

# Shorters Sing a New Song

■ By C. A. Murray

To see and hear them now, you would hardly believe their backgrounds.

She was an actress-model-singer with a hit record and a second one on the way. He was a self-styled promoter-manager of recording groups, and musical director of the Broadway musical "Hair." He wasn't quite sure where he was going, but he was headed there fast.

They met and liked each other. Gwen saw Rich and saw stars. Rich saw Gwen and saw dollar signs. He wanted to be her manager. They planned to make the first of several million.

"Like" became "love," and Rich Shorter married Gwen. His background was Adventist, but he had long since abandoned his faith in favor of the bright lights. Gwen was the daughter of a Protestant minister and had sung for his church, but she had found singing in the world more exciting and much more lucrative.

The Lord had other plans, however. Occasionally, Rich would teasingly call Gwen a hypocrite, because she attended church on infrequent Sundays.

"Saturday is the Lord's day," he would say, but the topic was never explored. There was too much fun to have and life to be lived.

Gwen had watched *It Is Written* once and was impressed with then-speaker George Vandeman's quiet, metered presentation as opposed to her father's high-spirited preaching style. Content, too, was quite different. The truths presented were strange and new but arrested her attention. She ordered the book *Steps to Christ*, which she placed on a shelf to collect dust.

As the Lord would have it, Evangelist Ron Halvorsen was conducting some meetings in Manhattan. The Shorters were

sent an invitation and a number of tickets that could be exchanged for a free Bible. Gwen, who by her own admission, was never one to pass on anything free, demanded that they attend. They were convicted of the truth on the first night and were baptized at the end of the crusade.

The problem after baptism was not letting go of the money, the music, or the fast life; the question was what to do for the Lord. They needed to know what ministry would be most effective.

"We had no problem leaving show business," Gwen says. "We just wanted to work for Jesus in a way that suited our talents."

They believed that the Lord led them to the health-medical ministry, and so they opened a very popular and successful vegetarian restaurant in Manhattan. That one was sold and a second

restaurant-store opened in New Poltz, New York, some 80 miles north of the City.

Subsequently, **Homeward Publishers/Ministry** was begun. The best of the food products served in their restaurants are wholesaled to health food stores

and restaurants under the name of "Sister Shorter's." Books on cooking and nutrition are available.

And a burgeoning music ministry—**Appropriate Music**—is beginning to take off.

Parents of three beautiful teenagers who share their vision and ministry, the Shorters are thankful to God for His leading in their lives. Their health ministry has been a spiritual and financial success; but, more than that, they know that they are doing God's will.

"We've always been singers, but these days we're singing a new song," say Gwen and Rich. "It's a song of victory. It's a song that angels love to hear."

And it's a song leading them into ASI!

**ASI**



Photo by Dick Duerksen

**Christian and Hope joined their parents Gwen and Rich Shorter in musical testimony at Convention. And Gwen shared "Sister Shorter's" goodies at their booth.**

Photo by C. Elwyn Platner



*C. A. Murray is the Northeastern Conference Communication Director who is also hooked on ASI.*