

Serving With Music in Norway

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Norwegian Unification Church Singer at a home for the aged

Music is something very special. It surrounds us with a certain atmosphere and appeals to our souls. As music influences our feelings very much and as we are living in a satanic world, music has been used to a certain degree by Satan to inspire people in a negative direction. However, we are now living in a time when God is calling us to come into His family. Music may be used to move frozen hearts of people; from personal experience, I know that this is true. Music and singing was exactly what made me feel at home in a large Principle family. I am sure that it was one of the reasons that made me stay and work for Father. So I know what music can do with people's hearts.

So my joy was very great when in early November of last year Miss [Ingrid] Schneider [Jorgensen] said we were going to start a small singing group which would perform in homes of the aged, handicapped, or orphans. We were not really aware how meaningful this would become for all of us within such a short time.

In order for this project to be successful, not only for ourselves and the people we were to sing for, but also for the whole mission in Norway, we would have to make this little choir into a harmonious unity. The singers, as the objects, had to become one with the conductor, the subject. Doubts about the conductor and disagreements with his decisions were loudly expressed during various rehearsals, so we had to struggle to overcome this problem. We did not give up, and finally we succeeded.

When we first sang in an old people's home, we made up our minds that we were going to sing with our hearts. We wanted to serve them by giving love to them through the medium of our songs. Each of us thought about Father and the people in front of us. When we finished, the people assured us that what we did was of great value to them. They encouraged us and advised us to never give up practicing, in spite of

any difficulties. I do not know who was the happiest when we were walking home, Father, the people we had sung for, or ourselves.



In conveying the heart of our Father through singing, we can never make big mistakes. Every time we sing, it is like the first time, and the response is always a little different. One time, the manager at the home we sang in, thanked us by reciting a beautiful poem, very much in tune with the Principle. In another place, the directress wished that she could send her staff to us so that they could learn from us, and be transformed into bright and positive personalities. But our most wonderful experience was in a home for handicapped and mentally retarded people. Even though many of these people could not talk, their shining eyes were a most beautiful response. Some of them even danced with joy.

Father, we are grateful that you have showed us your suffering heart for these people. We sing, "But we can't accept this blind world, filled with loss and pain. So we'll all roll up our sleeves, we'll make it flower again."