

It is the final day of the Olympics and the Paul Colman Trio final is in the studio putting the finishing touches for its second album *Turn*.

Like swimmers training for a marathon relay event, everyone is pumped about the new album and national tour in November and December to launch the new CD.

The small, sparsely furnished tea-room Baker Street studios in Burwood possesses a temporary air common to all studios.

Paul opens the fridge and offers Diet Coke, Lift, and Ginger Beer to bassist Grant Norsworthy, drummer Phil Gaudion, and the writer.

Producer Andy Sorenson grabs a Coke and a Mars bar, then heads back to the studio to tweak the final mix of the band's new radio single, *Turn*.

There's a half-eaten apple cake on the table, and a range of chocolates and sweets from which to choose.

The Paul Colman Trio has quickly become one of the hottest Christian acts in the country, and the new album *Turn* is expected to consolidate this position.

So, why call the album *Turn*? They're talking with radio interviewer and publicist Wes Jay.

- Paul Colman            The title really sums up what we're trying to do and that's encouraging people and ourselves to turn away from the things [in our lives] that obstruct.
- Grant Norsworthy    There's also a sense that we're turning or changing in a musical sense too – exploring new musical horizons.
- Phil Gaudion            *Turn* is a very different album to *Serious Fun*. It's more electric, less acoustic.
- Grant                    For the first time, PC3 has used a producer. Andy Sorenson has really added a lot to it and you will certainly hear the difference from *Serious Fun*. People who like *Serious Fun* will really like *Turn*, but it will surprise quite a few people as well.
- Paul                     If *Turn* surprises people, it's because some people might expect us to reproduce what we did last time.
- We started out as an acoustic trio — that's how we did most of our first gigs. But for the past six months, a lot of our gigs have been with electric instruments and we've become more comfortable with that as a trio.
- The thematic sense of this album is that we're turning away from things, but musically we've just turned a corner, but we haven't turned 180 degrees. We simply want to progress and turn corners all the time. We've just chucked a lefty.
- Grant                     One of the songs we've taken a bit of a *Turn* on is a song called *In The Middle*.
- There's quite a few adventurous things in there including a trombone but there's not an acoustic guitar for miles.
- Phil                      Plenty of drums and Paul is playing lots of funky guitar!
- Paul                      In a musical sense, it gets pretty electric, but in a thematic sense, it's not a lot different to some of the material on *Serious Fun*.
- Sometimes, we feel we are *In The Middle*.
- We don't feel that we want to be a part of what the world is doing, but sometimes we feel alienated from the whole Christian culture too. Sometimes that's not really centred on Jesus at all. So, sometimes we feel as though we're *In The Middle*. –

not dirty enough for that side, and not clean enough for this side. But it is not a fence sitting kind of in the middle.

Paul

The song *In The Middle* is about being on a soapbox in a valley between two cities – one's called Religionville and the other's called New Rome.

Religionville is a city that is the hub of Christian culture that is not centred on Christ, but is just religious. New Rome is the growing contemporary culture that emulates the values of Ancient Rome.

We feel a part of neither camp. But love people in both. And that is where we feel Jesus wants us to be.

Wes

One of things that one notices about the music the Paul Colman Trio performs and records is that every song comes from the heart. It's like every song has come from personal experience or from the trio being exposed to the things being spoken about.

Phil

I feel like we've come a long way in our relationships as a trio since forming and recording *Serious Fun*. The song *Sundown* is about our relationships. It speaks to us as much as I hope it will speak to others about dealing with our problems and coming to a resolution before the end of the day with things that are troubling us. So, that's what this song is about.

Grant

Reconciliation is an important thing for everyone to come to grips with. Over the past year, I've learned more about this than anything else. Matthew 18 was really the inspiration for this song.

Paul

There's a lot of sermons about healing and spiritual gifts, there's not very many about 'work it out before you go to bed'. What we're trying to mirror, as the guys have been saying, is we're trying to work it out. So we've written this song, not in a preachy way, but we hope to inspire people to do that. Because if we could focus in on that a lot more, a lot of the other stuff would take care of itself.

Wes

Talking about relationship, one of the striking things about the CD for me is the relationship between words and music.

Paul

We've come a lot closer to marrying the music and the lyrics, so that they both speak equally.

One song I feel got close to that is *I Dream*.

On *Serious Fun*, we got to that on a number of occasions. Probably *The Killing Tree* gets there...

Grant

And the *Banquet Table* is a good example of that I think too!

Paul

Absolutely. *The Banquet Table* is a good example of how the music and lyrics work together.

I think *I Dream* is like that.

It starts out in someone's bedroom. They are describing a dream sequence. And then they travel out thru the cities, and start to speak about universal dreams. And then suddenly there's an image of heaven.

Grant

The lyric explodes, and the music explodes. People who are looking for a *Turn* from the *Serious Fun* sound are going to be surprised by this one.

Paul In some ways, it's like a worshipful pop song. I totally love it.

Phil For me, it's like the end of the world-vibe. It reminds me of the latter of the Bible. Most of Revelations is a vision, and that's what Paul is describing here – a vision.

Wes A cornerstone of the album is possibly the song, *The Sun, The Stars, and The Moon*. It seems to sum up the threads, or the themes, that weave their way throughout the album.

Paul The chorus says 'I want to be the moon because it reflects the sun, I don't want to be the star that shines on everyone'.

That line was written while I was kneeling down the front of a church in San Diego about three or four tours ago when I was feeling particularly disconnected.

Probably part of me wants to be the star, and thinks this show can't go on without me, but the reality is I want to be like the moon, because it reflects the sun, and its whole light is taken up reflecting something bigger than itself.

And yet it shines this wonderful light. That song's worshipful to me. When I sing that song, I feel like I'm worshipping.

Wes That's quite a bit different to *Serious Fun*. It seemed to symbolise who you were... and still are. People who are serious and can have a lot of fun, and are serious about following Jesus Christ, and want to have a lot fun while we do so.

What about *Turn*?

Paul This new record is very much looking to the future, and saying this is where we want to go.

Many of the songs contain themes of tomorrow. We want to be like this, we want to be like this. Like we want to be like the moon, we want to turn our lives around and we want to dream.

Grant We nearly called the album *Dream* didn't we! Because we were thinking about where we want to be, and where we imagine this project will take us. And what it's going to do to the people who hear it.

Paul One of the most important things that has happened in the past year, was hearing a series of sermons by John Smith speaking about where he feels we need to be as the Church.

And he talked about the Scripture where Jesus is transfigured, and Peter wants to make this great shrine and capture the experience. Instead, Jesus walks down the valley. He's had the glory, but he's walked down to the valley where the problems are, to where the church is arguing and where a father is crying for his son's healing.

I think we've taken that thought as a mandate for this album. We've taken that thought and pinned it up on the wall, and set these songs against that backdrop.

The themes of this album are set in the valley, trying to wrestle with these things, trying to do what God wants us to do, and that's to love Him and others with everything that we have.

Cause we have a billion years to be up on the mountain, but right down, we want to be down in the valley. We want to be with the church as it argues. We want to help bring reconciliation, and we also want to be with the father whose son is

desperate. We want to be with both.

For each of us, these songs are the songs we'd have on our Walkmans as we walk down the mountain into the valley to do that job.

Grant We don't want to ensconce ourselves in any wonderful spiritual high, we want to get out there where it is real, and really find out what it is to be serving God.

Paul I don't think our identity is being musicians. I don't think our identity is being artists. I don't think our identity is this is our ministry. I think our identity is we're followers of Jesus, and this is what we do. We make music, and therefore this is a record of those ideas fleshed out in our job.

Grant Music is simply the vehicle.

Paul There's no doubt that I think this is more of a serious record than *Serious Fun*. Serious in the sense that we have tackled some pretty heavy themes. And I think we spent a lot more time of this album thinking about the music, not just the lyric.

We spent a lot of time thinking about how we could make the music as memorable as the words. And as a result, it is a pretty serious recording.

Having said that, we've had more fun in our relationships than we've ever had before.

Grant One of the things that's gonna make our national tour in November and December even more fun is that Adam Lester from the Gold Coast is going to be a guest of ours on a few songs

Paul He also played on about four songs on the album. And we're also showcasing Claire Hazzard on this tour.