

THE PIONEERING OF NORTH AMERICA!

By Ho, a Charter Member



THIS IS THE HISTORY OF HOW WE GOT STARTED AS A FAMILY IN AMERICA & how we have grown & spread into all parts of the World. We began in America as just a small little family of Dad, Mom & four children witnessing for Jesus. We were just trying to obey Jesus' commandment of "Go into all the World & preach the Gospel to every creature", & we believed in following the example of the Early Apostles & how they forsook all & devoted their fulltime to personal witnessing to others of the love of Jesus & telling people how they could be saved, as well as challenging them to follow their example of also forsaking all & devoting their lives to winning souls.

AS WE BECAME TEENAGERS, WE CONCENTRATED ON WITNESSING TO OTHER TEENAGERS & became known as "Teens for Christ". We also used opportunities to speak in churches & challenge other Christians in getting out in personal witnessing, but we found that most of the people in the churches were set in their ways & not willing or wanting to change & follow the Apostles' example in the Book of Acts.

FROM 1955, DAD WAS PREACHING TO THE CHURCH PEOPLE, THAT IF JUST ONE CHURCH WOULD FORSAKE ALL, & all of the members were to move in together & live communally & sell everything that they had & preach the Gospel, that it would be a phenomenon that would attract the attention of the national & international media & newspapers; radio & television would come down to report on what these Christians were doing & that it would grow & spread like it did in the Book of Acts.—But in all our years of challenging the church people, none of them ever took up the challenge & forsook all & moved in together to give their lives fulltime to preaching the Gospel like the example of the Book of Acts.

SO WE TRAVELLED AROUND THE UNITED STATES

AS A LITTLE FAMILY WITNESSING in schools & parks & fairs & everywhere that we could find young people. We arrived in California in 1967 when the hippie movement & "flower children" were really going strong, & many young people were turning to drugs & the anti-establishment ideas of the late '60's. In a little coffeehouse called "The Lightclub", we began to witness to these young people about the love of Jesus & to challenge those who had rejected the lives of their parents in a materialistic system, & who were looking for something more meaningful & more fulfilling, a real spiritual side of life. We challenged them with following Jesus' example of giving their lives for others, & following the example of the Apostles in working together to spread God's love.

AT THIS LITTLE COFFEEHOUSE, WE BEGAN TO TEACH & TRAIN THESE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SIMPLE PRINCIPLES OF THE BIBLE. Dad began teaching them the revolutionary doctrines of the New Testament, the Book of Acts & Bible Prophecy, & these young people were challenged to follow the simple truths of the Bible & put them into practice themselves. And as these young people left their drugs & their hippie ways to follow Jesus, immediately our family began to grow as more & more of these young people asked to be able to come & live with us & give their lives fulltime to living & preaching about Jesus.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING SOON BEGAN TO BE NOISED ABOARD AMONGST THE CHURCH PEOPLE & THE CHURCHES IN OUR AREA, many of them wondering what we were, if we were really Christians or not since we weren't part of any denomination. We decided to begin visiting different churches every Sunday, so they would have a chance to meet us & see that we were really Bible-believing & following the teachings of Jesus. In some of these visits to the churches we were received, but we began to be rejected by others because they felt we were too radical or too hippie-like. They cast us out of their churches & called the police on us! Also when witnessing on the college campuses, some of our young people were arrested & taken to jail for preaching the Gospel, so we began to become more & more radical & revolutionary in our ideas & methods of preaching the Gospel like the early Apostles did. We began to demonstrate against these injustices.

THEN WE BECAME KNOWN AS THE "REVOLUTION-

ARIES FOR JESUS" & our church invasions & school invasions were reaping more & more young people who were fed up with "churchianity", & who wanted to live the example of Jesus & His Apostles in the New Testament. As we had saturated that area of California where we began with our message & our witness, we began to send out teams to other parts of California, & finally to neighboring States. We sent a team to witness in Arizona & they were received by a former missionary who had a little church & invited them to work together with him to reach the young people, & at this church, more young people joined fulltime.

ONE OF THEM WAS MARIA, WHO WENT BACK TO CALIFORNIA where the main group was still based, to have more training in the Word. Our work began to grow in Arizona, & finally because of persecution in California & direction from the Lord to leave, we then moved all of our family out of California to Arizona, & from there we began sending teams Eastward by different routes to cover the major cities of the United States with our witness, & seeking to reach young people who were the same as ourselves, looking for something to do with their lives & to give their lives to.

THIS WAS IN THE SUMMER OF 1969, & ALONG THE WAY EASTWARD MORE JOINED. We then arrived at a camp in Canada that we had been given the use of for the summer as a training base, called Camp Laurentide, where we regrouped, & Dad taught daily classes on Bible prophecy & witnessing.

DAD & MARIA BEGAN RECEIVING PROPHECIES FROM THE LORD & SPECIFIC DIRECTION CONCERNING OUR FUTURE, & began writing them down in a "Book of Remembrance" as the Lord commanded them, & passing these instructions on to us about warning America of God's coming judgments. He gave Dad the revelations about wearing sackcloth as prophets of warning, & writing our message upon scrolls that we could hold out to show to the people, & gave us specific warning Scriptures to write on these scrolls, such as "O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth & wallow thyself in ashes for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us", & many others. (Jer. 6:26)

THEN IN THE FALL OF '69, WE HEADED SOUTH FROM MONTREAL TO WASHINGTON D.C. to begin our first vigils as the red sackcloth-clothed prophets to warn America of God's coming judgments because of her sins. Our first demonstration was to mourn the death of both the nation & Senator Everett Dirksen whose death was symbolic of the nation's!— As with his death ended the drive for legis-

lation to return the Bible & prayer to America's educational system. From there we travelled to Philadelphia for a vigil at Independence Hall, & on to New York City in another vigil in mourning the death of the nation in Times Square. The message of God's warning to America was noised abroad in the media through television & newspaper articles!

WE CARRIED ON WITH OUR CARAVAN CONVOY TO PHILADELPHIA WITH VIGILS THERE, & along the way more young people joined us & the media became more interested in us in each city where we stopped. In Camden, New Jersey, a reporter came out to visit our camp where we were camped out in tents & caravans & buses & little vans, & interviewed us & asked us who we were & what we were doing, & we told them we weren't part of any group or church, we were just children of God. So they ran headlines in the newspapers about the "Children of God". Dad "was first called 'Moses' in prophecies at Laurentide, & the two names stuck with us, & we became known as 'Moses & the Children of God'!" (#172:126)

WE CONTINUED ON TO PITTSBURGH & THEN TO CHICAGO where we did vigils during the trial of the Chicago Seven, the leaders of the radical revolutionaries of the '60's. The message of our warning to America of God's coming judgments because of her forsaking Him was much publicised in the newspapers & on television. We then began to move Southward with the coming of the winter weather, down along the Mississippi to near St. Louis, where we camped out for some weeks & began to organise ourselves more efficiently into smaller units called "Tribes", with each unit having a leader or shepherd to teach & train & organise the work of those within it.

WE CONTINUED GROWING AS A GROUP TO ALMOST 100 PEOPLE & 35 vehicles of campers & buses & trailers & continued on south to Texas, camping out in the many parks around Houston. We found the young people there to be very receptive to our message, many of them from affluent families, dissatisfied with the materialism of their parents & wanting to leave all that behind to follow Jesus. Our style of life & witness was noised abroad in the media, the TV & newspapers there, causing many people to come out to visit us & to hear our message, with several joining.

AS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTINUING TO CAMP OUT IN THE PARKS AROUND HOUSTON BEGAN TO COME TO AN END, we knew that we needed some place where we could more permanently base, so the Lord showed Dad to visit a former associate, Fred Jordan, who he had worked

for for many years, who had a ranch near Ft. Worth, Texas that was formerly used as a missionary training camp, & which had not been used for some years. He asked for the use of this ranch as a base to bring our group of young people to & to base out of where we could teach & train them. So we were given the use of the Texas Soul Clinic, which we called TSC Ranch, arriving there in February of 1970, with about 125 people.

THE LORD SHOWED DAD TO BEGIN TO RESTORE THIS WASTE PLACE, LIKE NEHEMIAH REBUILT THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM, & that we should make it a sample that our way of life really worked, & that this could then be the base from which we could branch out to establish "colonies" in other parts of America just as the early pioneers of America did. So we began to build up this old ranch as a place that we could use for this purpose.

FROM THIS RANCH IN TEXAS WE THEN BEGAN BRANCHING OUT. We sent off our first busload to California in March, 1970, most of them new recruits from Houston, along with some veterans like Josh & Faith & Miguel & others, a team of 29 people. In California they were given the use of an old mission in the Skid Row area of Los Angeles, a big empty building they could base out of. They began to witness in the local areas, Hollywood Boulevard, Sunset Strip, & the beaches of Southern California, with new recruits joining daily to accept the challenge to follow Jesus & live fulltime as His disciples.

MUSIC BECAME A MAJOR MEANS OF SPREADING THE MESSAGE, with many new songs being written by Aaron, Miguel, Singing Sam, Esther & Jeremiah. Jeremy Spencer dropped out of a popular band called "Fleetwood Mac" & brought his talents & family to serve Jesus. He & his family, being English, increased our vision to look toward England to establish an outreach to the lost youth there.

THE L.A. COLONY THEN BEGAN TO SEND A BUSLOAD OF THEIR NEW RECRUITS BACK TO TEXAS EACH MONTH FOR TRAINING IN THE WORD & HOW TO WITNESS, & at the Ranch Dad began teaching them daily the important lessons from the Bible & the example of the Apostles—how to evangelise the World. The team in Los Angeles then began to branch out into other parts of Southern California, to Santa Barbara & San Diego. An article on the Ranch in Texas was written by the Associated Press which went out on the nationwide wire services to all of the newspapers across the country, of this group which was endeavouring to follow the example of the early Apostles & who had forsaken all to live together to preach the Gospel.

WE WERE THEN OFFERED THE USE OF OTHER

PLACES IN AMERICA TO ESTABLISH BRANCHES & the Lord began to speak to Dad about branching out into other countries as well. He & Maria left in the Fall of '70, & Ho & a small team went Eastward with them to set up our first Eastern base in a little farm we had been given the use of in Kentucky.

DAD & MARIA WENT ON TO NEW YORK WHERE THEY MADE PREPARATIONS TO GO TO EUROPE, getting tickets on a cheap student flight & Eurail passes to travel around Europe by train. In September, 1970 they left America for their exploratory European trip.

MEANWHILE, THE FIRST BASE ESTABLISHED IN KENTUCKY BRANCHED OUT after a month with a new outpost in Cincinnati, where a houseful of young people who were endeavouring to live communally & follow Jesus, welcomed them with open arms & asked them to teach them the Bible & train them. Some of these young people then returned to Texas for further training. We began to carry our witness Eastward as others from Texas came East to pioneer outposts in Detroit & further North to New York.

IN THE WINTER OF 1970, NBC-TV CAME TO THE TEXAS RANCH TO FILM A DOCUMENTARY of our commune & way of life. They spent a few weeks filming "The Ultimate Trip" in Texas & Cincinnati, which was released on nationwide TV in January 1971, & brought a whole wave of favorable nationwide publicity by all the media, & with this publicity came many new disciples & opportunities.

DAD & MARIA, NOW IN EUROPE, BEGAN TO WRITE BACK LETTERS OF THEIR EXPERIENCES & things that the Lord began to show Dad, what were to become known as the "MO Letters"—Letters from MO in Europe to his family who were pioneering across America with their revolutionary message & method.

DAD & MARIA CHECKED OUT PLACES WHERE THEY WANTED US TO ESTABLISH OUTPOSTS: London, Paris, Rome & on finally to Israel. Dad's idea was to bring the family to Israel to establish an outpost there amongst what he thought were God's chosen people. But this concept was smashed, as God showed him that they were not His chosen children, but that they were still as anti-Christ as they had been in the days of the Apostles, & that it was not God's plan for us to establish an outpost in Israel & move our whole work there, but rather God wanted us to carry His message of His love to all people all over the World. This shocking revelation was a real heavy experience for Dad, who had been looking towards Israel as the place he wanted to live & be for the end of his days, to see prophecy being fulfilled.

THEY LEFT ISRAEL FOR CYPRUS WHERE THE

LORD BEGAN TO SHOW DAD WHAT HE WANTED US TO DO, & he began to write us daily letters of instruction & direction regarding our pioneering efforts of America, with the vision to spread out into more parts of the World.

IN APRIL OF 1971, DAD & MARIA RETURNED TO AMERICA to help with the organisation of the work there & the directing of pioneer teams to far countries. From a secluded place in Oklahoma, he began to direct the work through his letters from behind the scenes.

IN THE SPRING OF 1971 THE WAVE OF PUBLICITY ABOUT THE JESUS PEOPLE REVOLUTION AS A WHOLE BEGAN TO SPREAD across America from California. This movement which was initiated by us was continued by young people in & out of the churches who we had won to the Lord & influenced in 1968 & 1969 & who had carried on in California. This wave had spread across America & many churches tried to jump on the bandwagon & steer it into the churches.

LEADERLESS & DISILLUSIONED, SOME OF THESE NEW GROUPS CHOSE TO JOIN FORCES WITH US, such as the "House of Judah" in the South & the "Jesus People Army" in the Northwest, adding to our ranks young people ready to "go into all the World to preach the Gospel".

PIONEERING OF CANADA

ON THE WEST COAST OF CANADA, the flourishing Jesus People Army had sprung up in mid-1970, under the leadership of Linda Melssner & Russ Griggs, a young pastor. Linda was well-known in evangelical circles as having helped Dave Wilkerson (of "The Cross & the Switchblade" fame) in his work amongst the drug addicts of New York several years previously. Imitating many of the methods that the Family had pioneered in Huntington Beach, they & their helpers were able to win many hippies & others to the Lord & His Service. Within several months they had established outreaches in Vancouver, Canada, as well as Seattle, Tacoma, & Spokane in the Northwest U.S.

ALTHOUGH THEY HAD A FOLLOWING OF 2-300 FULLTIME WORKERS, several houses, coffee-shops, 2 newspapers, a bakery, etc., they did not have a true shepherd to lead them, & slowly their work began to crumble because of lack of vision, internal dissension, bickering & doctrinal disputes. Desperate for a solution, the leaders visited the LA colony in the summer of '71, & invited the Family to come & help them in the Northwest. A team headed by Deb & Jeth, Megiddo, Tabitha & David Z came, & it was love at first sight!

AFTER A FEW DAYS OF BIBLE CLASSES & THE

SAMPLE, THE VANCOUVER GROUP, 90 STRONG, FORSOOK ALL & JOINED, turning all their properties over to the Family. The Seattle & Tacoma groups showed their true colours as being compromisers by refusing to join the Family (with a few exceptions), & denouncing Linda for doing so. Some of these new disciples were sent to TSC for training, while others stayed behind to receive their basic training at the newly acquired Burlington camp. Russ Griggs eventually left & turned against the Family, causing persecution in Vancouver, but by then the Family had won the hearts & minds of his followers & established the first of many fruitful colonies in western Canada. Over the years the west was thoroughly witnessed to, & many more disciples won to help in our "World Conquest Through Love!"

A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THIS, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER, Ebed & a small team crossed into eastern Canada from Detroit on their way to witness at a rock festival north of Toronto. This was quite fruitful & they made a number of contacts in the area & were invited to some churches to speak. However this came to an abrupt end when 2 of the leading Christian youth leaders of the community (Joram & Hopher), suddenly forsook all along with some of their flock, causing an uproar amongst the religious population! For a while they had the police after Ebed, accusing him of kidnapping & brainwashing these new disciples, but things calmed down when the new disciples themselves stood up for their new convictions, refuting the lies of the Devil.

AT A SECOND ROCK FESTIVAL THAT SAME SUMMER, the Family was attacked by a group of bikers who were furious because their leader's girlfriend had been saved & had forsaken all! TTL no one was hurt, but they left Ebed tied up to a tree! These were exciting times! Later, Mother Eve, Aaron, Stephen & Shula, "the fearsome foursome", came up & helped establish a colony, coffeeshop & babes ranch in Toronto where many disciples were won & trained. By the middle of 1972 colonies had been established in Ottawa, Montreal, Camp Laurentide (Dr. Martin offered it to us again, as well as a large mansion in the suburbs of Montreal, (BH.), & Quebec City, all very fruitful colonies.

IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, homes & road teams got the message out to every part of Canada, winning many souls & disciples. Periodic waves of persecution in the media publicized our message even more & assisted the Family in reaping a harvest of young labourers to help in the more needy mission fields of the world!