

in which Simon & Dad lead a boat to a brighter day across the sea, far from Grecian shore! Also read was "Appreciation" as Dad suggested.

**THE CLIMAX OF THE EVENING CAME WITH THE READING OF "SIMON PETER'S PRAYER" & "THE SIMON PETER DAY"** after which Simon got up & told the full history of MWM from the beginning which kept us all spell-bound into the wee hours of the night as we heard of "the unseen labour, the un-realised thought, the hours, days, weeks, months & years of planning, the blood, the sweat & the tears, the agony with the ecstasy" (31:20) to produce, as Dad described him, "a jewel, a genius & very precious to the Lord, an outstanding man of God with great spiritual depth & power as well as great faith & tremendous talent & initiative & vision" ("St. Simon Peter Day":10.)

**AFTER HIS TESTIMONY, MANY MORE GAVE THEIR PERSONAL WORDS OF THANKS** to him via songs, poems or notes, & we are really thankful to be back in the Father's house at all, & we pray we can keep trying to pay back the Lord

with our songs & music & to present them to Simon to help him produce "The Greatest Show on Earth" & show him & Dad our appreciation by our willingness to obey today!



"Happy Birthday MWM!" Simon lights the 5 candles!



Simon displays the birthday card that Jeremy made! MWM's 5 years old, first aired on Dec. 26, 1976!



Simon & Marianne show everyone the cover of "The HMS MWM!"

## The MWM Story by Simon Peter!

As told during the Simon Peter Day Celebration at MWM!

**DAD & MARIA HAVE ASKED ME TO GIVE THE FULL TESTIMONY** in detail of the beginning of the Music With Meaning Show until the present & to specifically mention my trials & triumphs, support, how I made my first tapes, when did I first get on the radio, & how & when did World Services first start to help Music With Meaning in a financial way.

**FOR ME MUSIC WITH MEANING BEGAN IN LONDON IN 1974** one night when Hosea summoned me & Elkanah & some of the different people & musicians involved in the Poorboy Club to his room & gave us a long talk about the tremendous possibilities of using radio as a medium thru which to witness. He had just been travelling in North Africa & told us that in these Third World countries there were stations that would gladly broadcast programs that didn't necessarily reach BBC's standard! In fact, he said, they would probably be tickled pink to broadcast anything that was given to them free.

**SO HOSEA HAD THE IDEA OF MAKING A FAMILY MUSICAL RADIO PROGRAM** to send to these North African stations. We didn't have very many recordings then, but we managed to put together a half-hour show using half Family songs & half system songs with Micah Teddy Bear singing a couple of songs live. I remember doing the MC part & it was something very different for me because I had never had any experience as an MC before, but only as an actor. So I wrote down my little bits that I was going to say.

**I REMEMBER GETTING SUCH A RUSH OF INSPIRA-**



SIMON PETER: Pioneer and host of "Music With Meaning". Photo by Jesse Child. (From 'New Nation News', Oct. '77.)

**TION DOING THAT FIRST SHOW**, thinking how we were witnessing to all those unreached people in those North African countries! But to my great disappointment nothing immediately seemed to transpire from it. But from that time on after Hosea's talk, I carried with me what I knew was an inspired vision & had a deep burden to see it fulfilled & brought to pass as a fantastic way to reach the multitudes of people in Third World countries.

**AT THE END OF '74 THE LORD GAVE MY WIFE NAOMI & I A PROPHECY TO GO TO INDIA**, a place where, ever since I had joined the Family, I felt a calling & leading to go. The Lord said something to the effect that we were going to "speak the words of David to the multitudes there". I wish I had written that prophecy down because it has indeed been so marvelously fulfilled!

**THIS WAS THE TIME OF**

**"FLEE THE CITY"** & I felt guilty about still being in the West after Dad's continual admonitions to move South & East. I wanted deeply to go out to the white harvest fields of the East from where we had heard so many exciting & thrilling stories from the pioneers there. So in January of 1975 my wife & I & Celeste who was then almost a year old left London & flew to Bombay, India.

**TO SAY THE LEAST, IT WAS A VERY GREAT CULTURE SHOCK!** I had travelled before in my life but only to Europe, Israel, Cyprus & places like that, but nowhere that far East. Stepping out of the plane was like coming out into the heat of a blast furnace or something, it was so hot! I remember standing on the airport tarmac at 7 a.m. in the morning watching the huge orange-red sun twice as big as I'd ever seen the sun before rising up over the horizon, & feeling like I'd stepped out onto another planet, truly a stranger in a new & very strange land!

**THE TAXI RIDE FROM THE AIRPORT INTO BOMBAY WAS LIKE DRIVING THRU A 3-DIMENSIONAL MOVIE** & seeing on every side things we'd never seen before in travelogues & documentaries—Squalor, terrible poverty, filthy shacks & shanties on both sides of the road for miles & miles as we rode into the city, seeing a hundred things a minute we'd never seen before, seeing people doing things we'd never seen before, smelling a hundred different smells that we'd never smelled before. It was really an incredible experience! You just feel like you're in a totally different world in which you initially have no bearings & nothing you can relate to!

**I THINK THAT'S THE THING THAT REALLY FIRST STRIKES YOU ABOUT INDIA:** Everywhere, every road, every side

street, at all times of the day or night, there are always 1000s of people! There's always immense activity & something colourful going on in every corner—people selling things, people shouting things, noise, terrible confusion, just a huge turmoil of life frantically engaged in a basic struggle for existence.

**WHEN YOU COME BACK FROM INDIA TO THE WEST** it's almost like there's nobody here, like it's totally deserted, there are so few people in comparison to the multitudes that you see in the East! It certainly takes a while to get your bearings because the standards are so different to what we're used to here in the West. —The extreme poverty, the filth, the disease, the horribly deformed beggars, the very poor living standards, even of the Homes. I hope I'm not making this sound too dramatic, but it certainly is a dramatic experience when you first see it, & it takes time to get adjusted to it. I'm painting this background picture of India because it was thru a passion to reach this multitude of Indian people, not just my own burden but of all the precious pioneer families there, that the Music With Meaning Show was born!

**THE FIRST DAY THEY SENT ME OUT LITNESSING WAS THE MOST HUMBLING EXPERIENCE** because there are beggars everywhere. At first when you go out on the street you're tempted just to feel like a beggar yourself! —Or rather, sometimes people treat you like one! So it's quite a humbling experience! You really have to have the conviction when you're litnessing there that you're giving out the only thing that can really help solve their seemingly insurmountable problems—the Lord's Letters of Love that can & will solve all the problems of the world, including India's.

**AFTER A COUPLE OF WEEKS I WAS SENT DOWN TO GOA**

& went out on a road team where in a small town the Lord led us to a music festival where bands were coming from Bombay to play for the local Goan youth. This was my first chance to really meet & talk to Indian young people. For some reason, right out of the blue, the organiser of the festival came up to me in the crowd & said, "Look, we're going to have the fancy dress contest right now & could you please MC it for us?" So I was amazed to find myself suddenly standing up there in front of all these 100s & 100s of people trying to MC & organise the proceedings!

**THERE WERE PEOPLE THERE OF ALL DIFFERENT AGES**—families, mothers, teenagers, children—all having such a nice happy time & fellowshiping & playing together just like children! The songs that the bands were playing were really nice too—not hard rock but real sweet spirited numbers. The young people there really wanted to meet & talk to us.

**ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BAND, JAMES, GOT SAVED** & is now one of our top Indian national disciples, PTL! Just meeting him at that time & talking & witnessing to him really broke my heart for the Indian youth & made me see what potential there is among them, & there was born in me at that time a real desire to reach them.

**I WENT BACK TO BOMBAY & WE STARTED DOING SCHOOL PROGRAMS.** We used to close with a little skit called "Mr. Problem" which later got published by W.S. Using this skit we should have led tens of 1000s of souls to the Lord in the many different schools we visited over a 6-month period! I was just amazed at how receptive & sheepy the Indians were & how responsive they were to music & our message & how eager & willing they were to accept the Lord! There seemed to be nothing more fruitful at that time

than to spend half an hour on stage in front of a thousand or so young people who were so responsive to our little show, & so receptive.

**YET WHAT WE WERE DOING REALLY SEEMED LIKE A DROP IN THE BUCKET** compared to the 700 million or more people who live there!—100,000 people born every three days! So unless you're witnessing to them faster than that, you're fighting a losing battle, because more people are being born than you're witnessing to!

**OF COURSE, THE MEDIA WAS THE OBVIOUS ANSWER**, & in fact the Family there had been praying for many years for the Lord to open the door for us to be able to reach out en-mass to the Indian people thru either the cinema or the radio. In October of 1975 after being sick for one month with hepatitis—



James & wife Carmel (once one of MWM's Mail Ministry secretaries) & their children Premika & Jonathan. They're now with the Hindi LIT-PICT

**I WENT ON A FAITH TRIP TO POONA WHERE I HAD HEARD THAT A MISSIONARY HAD A RECORDING STUDIO.** I was looking for a place where I would be able to make some more Mo Letter tapes for Wild Wind from time to time. Well, he was a very sweet man who'd been in India about 8 years as a missionary to the State of Maharashtra. In India there's a multi-

tude of different languages, about 30 main ones I think. Anyway, it impressed me very much that he had given his whole life just to reach the one State of Maharashtra & had even mastered the difficult Maharashtra language.

**I WAS VERY INTERESTED TO SEE HIS STUDIO** & to see 3 or 4 very pretty Indian secretaries sitting in his office stuffing envelopes! It turned out that he was making a Gospel radio program in Maharashtra all about the life of Jesus. Thru the mail response he got he would send them Gospel literature thru the mail.

**HE TOLD ME HE WAS BROADCASTING FROM A STATION IN SRI LANKA**, which is the island at the southern tip of India. He made his tapes in Maharashtra & then sent them down to Sri Lanka for broadcast. Altho' his program was only understood by the Maharastrians, it was beamed out all over India, Pakistan & Bangladesh on the All-Asia Service of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.

**HE ALSO SAID THAT THE SAME BROADCASTING COMPANY ALSO HAD THE LARGEST ENGLISH BEAM IN THE WHOLE OF ASIA!** So I asked him, "Well, how much does it cost to put your program on?" He said, "Oh, it's very expensive! It costs \$1,000!" So I said, "Do you mean \$1,000 for one program?" He said, "No, for a year for 52 programs!"

**IT SEEMED TO ME RIDICULOUSLY CHEAP** to reach such a vast expanse, & at that instant looking at his map of India on the studio wall it was like it pulsed with light & lit up like a flash of revelation that this was a way with which we could reach India en-masse! It had to be! There was no other way! There was no other radio station that covered it! It just had to be!

**SO I WROTE UP THE IDEA & SENT IT OFF** & forgot about

it for a while, until suddenly we got a message thru Kenaz that we had the go-ahead from the KOS to do the program & that they would send the money for us to buy the airtime for a 15-minute show once a week for a year. What a thrill! What an excitement!

**THE FIRST FOUR PROGRAMS WERE MADE FROM THE FEW THIRD-COPY CASSETTES** that we had lying around the colony! I think all we had was "Back to the Basics", the "Liberty" album & an Uncle Dave's tape, & that was it! We really didn't even have the faith that the station would accept our show because of the terrible quality of our recordings!

**THE PROGRAMS WERE DONE VERY SIMPLY**, even without any jingles, & the first theme tune used was "You Gotta Be a Baby!" I didn't even have the faith to do it myself, but there didn't seem to be anybody else who had the burden to do it. So with our first 4 humble programs Kenaz & I made an exciting journey down to Sri Lanka to try & book the show on the station there.

**BEFORE WE LEFT THE LORD GAVE A HEAVY PROPHECY** that thru the program many people would turn from their gross darkness & idolatry & come to the Light! Around the middle of December 1976 we arrived on the beautiful paradise-like tropical island of Sri Lanka, & it was really still all by faith because we really hardly had the faith that they would accept the Show or that the quality of our tape would be broadcastable.

**WHAT A MIRACLE WHEN THE ENGLISH PROGRAM DIRECTOR SAID THAT HE REALLY REALLY LIKED IT** & gave us a good time on Sunday afternoons at 6:15 p.m. God bless the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Service for always having been so receptive to the Music

With Meaning Show & even now broadcasting it for free on their own local medium-wave service that reaches the whole local population of Sri Lanka! A real miracle, for them to agree to broadcast a Christian program like ours on their government-controlled, officially Buddhist radio!

**THE FIRST MUSIC WITH MEANING SHOW WAS THUS BROADCAST THE DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**, Dec. 26th, 1976 at 6:15 p.m. So that's the birthday of the Music With Meaning Show! On that first Show Simon Black sang "Born Free", the Paris Group sang "My Love Is Love", Jeremy sang "Alexander" & Chronicles sang "The Road". After booking the Show, Kenaz & I travelled back to Bombay & then all the Family went down to Goa for Christmas.

**WHAT A THRILL IT WAS TO SIT ON THE BEAUTIFUL BEACH THERE** under the palm trees in Goa & tune in our radio to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Service & to suddenly hear our Music With Meaning come waiting thru the radio from a thousand miles away! It's one thing to listen to the Show on cassette, but it's another to actually hear it coming live thru the radio. It's just electric! Even when I was in Dubai in the Middle East I could still pick it up loud & clear coming from 1000s of miles away, realising that all the people over this vast area of the world have the opportunity to tune in & listen to our message!

**BEFORE, IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH INDIA**, all the thousands of little villages, places difficult to get to, stuck out in the middle of nowhere, & yet where most of the Indians live. Only 7% of the Indian population live in the huge over-populated cities which are some of the largest in the world—Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi. 93% of the Indians live in rural areas.