

# VIETNAM!

Written by Medad  
and Abby.

**A Thrilling Account of the First Team in  
the FAR EAST! -'72!**

**A CHAPTER OF THE HISTORY  
OF OUR SOUTHEAST ASIA  
MISSIONARY FAMILY!**

**WE FIRST GOT THE BURDEN & VISION FOR GOING TO VIETNAM** soon after we joined the Family. Medad had been a helicopter door gunner during the Vietnam war, & I had been a combat helicopter pilot. Both of us had experienced the loneliness, frustration & confusion caused by the war & we had both become heavy drug users during our tours of duty there.

**RECEIVING THE LORD & JOINING THE FAMILY** had of course solved all of these problems for us, & we were anxious to share these answers with the soldiers still in Vietnam. We had met each other in Dallas in the fall of 1971 & shared our common burden for Vietnam.

**WE HAD MET A CHURCH MISSIONARY WHO HAD SPENT SOME TIME IN VIETNAM** & he helped us greatly with tips & information while we got busy raising funds, getting visas, etc. The news that we were going as a team to Vietnam was published in every newspaper in the Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas area. While my wife Laadah & I went to Washington D.C. to get visas, Medad & other members of the team bound for Vietnam, were interviewed by many TV & radio stations & were on several talk shows. Besides being able to give our personal life stories, we were able to ask for financial help.

**OUR BROTHER JOSH WAS A BIG HELP IN INSPIRING & HELPING US GET READY.** He helped us make a tract especially for Vietnam soldiers, which was really fruitful.

**IN WASHINGTON D.C. WE WENT TO THE VIETNAM EMBASSY,** announced that we would like to go to Vietnam & asked for missionary visas. The embassy didn't share our enthusiasm, but after much prayer & talking, they granted Medad & I two week tourist visas.

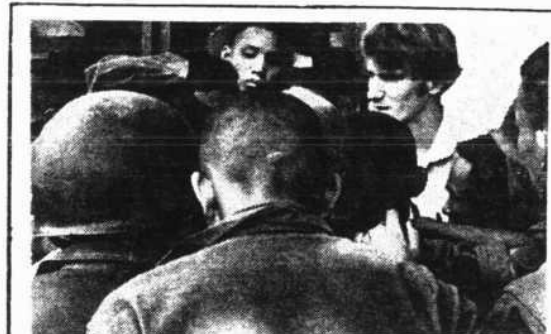
**THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE,**



God was the One Who did everything. We faced impossible situation after impossible situation but the Lord always encouraged us to keep on going & that He would always open the doors.

**AFTER ARRIVING BACK IN TEXAS, WE THEN DROVE TO OUR TAKE-OFF POINT IN CALIFORNIA.** The Los Angeles airport was crowded with newspaper & TV reporters, photographers & cameramen when we arrived late for our flight along with 60 singing Family members from the local homes. We both knelt in the boarding area while the Family laid hands on us to pray for us. The prayers & prophecies, picked up by the large TV boom mikes, were aired on the evening news throughout the entire West Coast of the U.S. & on at least one station in Europe.

**WE LANDED IN SAIGON ON FEBRUARY 2, 1972** with a total of \$200, 2 week visas, 100 copies of our Gospel newspaper, 10 Gospel music tapes & a copy of a documentary by



Vietnamese soldiers listening to our message & receiving gospels.



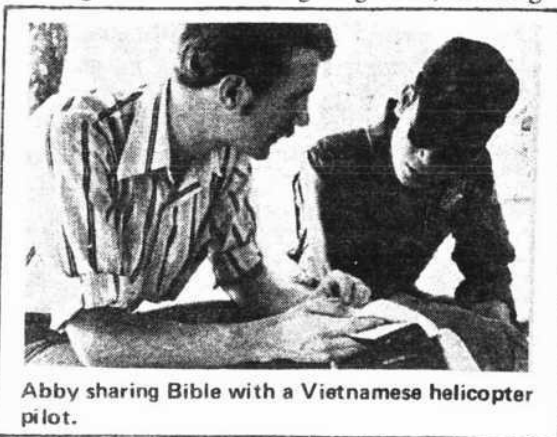
Above: Children would always follow & crowd around us. Medad & Abby at the zoo.

Medad singing to the MP guard in front of the Saigon USO.

NBC TV about our missionary Family in the U.S.

**WE STARTED OUR WITNESSING TO AMERICAN SOLDIERS** in a military Drug Rehabilitation Center where a friend worked as a counselor. The men in the Center were amazed by the film & testimonies on it, especially of several Family members who'd gotten delivered from heroin addiction. A military inspection team then visited the Center & forbade us to witness on the base without approval from the Pentagon in Washington D.C. However quite a few of the men received Jesus & we were able to get out the Message.

**BY THIS TIME MY WIFE LAADAH HAD JOINED US** making us a team of three. We were still able to witness on other bases by making friends with the gate guards, hitching



Abby sharing Bible with a Vietnamese helicopter pilot.

rides with military vehicles entering the base, etc. We found all the soldiers eager to hear our testimonies about the Lord. They were very impressed that we had come to Vietnam voluntarily, knowing what it was like, just because we wanted to help them.

**WE TOOK OUR GUITARS TO THE SAIGON ZOO, THE PARKS & STREET.** Even though we could speak little Vietnamese, we always found someone who could translate for us to the crowd which always gathered. We also went witnessing several times with some Christian Missionary Alliance missionaries who were quite zealous about getting out the Message & winning souls. We went with them to basic training bases for the Vietnamese draftees on their way to the front lines. By tradition most of them were Buddhists, but Buddha offered little comfort when they knew that many of them would soon be dead. We were literally mobbed by the young soldiers as they tried to get copies of the Gospel of John from us. We would sometimes have to drop the box of gospels & move back while they practically fought for a copy. Here again, many would pray with us to receive the Lord with the help of an interpreter.

**WE ALSO MET A WORLD VISION MISSIONARY** who ran a Street-boys Home in Saigon. These boys were orphans or runaways who made their living on the streets shining shoes, etc. We were able to sing & witness to these boys many times. We also visited an amputee

orphanage where the children were missing arms or legs or both because of the war.

**ONE DAY WHEN MEDAD VISITED THE BANK,** the teller who was a cute girl named Kim, refused to change his money unless he played her a song (he had a guitar with him). Medad boldly sang the only song he knew & the whole bank stopped work to watch. This turned out to be one of God's set-ups, as a bank executive then invited Medad & the rest of us to sing at a going away party for some Australian embassy employees. We were able to sing & witness at the party, but even more important, we met an Australian girl who had been singing regularly for wounded soldiers at the large U.S. Military hospital in Saigon. She was leaving Saigon that week & asked if we would take her place singing at the hospital. This turned out to be a terrific opportunity to sing & witness to those who really needed it, & we went there regularly until we left Vietnam.

**AS THE WAR WORSENED IT BECAME MORE & MORE DIFFICULT** for us to continue our witnessing, especially on the military bases. One door after another closed & we wondered why. We had also run out of money, even though we had plenty of donated food which we used as barter for taxi & bus rides & the other things we needed.

**GBT for their faith to step out & trust the Lord!--A fruitful trip indeed!--and Japan exploded next!**

From Newspaper Articles: 1972

## Sect Plans To Establish Viet Mission

Monday, January 31, 1972

By JIM WATKINS

The last time the two young men were in Vietnam one was a helicopter pilot and the other a helicopter door gunner — and both ended up taking drugs.

Tomorrow they are returning to Vietnam with new names and a new mission. They are going as missionaries for the controversial ~~300 member~~ ~~sect~~.

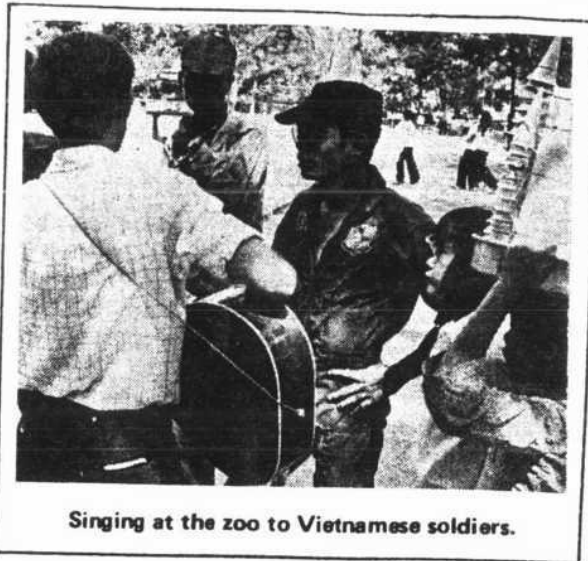
"God bless you call me Medad," said the spokesman for the seven-member group going to Saigon.

With Medad was Abiezar, who said he was a former Army chief warrant officer and helicopter pilot.

Medad, a 24-year-old former Army sergeant who said he had a Bronze Star and three Army Commendation Medals, said they are not going to Vietnam as antiwar protesters, but to fight a spiritual war.

"We know the answer to the world's problems is Christ," he said, "and that is the message we are taking with us."

THE SAN DIEGO UNION



Singing at the zoo to Vietnamese soldiers.

**AFTER MUCH PRAYER, WE DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE VIETNAM & accept** an invitation we had received to go to Japan with our ministry. We were sorry to leave, but after prayer & counsel we realised that it was time to go & started making preparations for leaving.

**WE LEFT SAIGON IN THE MIDDLE OF MAY & spent 2 days in Hong Kong & Taipei** before arriving in Japan.



## 2 Jesus Sect Missionaries Sent to Saigon

BY JOHN DART  
Times Religion Writer

The ~~300 member~~ ~~sect~~ who, the most controversial sect in the youthful Jesus move-

ment, sent two of its mem- bers Tuesday with clamorous gospel singing and handclapping.

Medad, 24, and "Abiezar," 23, who took Biblical guitar-accompaniment singing at Los Angeles International Airport by 40 sect members from California colonies in South Vietnam in the late 1960s, the latter as a helicopter pilot.

Los Angeles  
**Times**