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passion

garage sale with a mission

by john w. hays

For the sixth year in a row, First Avenue/7th Street Entry was host to a benefit event for Pastor Paul's Mission in North Minneapolis. In a multi-faceted event which combined some of the classic treasures of a garage sale with the minimally amplified performances of local musicians (many from bands of notable repute), artists, fans and friends pulled off an evening of entertainment, shopping and philanthropy.

Billed as Pastor Paul's Acoustic Garage Sale, this year's event was unique in that, for the first time in the history of this benefit, Pastor Paul was available to make a personal appearance. On Wednesday

evening, January 17, he was in town, and free of conflicts.

The original Acoustic Garage Sale benefit seven years ago occurred before First Avenue's Steve McClellan had run across The Mission, Inc. The next year Pastor Paul's became the charity of choice, and it has remained so ever since. Pastor Paul's Mission is a non-sectarian.

contributing a percentage of sales. There were tables of clothing, jewelry, artwork, books, albums, and classic vintage stuff that certainly fit with what you would expect to find at a garage sale. The final tally raised for The Mission was over \$1000.

Currently the number of vendors



seems to work well for the crowd attending (over 300 this year), but Mean Larry is hoping and planning for growth in both categories next year. He says the musicians chomp at the bit for this gig, so there is no fear of coming up short there. He's definitely in tune with that part of the production, as he was one of the performers on stage during the night.