

8, as our colony was closing, I was faced with the decision of where in the world the Lord wanted me to go! He clearly showed me to go toward the Pacific to New Zealand & Australia, & even provided enough funds to go! So in August, 1972, within three months of the time I joined, I found myself leaving the U.S. & on my way to New Zealand with about 4 other brothers & sisters. The Lord really got me out there in a hurry, TYJ! There we joined Shem & Shua's first small pioneer team.

AFTER A MONTH IN WHICH I HAD SOME MORE HEAVY TRIALS & TESTINGS about going back (TTL) He'd burned my bridges well by putting the Pacific between me & home!, I went on to Sydney, Australia to join the first little pioneer team there where I stayed for the next ten months. It actually wasn't until this time that I began to feel really happy & fulfilled & that I'd kind of "found my place" in the Family. With lots of witnessing, exciting new Mo Letters & Bible study, Family fellowship & the excitement of pioneering etc., I had some growing time. TYJ! (Amen!)

DURING THIS TIME THE LORD BLESSED ME with one of the most important & precious gifts He's ever given me, my mate Peter Atlanta. That's a whole story in itself, so I won't go into detail, but it's just another example of the Lord's great wisdom & loving care in giving us His children just exactly what we need to make us happy & be able to continue serving Him happily, even when sometimes, at the time, we don't realize how much we need it! TYJ! So Peter & I were betrothed in Sydney on June of '73, the first such celebration in the area. (GBY!)

AND ONLY TWO WEEKS LATER WE BOARDED THE PLANE TO PIONEER A WHOLE ly God must think you worthy



Lydia & mate Peter, photo taken at her 40th Birthday celebration. (Peter's 29) Photo by Amas.

NEW & STRANGE LAND, Indonesia & the rest of S.E. Asia, where we've been serving the Lord ever since by His grace, TYJ! There's no room here to write about the 8 years the Lord has had us here in SEA, but we just feel very blessed & privileged to have been able to serve you, Dad, & the Family & the sheep here for so long. And despite our mistakes & shortcomings we're so thankful He's still willing to use us here in helping with the Indonesian LIT-PIC now, TYJ!

WHEN PRAYING ABOUT HOW TO CLOSE, THE LORD GAVE ME THESE VERSES, & they really do sum it up perfectly:

"The Lord hath brought you out that He might bring you in". (DM Jan 25) Yes, He brought me out of the Convent so He could bring me into the Family! Hallelujah! And "We belong to the greatest Family in the world, the Family of God's Love. -Sure

to give you such a priceless privilege to be a member of His Family!" Amen! TYJ! (DM, Jan 25)

SO IF IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY: "LIFE BEGINS AT 40", then the next ten years will be even better than the last ten, because "everyday with Jesus is better than the day before! Everyday with Jesus we love Him more & more!" (DM, Dec. 2nd) Thank You Jesus! With much love & thanks to you, Dad & Maria, -Lydia.

(Hallelujah! PTL! TYJ! GBY! What a beautiful story of His Love! Thank you so much for taking the time to write it for all! It'll be such a blessing & encouragement to so many who've gone or are going thru the same trials & battles, to help them come out victorious! You're beautiful! ILY! TYJ! Hope it helps others to send us their stories too! GBAY! I'm yours & we're His forever! HAL!)

126

worse. We started smoking pot & cigarettes & were in a general state of ruin. (We were also under the impression that our project was to be kept Selah & tried to stay away from leadership in the States. God bless dear Andrew & Miriam who were so loving in spite of all our sins.) We had lost all contact with Italy, & we later found out that Rachel was having an acute attack of appendicitis.

AND THEN FAITHY & JUAN ARRIVED, exposed our whole situation & told us we should get back to Italy with our families. We soon left for Italy, awaiting news of the next step from Atlantic as the LP was still incomplete.

WELL, WE FINALLY RECEIVED THE PHONE CALL. One of the executives invited us to New York. They had taken half of the songs & re-recorded them as disco music & wanted us to come sing on them. Well, it was Jeremy & I against them, & they won because we didn't have the spiritual strength to stand up for what we "thought" was right.

"BUT IT'S PARTICULARLY TRUE WHEN YOU GET OUT OF GOD'S WILL, because then you do not have the extra power, the sustaining power of the Holy Spirit & His strength. You can't feel like you have the right to claim it when you know that you're not doing His highest & his best." (Prodigal Son par. 8)

FROM NEW YORK WE WENT TO PARIS to meet with our manager who agreed that the LP was ruined. She agreed that it wasn't our fault & wanted to get another advance from Atlantic to make a second album. She also agreed to loan the money for a studio in Italy until the advance came thru.

WELL, WE FOUND THE HOUSE & STUDIO. Jeremy was living with a system girl, & Patience

& I stayed in this house in a general state of ruin. (We were also under the impression that our project was to be kept Selah & tried to stay away from leadership in the States. God bless dear Andrew & Miriam who were so loving in spite of all our sins.) We had lost all contact with Italy, & we later found out that Rachel was having an acute attack of appendicitis.

IN GREECE I MET CHRONICLES & STARTED PLAYING WITH HIM IN A CLUB at night, & we worked with MWM by day. This continued for 4 months until Chronicles left, & Jeremy started helping me at the club; we would do MWM work during the day. Our schedule was quite strenuous at the time because going to the club was a 60-km. round-trip, & we played from 9:00-2:00 at night.

NEVERTHELESS, WE SCHTUCK, & WITH FAITHY & JUAN'S HELP & the help of Patience for me personally, I continued this schedule until the 1st of April when I received the beautiful message that I was chosen with Jeremy to work full-time at MWM.

I LITERALLY FELL DOWN ON MY KNEES & CRIED in praise & joy that the Father had received me into His house, TYJ! Soon after, however, Jeremy & I were playing with Solomon Drummer at the club, & Faithy & Juan visited us. We had again backslidden, & this time our sin was worse than if we had been smoking pot--we were supposed to be playing the Lord's music at MWM, but at the club we were playing blues, songs from Bob Dylan's latest LP, etc.

CAN THE SAME FOUNTAIN BRING FORTH WATERS BOTH BITTER & SWEET? Well, we quit the club completely that night, & I threw away all my tapes that were not MWM & Wild Wind. And soon after, & ever since then, the Lord has inspired me with new & better songs, which are more moving, with more message & even better musically than

ever before--and a life

the Lord wanted, & the humil-

ity to ask for help, not only er than before.

from Him but His leaders, the people He has appointed to watch for our souls. And Faithy said yes, so off we went. We were so happy to be going to a new field, & where God guides He provides, providing the extra funds we needed from friends in Italy.

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Would-be Rock Star Wakes Up!

A PRODIGAL MUSICIAN TELLS OF DIS-HEARTENING ATTEMPTS TO MAKE SYSTEM HITS!

HI! MY NAME IS MICHAEL (AKHMELECH NEHEMIAH)

& I am the ass't musical director at MWM.

I want to write a

word of testimony about the

last few years of my life;

how I got involved in the

"big band spirit", the re-

recording of system LP's &

the wonderful deliverance from

these into full-time service for the Lord.

ONE DAY IN ITALY, JETHRO VISITED OUR GROUP THERE, & after hearing some of our music decided I should leave for England to make an "international band" with Jeremy, & to make a system recording of the songs "The Search" (by Jeremy) & "Perfect Man" (by me). Jethro was a strong advocate of the album "Tapestry" by Carole King & listened to it religiously.

WELL, THINGS STARTED HAPPENING BACK IN ITALY, & Rachel soon had me flown back to meet Bobby Solo (a famous Italian singer who helped us write "Moments") & to discuss making a single.

THERE WE ALSO STARTED WORK ON SONGS FOR A LP, but we backed out at the last minute because we didn't want to sign a contract. (It's so sad we hadn't made the decision in the beginning because we wasted so much time, got our hopes up for the wrong reason, & had to pay back the producer for the money he spent on the production of the demo!)

I WOULD LIKE TO INTERJECT ABOUT THE DANGER OF SO-CALLED "SOFT-ROCK" MUSIC, such as is performed by the groups I mentioned above. It is a much more deceiving compromise than the "hard stuff" because it comes in such a nice soft package, like wolves in sheep's clothing. Just like in counterfeit money or expensive plastics or simulated leather, the most deceiving is that which is closest to the real. So watch out Family! This system music will get you thinking like the system. Stick to Family music & let those system idols go. (Amen!) SOON AFTER THIS, JETHRO

Michael back to work for the Lord... happy & useful & doing the world some good."

wood Mac, James Taylor, Carole King, Jackson Browne, etc. & transfer them to cassettes as witnessing tool.

Well, these turned out to be distributed more amongst the Family than used as a witnessing tool. Besides, all the sheep, the genuinely interested, preferred our Family music to that of the system.

WE JUSTIFIED THE MAKING OF THIS LP by speaking of the millions it might reach, & justified the lack of message by wresting the scripture from "Inspired Songs" that "even if they get a little message we can be thankful, for what they do get in will reach the world if it makes a hit." We were already counting the record sales!

WE LEFT FOR ENGLAND TO START THE PRODUCTION OF THE ALBUM, but we were quickly getting nowhere, & our "ill-gotten gains" were taking wings. (Haggai 1:6)

THEN THE RECORDING COMPANY PRESIDENT & HIS JEWISH AIDE decided that we should finish the LP in the States. On this same day we received the message of Dad's illness & the request for a 3-day fast! God was trying so hard to get thru to us, but we just weren't listening.

AFTER THE FAST, Jeremy & I counseled with Rachel & Timothy, & off we went to the States. Surrounded by system producers & musicians, things went from bad to

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