

And now it was thrilling to realise that the Lord now had this whole area covered, & if He will, anybody anywhere could tune in & then write in & get on our line!

IT WAS SO EXCITING TO GET THE FIRST MAIL RESPONSE from a boy in Coimbatore, a place where we had never visited before! He became our first Club member! Next week we got three letters, then five, then ten, then 15, & so it grew. They were all such beautiful heart-touching replies, just like the ones we get now, such a deep appreciation & real heart-felt response that proves & shows that their lives are being changed!

AND FROM THE BEGINNING IT HAS BEEN THESE BEAUTIFUL RESPONSES FROM THE INDIAN LISTENERS that have been the fuel that has made the fire grow! It's the only proof we've ever had that the whole thing has been worth it, & that has given people faith in it! AT FIRST I WOULD REPLY TO THE LISTENERS' LETTERS MYSELF BY HAND, as a sort of personal mail ministry. But then as the response climbed to 30 letters a week it began to get, of course, too much! So the Lord raised up our first sweet MWM Club secretary, Leah Lovelight, a sweet & cuddly Australian girl, & when the mail got too much for both of us to handle & answer by hand, we had to start using form letters.

BY THE END OF OUR FIRST YEAR OF BROADCASTING WE HAD CLOSE TO 1,000 CLUB MEMBERS! When it came time to renew our contract again we suddenly got word that Dad wanted to put the Show on not once but 6 times a week! This was the first time that I knew that Dad knew about the Show, & goodness me, I was absolutely flipped out, to say the least! And so were the listeners! They were pleading with us to give them at least two Shows a

week, & instead we were able to give them six! Thanks to Dad! SO DOWN TO SRI LANKA WE FLEW AGAIN AT THE END OF '77 with \$10,000 to pay for a whole year of 6 programs a week. What a miracle! Just the day before we went to pay the money, the Sri Lanka government devalued the Sri Lankan rupee against the Dollar so that instead of getting 8 rupees to the Dollar, we could now get 18 rupees to the Dollar. So it cost us \$5,000 instead of \$10,000! To top it off, two days later the station doubled the price to make up for the devaluation & also raised the price 40% above that! So thanks to the Lord's perfect timing we paid only 1/3 of the price for the year that we would have had to pay 3 days later! PTL!



Leah Lovelight, the first MWM Club secretary, sitting at a desk and smiling. (Photo from an article in 'New Nation News', April, 1977.)

AT THAT TIME WE GOT OUT A BIG MAP OF INDIA & stuck a coloured pin on every town or village where we had a Club member or listener who had written in. We wanted to see exactly from where our mail response was coming & to see whether the program was just reaching maybe one particular area of India & not another. WE WERE AMAZED TO SEE

THE WHOLE MAP JUST COVERED with pins! There was hardly anywhere in India from where we hadn't had a mail response! It was in 1978 that besides paying for the program, W.S. STARTED TO GIVE US A REGULAR MONTHLY BUDGET of \$300 a month which always went totally into paying for the mail ministry monthly mailing & for the expense of hiring the studio in Bombay where I used to make the Shows.

HERE I MUST MENTION SOMEONE WHO DESERVES A LOT OF CREDIT FOR THE BIRTH OF MWM. His name is Vijay & he works as a sound recorder in that system studio that I used to use. He is one of the most faithful, hard working, sweetest guys I've ever met, & he worked with me on the Show all the time that I was in India. He was the guy who first suggested such simple things like talking over the musical intro to the song etc. God knows, the Enemy must have fought him, but he never let me down once during the whole two years that we worked together, always completely dependable & always willing to work long after hours to help me produce my 6 Shows a week.

IN FACT, 7 SHOWS A WEEK because we also had a Show on the local Bombay All-India Radio sponsored by our precious king there, Mr. D. Altho' Vijay did all the hard work in the studio he got paid a pittance himself, about \$70 a month! Over the two years he must have saved us 1000s of dollars because he would never tell his boss how many hours we worked in the studio, so we'd get charged for one hour when maybe we had worked 5 or 6! GB Vijay!—He really deserves a lot of credit for being such a continual encouragement & help. In the early days the Lord really used him to be an inspiration & a dependable help!

GOD BLESS ALL THE FAITHFUL LITTLE PEOPLE WHO

WORKED SO HARD IN OUR MWM HOME THERE IN INDIA & helped keep us going—people like Barney, or David, who is now working with Ho's children. He would refuse to come back home until the Lord had supplied enough money for everybody to eat the next day!

WE ALWAYS SUPPORTED OURSELVES THRU LITNESSING as far as our rent & needs & would put our W.S. grant towards the Mail Ministry & tape & studio cost. So it was tough to get all our work done & also raise our own support. So we were always dependent on the Lord to do a miracle & supply thru the litnessing team that went out that day! Of course, it wasn't that tough, because the Lord always supplied & always did a miracle! PHN!

WE WERE ALWAYS VERY RICH IN INSPIRATION. The wonderful highlight of the month was always to see those 1000s of envelopes piled up containing those precious Mo Letters that, by the end of '78, we were regularly sending out to 4,000 people every month! Our hard-working secretaries at that time were Leah Lovelight, Carmel & Ecclesia, a really precious rough-tough Australian bunch!

WHEN YOU HAVE AN AVERAGE OF 25 LETTERS COMING IN EVERY DAY that all have to be answered, of course you can't afford to stop even for one day, or the next day you're going to have 50 to answer! And pretty soon you can get a terrible backlog of mail if you don't keep regularly answering them every day. Well, that's what happened when the RNR came! Everyone in India took a holiday for a couple of months, & we soon had 100s of letters piled up.

WITH THE RNR EVERYTHING DISSOLVED INTO A HORRIBLE STATE OF ANARCHY & it was many months before people began to get back on the wall! For my own part it

was impossible during this time to do too much self-analysis because the Show had to go on, & we were going on 7 times a week!

IT WAS A REALLY ROUGH TIME TO KEEP THE SHOW GOING with no leadership to counsel w.h. & nobody wanting to do any work. It was very heart-breaking to see the 100s of letters in our office, 100s of sheep being neglected, & I prayed desperately for the Lord to do something.

THE LORD RAISED UP A LITTLE INDIAN GIRL CALLED SPRING whom nobody wanted in their Home at that time, & she was dying to join the Family. So we took her in to work on the Mail Ministry, & she single-handedly cleared the whole pile of mail & from then on became a very faithful & hard-working regular MWM Club secretary along with her mate Apollos who was another faithful brother like Barney whom the Lord raised up to really help shoulder a lot of the hard day-to-day work of getting the printing done, keep the office supplied & helping to raise our day-to-day support. Sweet Canadian Joanna joined our mail ministry team at about this time too & helped carry much of the mail ministry load from then un-

til the Indian MWM Mail Ministry was incorporated into the worldwide MWM Mail Ministry about six months ago.

IN SEPTEMBER OF 1978 ASHER & AMANA TOOK OVER THE RUNNING OF THE MAIL MINISTRY & really did a fantastic job of reorganising & streamlining it, & it began to bear fruit like never before! It was at this time that we began to organise the "minstrel teams" to go out & actually visit the listeners in the towns & villages, & this became a whole new ministry in itself that flourishes to this day in India. The teams would go out to little places where we had a bunch of listeners & they would visit them & do school programs & go 'round & visit the MWM listeners in their homes, giving them a personal live sample of the love & spirit they'd been hearing on the radio show & thru' the mail ministry.

AT THIS TIME I BEGAN TO GET ITCHY FEET & had this idea that it wasn't good to keep doing the same thing for too long, but that once you had pioneered something & got it rolling then it was time to go on & do something else. I planned to leave the Show in the hands of



The "Music With Meaning" mail ministry team—(l-r) Carmel, Bani, Simon, Peter, Frances and Anna (in front of Simon). Photo by Jesse Childs. (Photo from an article in 'New Nation News', Oct. '77.)

one of the girls there, Melody, whom I thought could be the DJ. Thank God I didn't, because she backslid 3 months later & became an enemy! I had written twice for clearance to leave the field but didn't get any reply. Then I got impatient & impetuous & wrote a very short curt little letter saying "I want to leave" but not giving any explanation why.

THAT GOT A REPLY, BUT NOT THE ONE I WAS EXPECTING! In the mailbox was a big fat letter. I opened it & it said at the top "Letter to Simon Peter", later to be called "Schtick"! I tell you, it had a lot more stick in it than the one which you read!—And really really woke me up! I mean, I didn't want to desert my post, I didn't want to go back on the Lord & I wasn't backsliding. I just mistakenly & impetuously thought that the Lord wanted me to do something else, & as I didn't get an answer to my question I just more or less decided to go ahead & do it anyway. Lord help me! And He did!—Thru this Letter!

UNTIL THEN I DIDN'T QUITE GRASP OR FULLY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINISTRY that the Lord had given me. I must have been completely & totally out of tune to think that it was the Lord's will for me to leave when it wasn't. So needless to say, this Letter really woke me up & from then on gave me much strength during even harder battles to come, to not even consider giving up. To be honest, it really knocked the fear of God into me!

AFTER THE LETTER "SCHTICK" I GOT DOWN TO WORK AS I HAD NEVER WORKED BEFORE, & started putting much more time & effort & inspiration into producing the Show, trying out all sorts of ideas—jingles, radio dramas & all sorts of things! The Mail Ministry was really rolling, thanks to the hard

work & faithfulness of Asher & Amana, & everything was just going very well. It was like the battle was won & nothing could stop us. The field was ours & it was a period of extreme fruitfulness. TTL!

THEN ONE DAY THE POLICE VISITED OUR FLAT, as being suspected COG, & both Asher & Amana & myself were given two weeks to leave the country! It came as a total shock, as things were going so well. But somehow I knew it was the Lord, altho' I couldn't understand why. Two minutes earlier I hadn't been in the room & the Lord could easily have kept them from seeing me.

SO I DIDN'T KNOW WHY THE LORD WANTED ME TO LEAVE INDIA, but there was nothing else for me to do but to go. That was really a very big forsaking all for me because I had come to be happy there & loved the people very much & had a ministry there, so it was heartbreaking for me to have to go somewhere else where I didn't even want to go. At the same time my wife Naomi left me, taking two of our three children with her back to England with a new mate. It was so heart-breaking to split the children up, especially Celeste & Nina who were so close to each other. TTL that thru these heartbreaks & sorrows we're drawn closer to Jesus & to the loving comfort that He gives.

SO I SET OUT ON MY OWN WITH CELESTE TO THE SMALL DESERT SHEIKDOM OF DUBAI where a brother I had known in England was setting up a recording studio, the facilities of which I could use to continue making the Show & then send the tapes to Sri Lanka for broadcast.

THAT YEAR IN DUBAI BEFORE COMING TO GREECE WAS, BRIEFLY, A TIME OF BREAKING & PURGING & testing & bringing me closer in des-

peration to the Lord. I wouldn't have stayed there, but there was nowhere else for me to go. I couldn't go back to India & I had to have the use of a studio to keep producing the Show! To forsake that place would mean to forsake the Show because I had nowhere else to go where they had a studio that I could use.

THE POOR FAMILY THERE HAD UNKNOWNLY BECOME SYSTEMITES & weren't even aware of how the Enemy would often use them to try & fight & discourage & make things hard as possible for me to produce the Show. Towards the end I got down on my hands & knees & prayed in absolute desperation for the Lord to deliver me.

A FEW DAYS LATER FAITHY PHONED & said she had read a report that I'd written a couple of months earlier about what was happening there & TTL she got me out of there by inviting me to come to visit her in Greece! It was one of the happiest moments of my life to see Faithy at the airport & to have the real fellowship of the Family again & even to know that 100 percenters in the Family still existed!

AND SO YOU PRETTY MUCH KNOW FROM THEN ON HOW THE LORD STARTED TO WORK TO put the International MWM Show together & how Dad lovingly took over the poor little baby that was almost dead & has loved & trained it into what it is today!

IT'S DAD'S FAITH THAT HAS CREATED THE WORLD-WIDE MWM SHOW. I never had any type of faith that the Show could go worldwide. I didn't think it was good enough to match Western standards. I was even hard & cynical about the entertainment-glutted West & GHM, had no personal desire to reach the young people there. I had to get over the hang-up of

thinking that India was the only place in the world that was worth reaching!

SO THANK YOU, DAD, FOR TAKING ME IN, & thank you for making Music With Meaning what it is today. It's been Dad's faith & Dad's encouragement that has built the Music With Meaning Show, starting when he gave the go-ahead to do the Show, then the 6 Shows a week, & just every little word of encouragement that he's ever given, his Letter "Schtick" without which I wouldn't have schtuck! PTL!

SO PTL, I STILL FEEL THAT IT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING. I've always felt like that. This ministry has always felt like it's just the beginning! I'm sure we have so much further to go! We're only halfway thru the Revolution & so much has happened, & we've come so far in 10 or so years.

GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW MUCH FURTHER WE'LL GO IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS! Dad, I do feel so very fulfilled & satisfied with this wonderful ministry, but I won't truly feel completely fulfilled until Jesus comes & the job is completely done. I won't be truly content & I won't be truly happy & I won't be truly satisfied & my longing heart won't be satisfied until we all stand before Jesus with the battle finished & the job done. That's what my heart truly longs for!

I TRULY APPRECIATE THIS BEAUTIFUL EVENING you've given me, Dad, which I feel I don't deserve. I don't really deserve any credit for not being a Prodigal because if you didn't write the Letter "Schtick" I wouldn't have schtuck! I've never actually backslid from the Family, but I've certainly backslid from my convictions from time to time, & I haven't always put everything into the Show that I could. I've been weak in faith, I've failed in many areas.

IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE



SIMON: "A new world to pioneer..." (Photo from an interview with Simon in the NNN, May '77, entitled: "Radio, What Potential!")

YOU SENT US A FEW YEARS AGO you asked us whether we would prefer to do a desk job or be out litnessing, & I said I would only do a desk job or any kind of a job that kept me from litnessing if by doing it I had the satisfaction of knowing that I was reaching more people than if I was out on the streets.

AND THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY MOTIVATION BEHIND THE SHOW, & I pray God that it always will be—just to reach people with the message & the words of David & the message the Lord wants us to give & that is our responsibility to give to the waiting world. To do it this way is only worth it if by doing so we can reach more people than if we were out personally witnessing.

IF I COULD GET MORE MESSAGE OUT THAT WAY, I'D RATHER BE OUT ON THE STREET giving them out one-by-one because that's all I want to do with my life, to witness the Wonder Working Words to the World! I have no desire whatsoever to be any kind of personality or radio star or anything ridiculous like that. So that is my true motivation & maybe that's why the Lord has

blessed it, & I know that if it's ever not my motivation then the Lord won't bless it anymore, at least not my part in it!

DAD, I WOULD LIKE NOW TO PLEDGE MY CONTINUED LOYALTY, my service & my devotion to you, the Family & the Lord, & with His help to carry on fighting & doing my part, whether big or small, whatever it may be, day by day, to help promote the Lord's Work & to further His Gospel!

I AM PROUD OF YOU, DAD, SO VERY PROUD, & I stand ready to obey your commands, as it is you our commander, our captain, our great helmsman who is steering this wonderful ship. It is so great to be on board, to be able to work with Jeremy & Michael & all the musicians—just really a dream come true! It's fantastic & just amazing what the Lord is doing! It goes beyond words! It's just a miracle! LIKE WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST, IT SEEMS THAT THE LORD HAS BLESSED US WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF POPULARITY amongst the people, but "you must increase & we must decrease" & I pray that more & more the Lord will use Music With Meaning as a platform on which, Dad, you can stand & speak directly to the world thru radio & television. Love, Simon.



(Art by Zebulun from an article on MWM in the NNN, April, 1977.)

(It's just the beginning! You can help spread "Music With Meaning" to every corner of the Earth to reach lost souls everywhere! Please give generously today to: MWM CPO 220-Athens, Greece.)