

SINGING WITH CHILDREN!

"These little ones are Thy stars...help us to stand back & let them shine!"

From Windy, MWM:

I HAD NEVER DONE IT BEFORE, & HAVING NEVER HAD ONE OF MY "OWN", I DIDN'T THINK I HAD ANY "CREDENTIALS", but PTL! After all, "it is God which worketh in you both to will & to do of His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13) TYJ! I'm so happy to share with you the experiences & lessons that I have learned here at MWM in being with the children, & particularly my personal testimony of singing with them. "...Love found a way! If you're too busy to heed the cry of those (children) in need, you're busier than God Himself!" (Daily Might January 3).

WHEN I BEGAN HELPING FIONA IN HER HOME, not long after I had arrived, it was the crash course in kids that I needed! The Lord spoke to me, that He could use me to help, even with the children! "God doesn't have to have anything to begin on!—And He can make something out of nothing—even you, if you'll listen, trust, & obey!" (Daily Might January 31). Because I felt needed, it made me want to be what God needed me to be. I was afraid that I wouldn't be "good" enough, but my fear of failing God's little children, failing to help meet their needs, was greater than my own selfish self-failure, which is of course, pride.

WITH CHILDREN RANGING FROM 13 TO A NEWBORN, there was a wide variety to learn from & with! And boy, I had a lot to learn & they knew it! To go through a "nanny initiation" was pretty humbling. As Dad said in "Lashes of Love", "Whew! Let me tell you, they are little judges...the older they get the more they become little judges...and...teenagers are the greatest idealists..." (606:84-91)

TTL FOR ALL THE HELP & GUIDANCE HE'S GIVEN THROUGH DAD & THE LETTERS, the precious personal experiences of Maria, Sara & Dora, who have so faithfully shared with us all that they have learned, & also for all the good testimonies in the Mag written by the "pros" new & old!

IT REALLY WASN'T QUITE SO DIFFERENT FROM LEADING OUT WITNESSING TEAMS IN THE PAST,—just everyone was smaller, (except for me—Ha!), but I'm pretty much of a kid myself, so I fit in fine!

TO INSPIRE OTHERS, YOU HAVE TO BE INSPIRED, to win the trust of others, you



Some of the older children accompanied by Windy, reaching out to the World with His Love!

have to be trusting the Lord, & to win their love, you have to be loving. I could only expect the children to be as inspired as I was & to have a burden for souls as much as I did!

FLINGING OUT SHINER PRIZES IN THE FORM OF FOOD OR TOYS IS SO EASY TO DO, whereas a shiner prize that includes your personal time & attention, such as a special get-out, an outing or excursion is more appreciated & meaningful.

WE ALSO NEED TO REMEMBER TO EMPHASIZE "THE MEANING OF EXISTENCE":

—To convey love to the people & to show love to the World....So thank You, Lord, for blessing us with all these blessings—mostly the opportunity to serve You & help others. —Help each one of us to be a testimony & a witness. Lord, & help us reach the World through Thy Love & Thy Word." (Daily Might November 4).

IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO BE A VIRTUOSO MUSICIAN to take out your precious team of little fighters, but it is important to know what you do know well & to perform with real confidence! "Do you know what 'confidence' is? It's faith!" (74:18) & "Faith

is knowing!" (Letter No. M)

THE MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT SHOULD BE PERFORMED WITH A GOOD SOUND & distinct, definable rhythm,—never muffled or unsure. The children are really sensitive & they can sense the difference, & it does make a difference in their performance! "And even things without life-giving sounds, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?" (1 Cor. 14: 7-8)

MAKE THE MUSIC CLEAR & BRIGHT TO HELP THEM REFLECT HIS LIGHT! Also, proper & correct, clear pronunciation! "So likewise, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?" (1 Cor. 14:9).

SOME CHILDREN ARE MORE MUSICALLY INCLINED THAN OTHERS & need to be continually challenged with new projects & techniques, but as a whole, for those of general musical ability, keep it simple & regular. Try to do the song(s) the same every time—intro, song & ending. Make sure you've got your act together before you practice with the children. Your confidence will inspire theirs! It's contagious! IN THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE CHILDREN'S RECORDINGS HERE AT MWM, (Mag 46), the procedure in learning a song is still the same (para. 8). For your public performance you'll want to add actions. The actions should enhance the message & not take away from it or be a distraction.

TOPAZ DID AN EXCELLENT KP VIDEO to demonstrate the correct way to perform some selected children's songs. Remember to keep the elbows straight when raising up the arms & don't wave or move the hands in front of the face!

WE'VE FOUND IT BETTER TO HAVE THE SMALLER CHILDREN TAKE A LITTLE BREATH & wait to the side while the older child or children sing the more serious message songs, like "Little Things" or "What is Jesus?" or whichever ones are in your repertoire. The audience can be easily taken away with the cute actions & funny mistakes of the smaller ones, instead of listening to the message of the song. PTL! Then, when it's time for those old time group favorites, such as "I Believe In Love", "Everybody Can Be Happy", "He's Got The Whole World", "This Little Light of Mine", let those little ones loose!

IN A TEAM WHERE THERE ARE OLDER & YOUNGER CHILDREN, it's important that you & the older ones are particularly united as it's only natural that sometimes the younger children will be watching the older ones even more than you! With Dicon & Heidi & myself, we would counsel together & respect each other's talents & relationships with the Lord. Very often they would get good checks from the Lord about where to go, what to sing, & who to talk with. PTL! GBT! They are an invaluable blessing! Dicon was always faithful to lead the Salvation prayers in Greek if need be. He's got a real gift for languages, GBT!

EVERY CHILD HAS HIS OWN PERSONALITY & COLOUR, & although you can't expect them all to shine the same, they should know that it is expected of them to shine! Now Nat may not be the talented singer that his sister Heidi is, but he can be very soft & polite & wins many hearts with his docile, dreamy laurean eyes. Also, he's a good actor & does well in skits.



Let the little children join in for those old time group favorites, such as "This Little Light of Mine" & others!

PERHAPS FOR THOSE WHO ARE SHY & PRONE TO "STAGE FRIGHT", it would be a good idea to have them practice in front of a mirror, & this is a good idea too for all. It will help them to get the picture of what they should & shouldn't do. Some children here who were shy & reluctant to sing for

Asian Boy Rescued!

GOD'S LOVE SAVES MICHAEL & GIVES HIM LIFE OF LOVE & SERVICE!
From Michael Found, Asia:

HELLO! MY NAME IS MICHAEL

FOUND but you can just call me Michael. This story is for you!

I'LL START WITH MY SMALL VILLAGE. I was in a little village where I lived with my mother. My mother had left my father a long time before. My father came to get me and brought me to a city where he was living.

MY DADDY WAS POOR AND THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH FOOD so I ran away when I was 7 or 8. I

lived by begging and slept on the temple steps. I went begging at restaurants & people would sometimes feed me & give me a little.

AFTER ABOUT 5 MOS. I MET FAY & MARK. We met in the street & they took me out to eat in a restaurant. We knew each other for about two weeks & they talked to me every day.

THEN THEY ASKED ME IF I WANTED TO TRAVEL WITH THEM & BE THEIR SON. I said yes & I was so happy. I didn't know anything about Jesus but finally after reading stories & books about Him, I felt so good. Then I asked Jesus into my heart.

WE WENT TO EUROPE & after I had a dream about the Lord I began witnessing. That's how I began to serve the Lord. We traveled through Europe to Barcelona, Spain & to other cities in Spain, then to



Michael Found

Switz. where I found a girl-friend in the Family. Her name is Esther & I love her very much. We still write to each other. She is 9 yrs. old.

I BEGAN TO REALLY BE IN THE FAMILY. Every day we would read about Jesus & every day I'd witness to people. I went witnessing too & I liked it.

AFTER 15 MONTHS WE CAME BACK TO ASIA. I prayed in school here with a boy named Rajib. I gave him some MO letters. I prayed with Thuli too & she began to read her Bible & now she joined the Family too. She works in our house helping to take care of the baby & cleaning.

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO GET MARRIED & BE A HANDYMAN & MOSTLY BE GOD'S SOLDIER! If you want you can do that too! He loves you & you would like serving Him! You'll change part of the World! ILYVM! Michael

others & in groups, are now really coming out of themselves in children's group singing time. The more flamboyant children should be told that they should help these shy ones to shine & to never, ever belittle whatever effort they make. We praise them over & over for each step of faith,—encouragement encourages courage! If they are reluctant to sing for strangers it's important to strengthen their faith to reduce the fear. The Word will give them a burden for souls, & along with the stories & testimonies of the children shining for Jesus,—this will help them to become less self-conscious & more Christ conscious. Support them with prayer power & He'll do it!

KNOW THE PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL STAMINA OF YOUR TEAM, & before their last "lap", that's when to stop, as some "out-of-it" scenes happen because they are just tired. As Dad said in "Busking"—it takes a lot to pour out to the public, so watch their gas tanks!

AS ALWAYS, ACTS OF DISCIPLINE HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH LOTS OF LOVE & WISDOM. What may seem to a Systemite as a justifiable act, but in the Lord's eyes is rebelliousness & just outright stubbornness,—well,—if you are in the midst of a program & a witness & you just can't pack up & leave, perhaps sit the child over at a nearby table & ask the waiter for a glass of water for him. That way, he can wait until you are finished. If you are two adults, one can take aside the misbehaving child. In our case, usually my adult partner would be waiting nearby & I would afterwards give the child to them, if he hadn't decided to change by then, & the rest of us would be on our way! Some children are sensitive enough to get the point with only a look, while others need a more direct revelation, if you know what I mean!

THE FRUITS OF OBEDIENCE & UNITY ARE SO EVIDENT & MANIFEST ON THE BATTLEFIELD! Doors open wide, excitement in the Spirit & lots of adventures & victories! Don't tolerate any disobedience because if you do, "...they think they can get away with it every time." (606:34) But TTL!—they usually don't want to miss out on the action & the blessings, so they get the vic quick, TYJ!

AFTER EACH SHOW, RESTAURANT, H.G. SAMPLE, ANY PERFORMANCE & WITNESS, it's good to answer the questions

that they have right away before proceeding to the next event while the ones that just passed are fresh & alive. Take time to explain what happened in the Spirit & make it clear & understandable. Why this & this happened, & so-and-so said such-and-such, etc.

THERE ARE SO MANY IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER,—to be well groomed, well mannered, (the children always look to me before accepting any offer of food & drink) & don't forget the toilet stop before you start the performance!

DURING HOME INSPIRATION FOR THE CHILDREN, it's a time to sing unto the Lord! It's really not a time for the GP material, but for Family songs, Bible & Scripture songs. Have your repertoire well prepared to help the continuity of the Spirit. Take the time to learn the songs they way the children hear them on the tapes so they won't become confused by a different arrangement.

BE EXCITED & IT WILL BE EXCITING! Be inspired & it will be inspiring! Be on-fire & they will get fired-up! Hal! TYJ! If ever I have a problem, well,—I just leave it behind until later,—& that's what I like about being with the children, I have to leave my self behind, TYJ!

AND DON'T FORGET TO TEACH THEM TO TAKE OVER SOMEDAY! (2 Tim. 2:2).

Those who want to learn to play guitar or another instrument, let them as soon as they want to & show an interest, & teach them to lead the other children in singing & witnessing activities! It's a children's crusade—for Jesus!

"THEY ARE THE DIAMONDS OF DUST, THE SMALLEST OF ALL CREATURES!"

They are so small & so light that they float upon Thy air! They are the ones that catch Thy sunlight!...We are like the dirt on the floor which will catch them, & on which they can rest until Thy breath catches them & they float again into the sunlight!...Help us not to fail them. Help us to be there for them to rest upon. But help us to stand back & let them shine...They're Thy stars—these little ones are Thy stars—they are the ones that are shining! They're the ones that You're using!" (75:24)

"NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN GOD'S CHILDREN & THEIR CARE, FOR THEY ARE HIS KINGDOM!" (No. 315) God bless & keep you & make you a blessing to His little ones as they set forth to win the World for Jesus! ILYV!