook.

DH — How does the enemy attack you? How do you recognize his attacks?

BH — He wants to sever the relationships of Christ's body in our ministry and he wants to break down communication and relationships within our group. We have to be constantly aware of that.

DH — I suppose that travelling together so much you could grate on one another and bring on personality clashes.

BH — Oh sure, there's always things like that. Greg and I have lived together ever since we moved to Ft. Wayne about 2½ years ago. We're different people and we've had our disagreements like everyone else, but because of our love of one another and of Christ, we've really stuck together.

DH — Sometimes people don't think that Christian bands don't have spiritual problems.

BH — Since all things are common to all men, we go through the same things. Let's face it, if you're in any ministry you're going to be attacked in a lot of different ways. It's only the Lord that sees us through. That unity is so true. We're one body and something that affects one of us affects us all. That's why we need to be so close.

DH — In what direction do you see Christian music headed?

BH — It's a sad thing to see many Christians discouraged. It's a hard thing to be a musician for the Lord because you're faced with different situations and different people.

We went to this concert in Cincinnati. First of all, it was in the middle of January and they were thinking of having it outdoors. They had very little

planning, very little promotion and it was really a ho-hum kind of thing. It was very disheartening to the band and I'm sure to the Lord, who sees these things done for Him in a very slipshod way. "The Holy Spirit will throw Things together," the big cop-out. God wants us to work and do things the right way.

I think this has bothered a lot of Christians and they end up saying "I just don't want to do this anymore, it's too much of a strain, too much of a burden to go and have this all the time." And as a result, many Christian bands have broken up. There aren't too many Christian rock bands left — JC Power Outlet broke up — I hope that more Christian artists begin to be more recognized in the secular market and make a more positive witness in bringing music to the world.

DH — Christian music has had the "hokey" label applied to it.

BH — I think there is a difference in ministry to the body of Christ and a ministry of an evangelical sort. We've always found that we've been called to evangelize. I think we really have to be sensitive to the Lord about what to do and where to go because we don't really know what to do and we're really praying about this. We'd like you and your readers to pray for us. We really need to know God's direction."

Petra are known as one of the leading Christian rock groups. They are continuing to minister to audiences all over the country. Petra consists of Bob Hartman and Greg Hough on guitar, bassist John DeGross and drummer Bill Glover. ♪