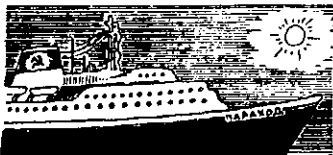


RUSSIAN ADVENTURES!

WITNESSING ON A RUSSIAN SHIP!



South East Asia:

We waited excitedly at the major port of the city, as we watched the big white Russian sailing vessel slowly pull in. It was a passenger ship offering South-East sea cruises for tourists, & was coming in to dock for a couple of days here. We watched with the children, our guitar in hand & an assortment of Russian lit in our handbag, as the Russian crew docked the boat, & the local police let down the gang plank. Our prayer was: to be able to get onto the boat & reach as many of the Russian crew on board with the lit & music & message as possible! The passengers unloaded, an assortment of American, Australian & Asian tourists. As the last of them passed by, we started onto the plank to get on the ship. The local police stopped us, saying we would need a visitor's pass or special permission to board the ship, as it was a "Russian" ship. We told them we have to see the captain. The main policeman said to write out our name & that he'll take it on board & ask the captain if he wants to see us. We wrote down our Bible names "and children" & the policeman took it on board. A couple of minutes later the captain appeared, sort of scratching his head wondering who we are, together with the policeman, & they were for us to get on board. We crossed the bridge of faith onto the ship & told the captain that the children wanted to see the ship & to sing some songs to the people on board. "Is that all? - Of course, come aboard!"

So, after they checked our guitar case to make sure we had no weapons, off to the captain's room we went, where he called on the intercom for a Russian girl to come & show us around the ship. It was a very interesting tour for the children, to

see all of the different parts of the ship, & for us as well, as all along the way we met different Russian crew members, who would lit up with bright smiles when we tried out what few Russian words of greeting we've learned. By the swimming pool we met some of the musicians of the Russian band on board, who told us that tonight there would be a special party for the crew members. "Can we come?" we asked. "Sure!"

After the tour of the ship we ended up in the chief engineer's office, where he served us coffee & Russian snacks for the kids. Thru our interesting conversation we found out that there were well over 100 Russian crew members on board. We were told that on Russian passenger ships the crew, depending on the size of the vessel & capacity for passengers, number between 100-400 members, while on cargo ships there's only a crew of 30-40. That's very interesting to know for people interested in witnessing or witnessing to Russian ships. We would never have thought, for instance, that on the ship we were on that there were about 150 Russian crew members - especially considering that there were only about a hundred passengers! We said our farewells & thank you's to the chief engineer & crossed the hall to the captain's office. The captain very hospitably entertained us for an hour or so with Russian cognac & orange juice for the children. We asked him if we could sing tonight for the crew & he said that would be fine. Then the children began to get restless, so we excused ourselves & went off of the ship saying we would return in the evening. Thru all this time on the ship we thus far we hadn't witnessed to anyone yet or disclosed any lit at all or made any mention of who we were. As we really wanted to find an opportunity where we could get it out to all of them, or at least a lot of them - & we thought that if we would give lit out just to some individuals that it might be made known that we were passing lit & we'd be asked to leave, thus losing our chance to get to anymore of them. From later events that developed, we could see that this was really the right leading. We returned in the early evening

& we were escorted to the dancing hall. There was hardly anyone there, but they told us that we could sing in 15 minutes & that they would announce it on the intercom through the whole ship. They apologized that only the Russian crew would come, as most of the passengers were not on board. "That's just great!" we said.

Russian crew members began filling in from all directions, both men & women, young & old, as the band set up the microphones for us to perform.

The children & mommy started singing "I Believe in Love", including a couple of the phrases that they had learned in Russian! - "God is Love, Love is God!" Wow! The spirit quickly got heavy, the Russian audience was drinking it in, so we really felt the time was right to



deliver our souls! The children sang a couple more songs & we got the crowd to clap along. Then we did an impromptu heart skit about an ailing heart that only love can cure. Then mommy began singing solo while the children dispersed among the crowd to give each person Russian lit. Some read it through immediately, while others quickly hid it in their pocket. The timing of everything was so perfect, as we hadn't planned much ahead of time, we'd never even performed before for an audience on stage, & we didn't think we would on this ship either, but the Holy Spirit was so in control & just led one thing after another. After making sure that everyone had a piece of lit, we all jumped back on stage to sing "You Gotta Be a Baby to Go to Heaven", also in Russian which we learned a couple of years ago! The crowd applauded warmly & a Russian girl came up to us & awarded the children with Russian candles & a ship trophy. Then the audience quickly filed out. There wasn't one piece

of lit left laying around anywhere. As we sat down again at our table in the now nearly empty again dance hall, marvelling at how the Lord wonderfully opened the door for us to be able to witness to all of these Russians. The band began to play & the children relaxed & had some juice. We had felt one of the band members to be exceptionally sheepy, so we went up to the stage to ask him if maybe we can meet him tomorrow. As we started talking to him, suddenly we were interrupted by a loud, firm, authoritative voice. We turned around to see a stocky elderly Russian man, apparently a security official - he seemed to be quite upset - & he told us that we had to leave the ship immediately! "If you're not off of this ship in two minutes, there will be serious consequences!" He further grabbed his displeasure at us having passed out the lit. So, an abrupt ending to a thrilling adventure.

The captain escorted us off of the ship - apparently asked to do so by this other man - & the captain himself didn't know how to react. He seemed somewhat embarrassed as the children hugged & kissed him goodbye - you could see that he himself seemed to be going through a personal decision in his own life. Our witness on the boat was really a light shining in darkness & we felt it left much more of an impression on the hearts of the people who watched & read than everyday witnessing does on people in free countries, especially seeing us afterward getting harshly evicted for our loving witnessing to which they so warmly responded 15 minutes beforehand. You could see that in their hearts they each had to make a decision about us, whether we were good or bad, whether it was right or wrong - either to agree with us & our spirit, or the gruff guy who was throwing us off of the ship! So there was a division among the people because of Him!

On this one day we lived through all of the 3 P's - pioneering, popularity & persecution, & saw a vivid fulfillment of the truth of "The Russian Fairground Dream". An exciting day! We're sure some of the people must have gotten saved as they read the lit & listened to us singing. "You Gotta Be a Baby to Go to Heaven!" TJJ

Muslim Finds New Life!

TESTIMONY OF HOW A MUSLIM RECEIVED CHRIST & DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO THE LORD'S SERVICE!

(THE FOLLOWING WAS WRITTEN AS AN INTERVIEW WITH AMER, our Turkish translator, in a way that could relate to the G.P. In so doing, the Turkish Lit-Pic also tried to bring out some points which they hope may be of help in the Family's outreach to Muslims & their follow-up.)

QUESTION: Can you tell us something about your background?

ANSWER: I was studying engineering but could never get into it. Although it is a well-paid job in Turkey, I could never see myself living that kind of life. When I was 14 I started to search for a meaning in life, yet nothing seemed to satisfy. I remember often thinking that I had never had a really happy day in my life.

I HAD BEEN RAISED AS A MUSLIM & READ THE KORAN. The idea of having a loving God spoke to me, but it seemed that God was so far removed & unreachable that I finally decided to forget about Him.

SO I BEGAN TO LOOK TO SCIENCE to try to find a way to change & improve this world. As I studied & learned, I began to realize that this kind of knowledge would only bring pride & self-exaltation. I wanted to help people but felt that all my "facts & figures" could do very little for anyone's sick & lonely heart. I really became frustrated & dissatisfied.

IT WAS THEN THAT I MET TWO YOUNG TRAVELLERS who sang in cafes & bars in my city. A friend of mine brought them over to my place, & we sat listening to their songs, whose message of love we couldn't miss. Immediately they openly shared the reason for their joy & peace, as they told us about Jesus &

His love. SOMEHOW I FELT THAT WAS IT, what I'd been looking for all along.

WHEN THEY ASKED ME IF I WOULD TAKE JESUS INTO MY OWN HEART I AGREEED, although the room was full of friends, some of whom were disagreeing & scolding. But I felt that I had to take Jesus no matter what anybody said--that was 4 years ago. They gave me a Gospel of John & I could not stop reading it. The Bible & the Lord's letters really opened my eyes & I began to share what I learned with my friends.

QUESTION: What are some of the prejudices & ideas Muslims have of Christianity? ANSWER: First of all, an average Muslim doesn't really know about Islam, much less Christianity--at least not in Turkey--just like a lot of the Christians in the West don't really know their Bibles. So most of the things that the Muslims believe are traditions & not even in the Koran. What they think about Jesus is what they heard from some "hodja" (Muslim preacher).

WHEN I GOT SAVED I STUDIED WHAT THE KORAN SAYS ABOUT JESUS. It says some powerful things & also some contradictions. Mohammed gave a great importance to Jesus. In the "Sura" on Mary he said that Jesus was the creation of God & did not have a human father; it's clear. Yet although the Koran recognizes Jesus & even calls Him things like "Breath of God," "Spirit of God" etc., in other parts it is quite ambiguous--as if Mohammed got carried away in his zeal of reformer & idol-smasher against the idolatry of the churches & threw away the baby with the dirty bath water.

BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL CONVERT A MUSLIM BY ARGUING OVER DOCTRINES; that would be like trying to chase away the darkness instead of just letting the light in.

AFTER I GOT SAVED, at 1st the Devil put me under condemnation, telling me I was committing a great sin by becoming a Christian, because I was born a Muslim. But these battles couldn't last very long, because as I kept studying the Bible & the 10 Letters I clearly saw that Islam is a temporal religion given to a certain group of people, whereas the Bible is eternal! "The entrance of Thy Word... giveth understanding to the simple!" (Psalm 119:13) Hal!

QUESTION: What are some of your experiences witnessing to Muslims?

ANSWER: People sense that we have something different. Those who accept Jesus get touched with His love & chose to believe. It's still a choice of faith, but they have to see & feel that you love them. That speaks louder than any sermon.

NO MATTER HOW GRADUAL YOU ARE IN YOUR APPROACH, eventually you must bring them to a decision if you are trying to win them to Christ. The Holy Spirit is the best guide. Also, it has always been a help to remember that God is working behind the scenes. For example, I told us after his salvation that as a child he found a little book full of pictures on the life of Jesus, & he used to stare at the pictures for hours; & of course he got the message & the seed was planted. When we came along the Lord had been working in his life.

...A SAILOR WHO JUST RECEIVED THE LORD, said he had been introduced to Jesus years ago on a ship & wanted

to believe but didn't quite know how. The Lord has His sheep; we just have to find them.

QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR WORK? ANSWER: Well, we get out a little monthly magazine in Turkish called "Minstrel" & we've already mailed several thousand of them to Turkey. We invite the readers to join our "Minstrel Club" & correspond.

IT'S SELF-PROPAGATING BECAUSE WE ASK THEM TO SEND IN THEIR FRIENDS' NAMES & ADDRESSES. So that's a lot of work--editing, compiling, translating, typing, printing & answering the many letters we receive monthly.

WE ALSO CONTRIBUTE MONTHLY TO THE SUPPORT OF A MISSIONARY FAMILY in Turkey who helps us by visiting the people who respond to our magazine & classes. They are doing a tremendous work, really shepherding & feeding all these precious sheep we get in touch with thru the

mail. QUESTION: What would help you get more done? ANSWER: As far as help, if more people knew about our work & would help support it, there is so much more we could do. Time is short. You know; God knows how much longer we'll have the freedom to work like this, especially with the inside visitation. And of course prayer; that's such a help to know people are backing you in prayer! (MAY)

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Wearing Nothing But Her Cross!

A LETTER RECEIVED FROM CHRISTIAN STRIPPER WHO WITNESSES ON STAGE!

(A letter from the "stripper for God" written to Renée Canada); Canada: Dearest Renée,

OF COURSE I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU. That day we were talking there was a cloud of the Holy Spirit all around us. You two were the only Spirit-filled people I met during my 5-week stay in Montreal. I was wondering if you two would show up in the club later, but I guess it wasn't meant to be. I have my cross, my office--in show biz--& you have your cross, your office--on the streets & where the regular people are.

I LOVE YOUR MUSICAL TAPE! It is beautiful--so wonderful to have your kids participating in this work. How blessed life is when there is love, life!--It has meaning, life & fulfillment. Without God there is no meaning. With God even the worst pain can be sweet. ALL YOUR LITERATURE IS GREAT. The ex-stripper-teaser is beautiful. Maybe she could be another stripper for God!

GUESS WHAT!--I was on two big TV shows this week, in Boston & Philly, & got to preach to half a million people! See, God knew what He was doing when He chose

me to do this work! They attacked me awfully from the audience--the religious (a group of 40 came in to oppose me)--but I came out smelling like a rose because

God was with me. Keep up the good work! The World needs you! Good luck in South America. You have my blessings & prayers! Love, Kellie Events. (MAY)

CONTACT WITH PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS. And "yes", there are quite a few guys in here who would like to know more about Jesus. After your show, it was amazing how many guys were blown out from the love they could feel. It is amazing to me that for so many years I was looking for love, peace & happiness, & because of that desire I am in here. And all the time it was right in my heart.

I AM NOT BITTER ABOUT BEING IN HERE. My Lord tried in so many ways to show me where it was, but I was so blind that He had to put me in here, away from

all those "external" things. I have served most of my time in prison. While I have been here I met these beautiful people who used to come in every Sunday & share their experiences of Jesus with us.

AT FIRST SOME OF THE CRIMINALS WERE TOO SCARED TO GO. They were worried about what the others would say. So I would go around & talk to them by themselves, & each week we would get one or two more. It was a beautiful service for my Lord. THERE AREN'T MANY THINGS THAT I HAVEN'T DONE, but nothing has ever given me such peace & happiness. If there is anything I can ever do for you, please let me know, as we are brothers & sisters in Christ.

WE LOVE YOU DEARLY. Hope this is inspiring for you. We appreciate your love, prayers & help that you have been. (MAY 1978) (The Love of God is the only love that matters)