I scheduled an interview with Daniel Karlish, guitarist with the Gospel Soul Consolators, at Austin’s Music Store, located on Jackson Ave, in Oxford Mississippi. The interview was set for 3 pm. on the afternoon of September 1, 2010. I arrived a few minutes before the scheduled time.

Austin’s music is located in a strip-type, shopping center, off south Jackson Avenue. As I walked into the store the counter and cash register was located to my right. Behind the counter hung several guitars, hung both electric and acoustic guitars. A glass case, which the register sat on, held guitar picks, effects pedals, and various musical accessories. The owner of Austin’s Music, Kenneth, sat behind the counter. To the right of the cash register, by the front window, there was a bench. Daniel Karlish was waiting for me on the bench with his custom, telecaster guitar. We shook hands and said hello. The interview was set to take place in a back room normally used for music lessons, but there was already a scheduled music lesson in progress.

We decided to use a middle room that serves as a guitar and guitar amp showroom. The hallway leading back to the showroom was covered with memorabilia, concert posters and random musical instruments. The guitar showroom had a closing door and a big window. We closed the door and each sat on a stool in the middle of the room with the recorder placed in between us on a chair.

The interview was going well when, about ten minutes in, I noticed the machine was on pause, and I hadn’t been recording the interview. Daniel was very gracious, and we started the interview over again. The interview, from then on, went smoothly.

Daniel talked about his early musical experiences, and about how he started playing guitar. At one point, a couple of teenage boys peaked in the window, but did not come in. The interview followed Daniel’s musical development from his early days in Rock-n-Roll and Metal to his discovery of Honky Tonk and Rockabilly. When he began talking about his joining the gospel group, the Gospel Soul Consolators, he demonstrated the different techniques using his guitar. Gospel guitar playing is linked to Soul and Funk playing. He demonstrated some techniques and riffs he uses in the Consolators. Daniel discussed the tightness and dynamics of the band, and the excited feeling that he experiences playing with the group.

We finished the interview with Daniel talking about the affect playing Gospel music has had on his spiritual life. We stopped the interview a few minutes before 4 o’clock.
Daniel promised to inform me about upcoming, area Gospel programs. We said our goodbyes. He went into the back room with a guitar student, and I left the music store. This interview provided good information on the technical side of playing in a African American Gospel group. It comes from a person who entered the world of North Mississippi Gospel as an “outsider”.