

FEATURE

# MAY CHUNG EX. I A LIFE OF PURPOSE



May Chung has supported Three Angels Broadcasting Network for many years. In fact, she was one of the earliest supporters we had. She has traveled the world over, finding the needs of the people, and giving generously to meet those needs. Many orphanages, churches, and villages have benefited from her various projects, and she has met with heads of state around the world. But what inspired May to do so much for Jesus? One could imagine that she had benefited from the best Christian upbringing and guidance during her formative years, but nothing could be further from the truth. May's zeal for the Lord's work comes from a deep gratitude for what He has done for her, and her love for her Savior, Jesus Christ.

"I was born in Richmond, Missouri, the youngest of three children," she tells us. "Father had deposited a bag of gold coins in the bank for each of us the day we were born. He had planned a college education for us, and he didn't dream he would die before I was two years old."

Tragedy struck suddenly in her family. "Mother lost everything in months. Through all my early life she would go to court to plead for the gold coins to feed and house us. The court would give her a pittance at a time. We three children lived in misery with her!"

Just when things couldn't seem to be any worse, life for her became even more bleak. "Mother took up with the local sheriff, who became violent when drunk. Earlier than I can remember, I had planned to run away, see California, and end my life. However, before I died I wanted to know if there

was a God. God was only a swear word at our house, yet I wondered if there could be a God."

Even though her young life was so bleak, the Lord found a way to plant a seed in her mind. She tells that she has a bright memory from when she was six years old. "My first-grade teacher had each child say a Bible verse daily. She said, 'If you pray, God will hear and answer your prayers.' I tried it. My family laughed. But the words, 'God hears your prayers' stayed in my mind."

May left home when she was 14, running away with her best friend. Together they had a total of perhaps \$7.50. "Leaving gave me a feeling of freedom," she says. "We caught a ride with a European count in his brand-new, red convertible. Later we rode with a kindly truck driver who insisted on buying us din-



May Chung was one of the earliest financial supporters of 3ABN. Her tireless efforts on behalf of this ministry, and long years of service on 3ABN's board of directors, have endeared her to all of us who know her.

ner. There were many wonderful people who were kind and helpful."

Her adventures took her many places. She worked along the way in a carnival, in a Mormon nursing home, and even as a cook, making mountains of mashed potatoes on a ranch in Nevada. But eventually she and her friend were picked up in Wyoming, and when her mother was notified, May found out that her sister had moved to California. When May was released, she decided to move there, but life seemed no better, despite the kindness of her sister and brother-in-law. She continued to be plagued by thoughts of suicide, and still she searched for a God she could

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understand.

Her search took her to numerous churches. At one she met a Christian minister who seemed offended at her questions. “He knew nothing of what happens to us after death, and seemed to have thoughtless

the Bible that painted a pic-

ture of perfect love. When she asked them about what had happened to her father after he died, they showed her that the Bible teaches he is in a death-sleep, not being tortured in purgatory or hell.

“It was almost dark when I started home, and my feet barely seemed to touch the ground!” she relates. “Joy transformed the world, and my head was dazed with the goodness of the universe — there was a loving God behind the mystery, after all. I felt I was truly walking on air. I couldn’t wait to tell my sister, Jean.”

She also visited a Catholic Church, where the priest was sympathetic and gentle. But when she studied their views of purgatory and hell, they seemed at odds with the God of love in the Bible. Feeling hopeless, she sank into a life of risk-taking and despair. “Night after night I wept, planning how best to end the fiasco of life. Where was God?” she kept asking.

Then she met her new neighbors. She admired them, and asked them many questions. Instead of giving her their opinion, they showed her verses in

persuaded me that we should marry when we were of age and then go to Hawaii as missionaries. There we saw the desperate need for a hospital in Kailua. We fought a long, hard battle. It was 13 years before the doors were opened at Castle Medical Center,” but together they began a wonderful life of service.

Then tragedy struck again. Her husband and five others were killed in a small plane accident. May and her children were devastated emotionally and financially. “Our income had stopped, but our debts had not. There were times when my burdens seemed heavy, indeed. At the time of my husband’s death, I didn’t realize that he had mortgaged everything we owned, and borrowed even more,” she says.

Faced with an enormous burden, she made a radical decision. “When I realized that I was liable for half of his debt — which was in the millions of dollars — I told the Lord, ‘I will never own another thing again.’ I turned my financial problems over to Him, and He has never failed me.”

Soon she realized that not only had God supplied her

needs, He also had given her the means to be a blessing to many others in the coming years! “When you turn your money over to the Lord, suddenly He becomes liable,” she says. “He manages it well. I have given away millions of dollars, and for every million I’ve given, the Lord has replaced it with another million. When it becomes His money, He takes care of it!”

“God has promised to bless us abundantly here on earth if we will minister to the least of His brethren,” she says. May is characteristically outspoken about this subject. “Go. Sell. Give! Too many Christians think they can send a minister. Such duties cannot be delegated. Seventy-five percent of the Africans do not have a safe water supply, yet a well to supply a whole village can be had for \$10,000! In the Philippines families starve. Farms can be had and people helped in many places. It is the Christians’ lot to face these needs. We can say, ‘I am only one, but I am one. I can’t do everything, but I can do something. What I can do by the grace of God, I will do.’”

Through the years, May has





Top: May's *Commandments* the 3ABN Send 1 Year she interviewed Gerry Mahn, founder of Law By Choice For Freedom.

Below: May has traveled with Gerry Mahn to many countries, presenting a beautifully framed copy of God's Ten Commandments to presidents and heads of nations around the world.

where she interviews ordinary people who are doing extraordinary work for the Lord.

Another project that is near and dear to her heart is called Law By Choice For Freedom. After meeting founder Gerry Mahn, May has traveled to distant lands with him, helping to fulfill his dream of presenting a beautifully framed copy of the Ten Commandments to presidents and heads of nations all over the world. "I've been blessed to hand-deliver the Ten Commandments to leaders in 16 countries," she says. "But perhaps the most memorable one was when we presented the Ten Commandments to the president of Nicaragua.

'Oh,' he said, 'this solves all my problems — all my national, international, community, and family problems. I never thought of the Ten Commandments like this.'

God has blessed this incredible woman with favor in the eyes of these leaders. Her stories have amazed us for many years, and we truly love this lady who has dedicated her life to spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the whole world. ■

## TESTIMONY

# Never Too Old to Learn

by Berni Denslow

**A**rlene Jankens struggled with many adversities in her 87 years of life, but her faith in God and regular attendance at her Lutheran church sustained her through them all. Polio at 17 months left her with a deformed foot and a bad limp. She battled cancer for ten years, and as a result, lost a portion of her face, lost her hair permanently, and underwent 15 surgeries. Her husband, Erhard, was legally blind for 44 years during which she was both his chauffeur and his eyes. Then she broke her hip in October 2002, and almost died after the surgery. She also became legally blind due to wet macular degeneration. Sadly, after 64 years of marriage, Erhard died of congestive heart failure. At this point, one might imagine that Arlene must have felt like she was enduring the trials of Job!

Meanwhile, her son, Tom, and his wife, Maxine, had both been raised in the Lutheran faith, but Maxine had puzzled many years over questions about the Sabbath, what happens after death, and the book of Revelation. She questioned why God had put a book in the Bible if it wasn't meant to be understood. One day after earnestly pleading with the Lord, she received a booklet in the mail. It was a condensed version of Ellen White's *The Great Controversy*. Many years went by, and Maxine's spiritual hunger continued to grow. Convinced of the need to worship on Sabbath, she and her husband began looking for a Sabbath-keeping church. They even looked up information on the beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists in their local library. When they finally began attending their local church, it wasn't



Berni Denslow and her husband, Al, travel extensively with our 3ABN production team as volunteers.