## Stops Acting & Starts Living-For Jesus

From Shelly; Puerto Rico:

IT'S RATHER HARD TO PAINT
AM ACCURATE PICTURE OF MY
CHILDHOOD. Until I was 9 I
lived a very typical life
in suburbia. My father was
a rising executive & we
moved a number of times
whan he was promoted.

MHEN I WAS 9 MY MOTHER
DIED VERY SUDDENLY, & all
at once our lives crumbled
around us. Me (with my 2
brothers & I sister) had
lived in a world where my
mother reised us, & my poor
sweet father just didn't
know what to do with us
after she died.

THIS WAS AM EXTREMELY DIFffcult period in my life
that definitely set me apart
from all that I had once
felt secure with. I remember really turning towards
the Lord at this time in
absolute desperation.

MI LATHER'S MOTHER CAME
TO LIVE WITH US FOR JUST
ONE YEAR, then she too died.
This was a very difficult
time as she was a very hard
dictatorial type person &
it was hard for us to adjust to her strict ways.

AFTER SHE DIED I WAS SENT
TO A CATHOLIC BOANDING
SCHOOL. THE MOSTON. My sister
was sent to my sunt's house
6 my brothers sent away to
another school. At this
time my favourite grandfather died, but I was almost too numb to feel bad.

THEN MY SISTER & I CAME
BACK HOME FOR AMHILE, but
we were not always the
easiest children to care
for. We went thru I'M housekeepers in 2 years. Ha!
IN THE JOTH GRADE I WAS
AGAIN SENT TO A CATHOLIC
BOANDING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.
At the first news of this
I was very upset, but after
realising that there was
nothing I could do I decided to really try. The first
semester I worked day &



night. It was a very hard school, & when my first term grades were not as spectacular as I had hoped, I just fell apart. I was already pretty unstable & that just did it, There just didn't seem to be anything in life worth living for. Of course I was seeing a psychiatrist during this period, but it didn't help. DURING THIS PERIOD THE ONLY THING THAT EEPT ME GOING WAS SOME CLOSE FRIENDS in another town who had a band, and I was the lead singer. I really loved it, & it really helped see me through.

RESIDES HAVING THE BAND I ALMAYS BELIEVED IN GOD. Up till then I had rarely ever missed church in my whole life, although I was becoming more & more disillusioned with that too. Although I loved God, I couldn't understand why it was all so formal & that if I missed church intentionally a lightning bolt was soon to hit me. So one day I decided it was time to try it & see. This was def-

initely the end of one life

the beginning of another.

I DO REMEMBER CLEARLY
RECORT HAT ONE MIGHT I DESPERATELY CRIED OUT FOR THE
LORD TO TAKE MY LIFE. that
I didn't want to live anymore. I guess right then He
did take it, but not necessarily the way I had
planned.

BY THE TIME I WAS TO GO
OUT TO COLLEGE I WAS SO
CONFUSED, depressed, disillusioned with life that
I moved into the city. A
friend told me that the
musical "Hair" was auditioning people for the
show & said that I should
try out. I figured it would
be good for experience in
the future, but it never occurred to me that I would
make it.

MY EXPERIENCE IM "HAIR"
CHANGED MY LIFE. Here I was
a young idealistic hippy in
a show about the same. I
was amazed to find out that
the majority of the people
in the show's message at all.
They were only there for entertainment or artistic sake,
just for the money or their
own self-fulfilment. I became more I more discouraged
because I wanted to sing
about things I really believed in, not just something to tickle people's ears.
DURING THIS FERIOD I MAS
DOING A LOT OF DRUGS with my
"friends". I thought I was
happy for awhile, & then I
found out I was pregnant.
All of a sudden my so-called
"friends" weren't so friendly. Everything was fine till
reality bit. I guess I took
a leave from "Mair" & tried
to figure out what to do. I
felt so alone with nowhere
to turn & no one to turn to.
I REMEMBER PRATING A LOT
DURING THIS PERIOD, but although I had gone to church
all my life & really believ-

ed in God, I never had a personal relationship & I didn't know how to get answers back.

I MAS CONCERPED BECAUSE I BECAUSE I MAS CONCERPED BECAUSE I MAS CONCERPED BECAUSE I MAS CONCERPED BECAUSE I MAS CONCERPED BECAUSE I MAS CONCERD WHEN I WAS A BERIOD when I was doing a lot of drugs. Everywhere I turned people said, "have an abortion". So to make a long story short, I went against my heart & had one, & everything went wrong. The System always has such quick solutions to problem, but then it often causes another problem, like in the case of living with yourself afterward. A few months later I ended up in the hospital from complications both in my body & in my heart.

AFTER I REGAINED SOME HEALTH, I moved from the city to the country to find whatever it was I was looking for. I had totally stopped any singing I had been doing because I had nothing left to sing about.

THE PEOPLE I MET IN THE COUNTRY THOUGHT THEY WARE SO "MAMRE". They thought clean air, health food, surfing, meditating & dope were the answer. I became more & more depressed, as I was running out of ways to turn.

ONE DAY ALL THESE "NEW FRIENDS" & MYSELF DROPPED EVERYTHING WE MER DOING & decided to travel the country for awhile. This trip just further exposed the hyprocrisy of their beliefs & was just totally discouraging.

ON THE MAY BACK FROM THIS TRIP we met some people in the Family in Albuquerque, New Mexico who told us about Jesus. There was one girl that had such a peace on her face-the very peace that I was trying to find to end this turmoil & content that had been going on in my heart for so many years. I took a walk that in hight & asked Jesus to really come into my heart for so many years.

is show me the way & the truth.

IT NEVER OCCURRED TO HE AT THE TIME TO STAY WITH THER, so we returned to the place we had been living previously. There was one girl & myself who really started reading the Bible & became increasingly more & more hungry for the Truth. We realised that we needed a Shepherd, as we felt so alone, We wanted to find this "famfly" that had told us about Jesus. WE HEARD THAT THERE MAS TIME TO BE A BIG "USUS CONVENTION" in belias called Expo "72, we figured that this family might be there somewhere. So we drove 2000 miles to find them. The yfirst thing we found in belias was a newspaper with an article about the Famfly's coffee house on the outskirts of the convention. We went right over, & I felt so wonderfully overwhelmed by the fact that these people were not just talking about what they believed, but they were living it.

RIGHT THEN I KNEW I WOULD JOIN, but I guess I had a few things I needed to learn still. I tried college for awhile; then went to Europe, all this just to find that serving Jesus was the only way that I would ever find happiness.

I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER THE FIRST RIGHT LIVING MITH THE FAMILY. I had the most beautiful it peaceful dreams like I was at home at last. OF COURSE JOINING THE FAMILY. I had the most beautiful is peaceful dreams like I was at home at last. OF COURSE JOINING THE FAMILY LIVING MITH THE FAMILY. I had the most beautiful is peaceful dreams like I was at home at last. OF COURSE JOINING THE FAMILY LIVING MITH THE FAMILY. I had the most beautiful is peaceful dreams like I was at home at last. OF COURSE JOINING THE FAMILY LIVING MITH THE FAMILY. I had the most beautiful is peaceful dreams like I was at home at last. OF course journed was a his we could not only support ourselves but get our message out too. This sounds right on psper, but it sure does not work in reality. I'll adaft that I got way off

track a number of times with this idea. Sincere, but sincerely wrong I guess!

I ALWAYS MEED TO GET MY MOSE RUBBED IN BEFORE I CAN SEE THE TRUTH, Obviously, God's way of getting the message out thru music is not in some big flashy way, but simply & naturally thru our sample of living together, which is what gives our music meaning.

MOUTHE LORD HAS NOT ONLY THE ARTHURS AND THE LORD HAS NOT ONLY THE THE ARTHURS AND THE IMPORT HAS NOT ONLY THE I WAS IN EUROPE WITH THE FAMILY, I met menually in the sing about.

WHILE I WAS IN EUROPE WITH THE FAMILY, I met me husband. Now together with our 5 children we're helping "Music with Meaning", spreading the message of I God's love to the rest of the world His way, not ours!





