

what we were doing.

16. MOM & DAD TAUGHT US TO PUT ON OUR LITTLE STREET SINGING SHOW WHENEVER THEY ASKED US TO, & there was never a question of not doing it. We were always told that the show must go on whether we were tired or whether it was late or whatever the circumstances. Anytime they ever asked us to sing at a street meeting or anything we were never permitted to refuse, & so we came to know that if there was an opportunity to sing & we were asked to do so that there was never any question about whether or not we would sing or that any one of us would refuse to sing.

17. EVERYBODY HAD TO SING, & we had to really sing it & mean it & do it from our hearts. They wouldn't permit any one of us to bow out or to get away with not participating. I don't remember any specific occasions when any of us ever refused to sing & they had to take one of us out of the line-up. We were told in no uncertain terms that if that happened we would be dealt with!

18. WE WERE ALSO TOLD WE WERE DOING IT FOR THE LORD & THAT WE HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO THESE PEOPLE we were singing to, that we had a responsibility for their souls & we really felt that responsibility. When we were singing for those people, we really felt like it was our responsibility to reach them with the Gospel & with the love of Jesus, & not to fail & that if we failed then God was going to hold us responsible.

19. IN OUR STREET SINGING & WITNESSING THERE WERE CERTAIN PLACES THAT WE WOULD SING REGULARLY. There was a group of Christians who ran a rescue mission to help people in the street like vagrants, beggars & drunks. These Christians would hold regular

street meetings every week on Friday evenings & Mother would take us along there every week to sing. As we did it regularly, the people would get to know us & would be waiting for us to sing. The other Christians would get up there with Aaron playing the ukelele & we would sing our little medley of songs & quote our verses out of the Bible.

20. THE PEOPLE WOULD BE VERY ATTENTIVE & LISTEN, & some of those who were mocking would always listen much more carefully & quietly whenever we were singing. Sometimes when we would be in the middle of the crowd of people waiting for a chance to sing, people would be mocking the preacher when he was trying to tell them they needed to get saved, & sometimes the mocking would get so bad the people wouldn't listen to him & start making fun of him. So as soon as he'd see us standing there he'd call us up to start singing because he saw that we as little children singing were something people would not mock.

21. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE CAME TO KNOW THAT IT WAS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO GET OUT ON OUR OWN & SING. Dad & Mom would usually not stand up in front of the crowd with us but would be in the audience watching. We knew well what our repertoire of songs was & we would just start at the beginning & sing our songs & quote our verses. This method turned out to be quite useful because Mom & Dad didn't always have to make it known that they were involved with us, & we kids could get away with more.

22. ONE OF THE PLACES WE'D GO WITNESSING WAS DOWN ON MIAMI BEACH to the Jews who were the majority of the people sitting around on the benches in the parks next to the beach in what we called the "spit & argue clubs". They

would sit around & argue & discuss. Dad & Mom would take us to these "spit & argue clubs" & stand around while we would step out in the middle of the circle of the benches of people sitting around & start singing a few songs.

23. AT FIRST PEOPLE WOULD BE REALLY CURIOUS & INTERESTED IN OUR SINGING, & then when they started hearing the name of Jesus in our songs some of them would say, "Boo! Boo!" & "Stop! Stop!" and then some of the other Jews would say, "Leave 'em alone! Let 'em sing!" So there would be a division among the people, & we would quickly finish our little medley of songs & then slip out of the crowd to Dad & Mom who were waiting for us & go on to another circle, leaving the Jews there to argue over whether what we said was right or not! PTL!

24. IN THESE CASES WE WOULDN'T ASK FOR PERMISSION TO SING, we would just slip in & sing & run, sort of the "hit & run" tactic.

25. ONE OF THE WAYS WE WOULD "BREAK THE ICE" WHEN INVADING THE CHURCHES was this: When we had come into a town & to a church we had not been to before & where we were not already known, we would endeavor to go to the church early enough Sunday morning to get there before Sunday school. Normally in the churches they get together all the children & then divide them into different age groups & send them off to their Sunday school classes.

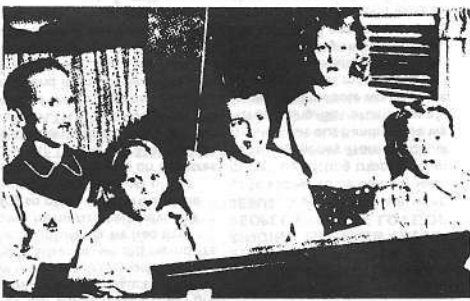
26. WE CHILDREN WERE CUED & TRAINED SO THAT IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WE WOULD ENDEAVOR TO BE A GOOD SAMPLE & a good witness, talking to the Sunday school teacher & participating in the Bible Study lessons. We were familiar with all the Bible stories from Dad's teaching us, so we would be able to participate & comment. The

Sunday school teacher would usually ask us where we had come from & what we were doing. We would explain to the teacher that we were missionaries & evangelists passing by & in town for the weekend, & that we all sing together.

27. THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER WOULD BE ALL TURNED-ON & EAGER TO GET US TO DO SOMETHING IN THE GENERAL MEETING after the individual classes were over. They would usually get all the classes of the Sunday school together in the main church or in a room large enough to hold them all. This was a more informal situation where they would have the different Sunday school classes comment about their lessons, or the teachers would talk about their Sunday-school attendance drive, & in this situation they would be very happy to have us sing to all the other children who were attending Sunday school.

28. WE KNEW THAT IF WE GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SING IN THIS SITUATION THEN WE MIGHT GET INVITED TO SING IN THE MAIN MORNING MEETING which was at 11:00. We would go to Sunday school at 9:00 & then try to sing for the Sunday school assembly, & then the head of the Sunday school would tell the Pastor (or sometimes the Pastor would be there), "We've got this group of children that can sing & they'll really inspire the congregation!" Then the Pastor would invite us to sing one or two songs in the main morning meeting. Because the morning meeting is pretty well programmed & it's all written out in the bulletin exactly what's going to happen, it was a little more difficult to get an opportunity to sing on the spur-of-the-moment, so sometimes they'd only let us sing one or two songs.

29. WHEN WE'D GET UP THERE TO SING, WE HAD



Miami, Florida, 1957: Mother Eve playing the portable organ & singing (l-r) Aaron-9, Faithy-6, Deborah-11 & Hosea-7.

OUR LITTLE MEDLEY OF SONGS. We would run straight thru' them & it would be a little bit more than what they had expected, but the people would be quite inspired & happy to hear us sing. Then the Pastor would say to the people, "Well, if you come back tonight, we'll have them sing. We'll give them the whole evening service." (Mom & Dad would be in the congregation & sometimes they hadn't even met the Pastor yet!)

30. WE KNEW THAT USUALLY FOR THE MORNING SERVICE, THE OFFERING THEY TOOK UP was for the support of the church, but sometimes when they'd have us come back & take the whole evening service, then that was different. They would either give us the offering from the evening meeting or they would sometimes take up a special "love offering" for the visiting home missionaries.

31. SO THIS METHOD OF BREAKING THE ICE WOULD WORK VERY WELL to get us into the church & into an opportunity for singing, & from this we would meet people from the congregation who would invite us to go home with them. They would help in encouraging the

other members of the congregation to help us out, get a place to stay or more opportunities to sing, or go out witnessing.

32. TO BUILD UP OUR MAILING LIST, ONE OF THE WAYS WE'D COLLECT THE ADDRESSES was that if our family was giving the meeting & we had the whole evening service, after the meeting Dad & Mom might be talking with the Pastor or the Deacons of the church & we children would always make a bee-line for the door & be there to shake hands with people before they went out.

33. EVEN IF DAD & MOM WEREN'T ABLE TO BE AT THE BACK DOOR because they were talking with the Pastor, we would shake hands with the people & get a chance to talk with them. We had a little notepad with us on which we would collect names & addresses from people who wanted to receive our little prayerletter.

34. WE WOULD SEND THEM A LITTLE PRAYERLETTER WITH NEWS ABOUT OUR WITNESSING. Dad & Mom would give us five cents for every address we collected, so we were quite diligent to try to get people to give us their name &

address so that we could write to them, & of course so that we kids could get our five cents!

35. COLLECTING NAMES & ADDRESSES WAS SOMETHING PASTORS WERE ALWAYS A BIT LEARY OF, so it was something that if possible we children would do instead of Mom & Dad, because we could get away with it. We could be more bold & they wouldn't want to try to stop the children from doing it.

36. ANOTHER METHOD WE USED once we got in & sang our one or two songs in the morning meeting, we would tell the Pastor, "Our little sister Faith can quote the whole 11th Chapter of Hebrews!" And he would be so amazed that we would tell him different Chapters we could quote by memory, & this would be one of the things he would tell the congregation that they would have as part of the evening service. He'd give us the whole evening service to sing & testify & Faith would quote the whole 11th Chapter of Hebrews, & the others of us would quote John 15 or different passages of Scripture. I would often quote Acts 26 with Paul's testimony before King Agrippa. This was one of the things that the church people were really amazed by because they can hardly get their own children to memorize a Scripture verse of only two lines!

37. SO DAD USED US CHILDREN AS A DOOR-OPENER, as a means of testing the water, & as a means of seeing if the people would receive our spirit & our message, both when we were little children & when we got older as teenagers.

38. WE TRAVELLED TOGETHER SINGING & WITNESSING in places where the people would receive us children & invite us to sing, offer to give us the evening meeting, & if they were really open then Dad would

preach & give them a lesson on witnessing or soul winning, & come along as our father & really sock it to them with the message!

39. BUT IF THEY WEREN'T REALLY OPEN TO US CHILDREN, THEN DAD WOULD NOT TRY TO DO ANYTHING THERE. They'd let us children be the ones to test the people to see if they would receive us, then possibly they would receive him also. Jesus said that if you've rejected me you've rejected my Father also. If they rejected us, we knew they would reject our father, & we knew if they'd receive us then they might also receive him.

40. HE WOULD USE US & THE MOVIES & THE SLIDES AS BAIT to get the people to come to the meeting, & then he would give a "little word of introduction". We would always laugh when we heard him call it that because he would preach them the whole message on soul winning, the Book of Acts, dropping out & forsaking all & following Jesus full-time, sometimes for an hour or more—more than the length of their usual evening meeting! He'd keep saying during his talk that the children are going to sing or we're going to show this movie, & the people would be waiting & waiting for it, & listening, & he would keep their attention.

41. WHEN HE WAS FINISHED GIVING THEM THE MESSAGE THEY REALLY NEEDED, he would close that part of the meeting & say, "For those of you who really want to stay to see the movie or hear the children sing, we're going to have that now. For those of you who have to go home, well, God bless you!"

42. HE'D MAKE SURE THEY GOT THE MESSAGE IN EVERY SITUATION HE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY. Then quite often we found that those who had been willing to receive us as sweet little kids singing a sweet

little song were not really willing to receive & obey the real message that God wanted to give them in the churches, of soul winning & forsaking all to serve Jesus.

43. WHEN THE MEETING WAS OVER THERE WOULD BE A DIVISION AMONGST THE PEOPLE: Those who had received it wanted us to stay longer & those who didn't receive it wanted to get rid of us as soon as possible. The message had gone out & they had had the opportunity to hear it. "If I had not come & spoken unto them they had not had sin; but now they have no cloak for their sin." We would quote that verse to them from John 15.

44. ALSO WE WOULD QUOTE EZEKIEL 33:31,32 TO THEM. "And they come unto thee as the people cometh, & they sit before thee as my people, & they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, & can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not."

45. SO WE'D TELL THEM THEY WERE WILLING TO HEAR OUR MUSIC & OUR SONGS, BUT WERE THEY REALLY GOING TO OBEY THE LORD?—And then we would find out. And now you know that the passage following these verses is Ezekiel 34 where it talks about the bad shepherds who have just used the sheep, & the good shepherd David who is going to gather the sheep together. So thank the Lord, the Lord was giving the people the message even at that time, when we were using those last three verses from Ezekiel 33 before we were applying Ezekiel 34, which is about our David. The Lord sent the woman to confirm that to us much later. (To be continued in Chapter Two of "Our Family History", DV.)

## Triangle of Love!

When God puts three people together for His Glory!

"How To" Tips from Ruthie (of Ho, Esther & Ruthie); China:

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REQUESTS FROM FAMILY MEMBERS to know more about different kinds of relationships in the Family, such as 3-somes, & how they work, any problems etc. I also received a very sweet personal letter from a sister named Perle asking about the same subject.

IT WAS A SUBJECT THAT WAS ON MY HEART TO SHARE so maybe Perle's letter & my testimony following will help in answering these other requests. (Dear Dad & Maria, you have always been our number 1 example by your faith, love & understanding of the love of Jesus!—And especially by your obedience to follow the Lord & lessons passed on to us! ILY!)

HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM PERLE'S LETTER to me: "Dear Ruthie, My name is Perle & I live in France with Eli & Tara & their 6 children. The reason I'm writing you is because even tho' I've never met you I feel close to you because like you I have a baby from a 'married man', Eli, & we've been together for 3 years now. "GOD BLESS YOU ALL FOR YOUR SAMPLE with your children performing, making records & all the other important things you do. I'm sure it's a battle to keep up with the children's physical & spiritual needs & the business of the Home—especially since you have 7 children like us. Also in our Home we have another couple & a single brother. "SINCE THE BIRTH OF MY BABY, Sara-Ange, I was not sure who the father was, but the Lord showed me after it was Eli's, & since then we've been mated, all three of us. We'd talked about how the Lord put

us together, but actually being mated came only after the birth. How do you work it out?—Are you mated to someone else in your Home or do you feel the Lord has put you together until He comes back?—As I feel for me?

"SOMETIMES I FEEL IT'S STRANGE the way the Lord gives two wives to one man, & yet there's a single brother who needs a mate so badly. Many times I'd like to talk to someone about it, but not so many people are in this same situation.

"ELI, TARA & MYSELF ARE TEACHING THE CHILDREN (4 of them), 2 are in school, & little Sara is only 4 months old, so we try to stimulate her as much as possible. As much as we'd like to get away & travel right now we feel after receiving "Golden Opportunities" that we want to stick here, at least for the winter. We've been performing in old folks' homes & many have gotten saved, TY LI

"PLEASE SEND MUCH LOVE TO HOSEA & ESTHER. What



Ruthie & 6-yr.-old Maria. Photo by Ho.

fighters they are!—And all the lovely children. We really are amazed at your sample of using your children for His Glory! Love, Perle.

Dear Perle, GOD BLESS YOU! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR



Eli, Tara & Perle's Heavenly Home!—(l-r) Jean, Tara, Jonathan, Perle (holding Sara-Ange), Julie & Eli, & all the children!