



HIBN HOLYLAND BROADCASTING NETWORK
HIGH ADVENTURE MINISTRIES BOX 7466, VAN NUYS, CA 91409 (213) 994-7161 • BOX 425, STATION "E", TORONTO, ONT. M6H 4E3 CANADA

March 27, 1981

Mr. Gerry L. Dexter
R R 4, Box 80 D
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147

Dear Mr. Dexter,

Thank you very much for your recent reception report.
You were indeed listening to our station at 6.215 MHZ broad-
casting from Free Lebanon. I have enclosed some additional
information which you may find of interest.

Cordially,

Ken

Ken Weintrub
Program Director

KW/emg



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That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

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Lebanon Hills Echoing With Gospel Tunes

By CHRISTOPHER S. WREN

Special to The New York Times

MERJ 'UYUN, Lebanon, Aug. 7 — The scene is a snug radio studio set up inside an otherwise deserted and bullet-pocked Lebanese customs house in a valley just north of the Israeli frontier.

The recorded sound is vintage Nashville, with whining steel guitars and stuttering banjos, wholesome love songs and hard-driving gospel tunes, interspersed every 15 minutes with a message from Scripture.

However, the first gospel and country music station in the Middle East, with its toe-tapping format and soul-searching commercials, has caught the tin ear of the United States State Department. The Department is embarrassed because the radio station, the Voice of Hope, was set up in southern Lebanon by a California evangelist over the objections of the Government in Beirut.

The Lebanese Government is upset because it contends that Maj. Saad Haddad, the Christian militia leader in southern Lebanon, is using the station to rail against his Palestinian and Lebanese enemies.

For their part, the Palestinians and their leftist allies, hardly country music fans in the best of circumstances, have tried unsuccessfully to knock out the station's twin broadcasting towers, which are tipped with symbolic white doves of peace, by shelling them four times with mortars.

I.R.S. Investigating Status

Now, in the unkindest cut of all, the United States Internal Revenue Service is inquiring into the tax-exempt status of High Adventure Ministries, which sponsors the station from Van Nuys, Calif., near Los Angeles.

The founder of the Voice of Hope, George Otis, an energetic white-haired evangelist who described himself as a

"charismatic-flavored Presbyterian," declared that he did not understand all the fuss. "The statesmen and politicians and military generals," he said, "have done their best to bring peace in this area and it remains violent. Let's give God a chance."

Mr. Otis, dressed in a bright blue windbreaker jacket with "High Adventure" inscribed on it, was paying the radio station one of his monthly visits from California. He explained that he decided to set it up after he crossed the border from Israel in the spring and "was exercised by the Christian world's abandonment" of Major Haddad's war-ravaged enclave.

"Everybody was grim," Mr. Otis recalled. "Nobody even joked." He decided that some happy music was needed. "Major Haddad said he would make available a piece of land to set up a gospel radio station," he said.

Mr. Otis returned home to raise money in the conservative Christian community. When he related the plight of the Lebanese Christians, he said, "people gave like they never gave before." Among the donors, he said, was the singer Pat Boone.

\$600,000 Invested So Far

Forty tons of radio and studio equipment were shipped in through Israel and set up near Major Haddad's headquarters in Merj 'Uyun. At the moment, Mr. Otis said, \$600,000 has been put into the operation.

The radio station is so well equipped that it uses two solid-state transmitters of 15,000 watts each, so that broadcasting can continue if one is damaged. Together they emit a 25,000-watt signal that at night has reached listeners as distant as Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The station has its own generators. "We pour the diesel oil in one end and the word of God comes out the other," Mr. Otis said.

Before the station started broadcast-

ing last September, Mr. Otis said, he got a telephone call from the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv pointing out that the United States did not recognize Major Haddad's territory, which he calls "Free Lebanon." "They said, 'We'd like you not to go on the air,'" recalled Mr. Otis, who said he had explained that it was too late to dismantle the station.

A spokesman for the embassy in Tel Aviv said that it had asked Mr. Otis for information about his operation but had not tried to dissuade him.

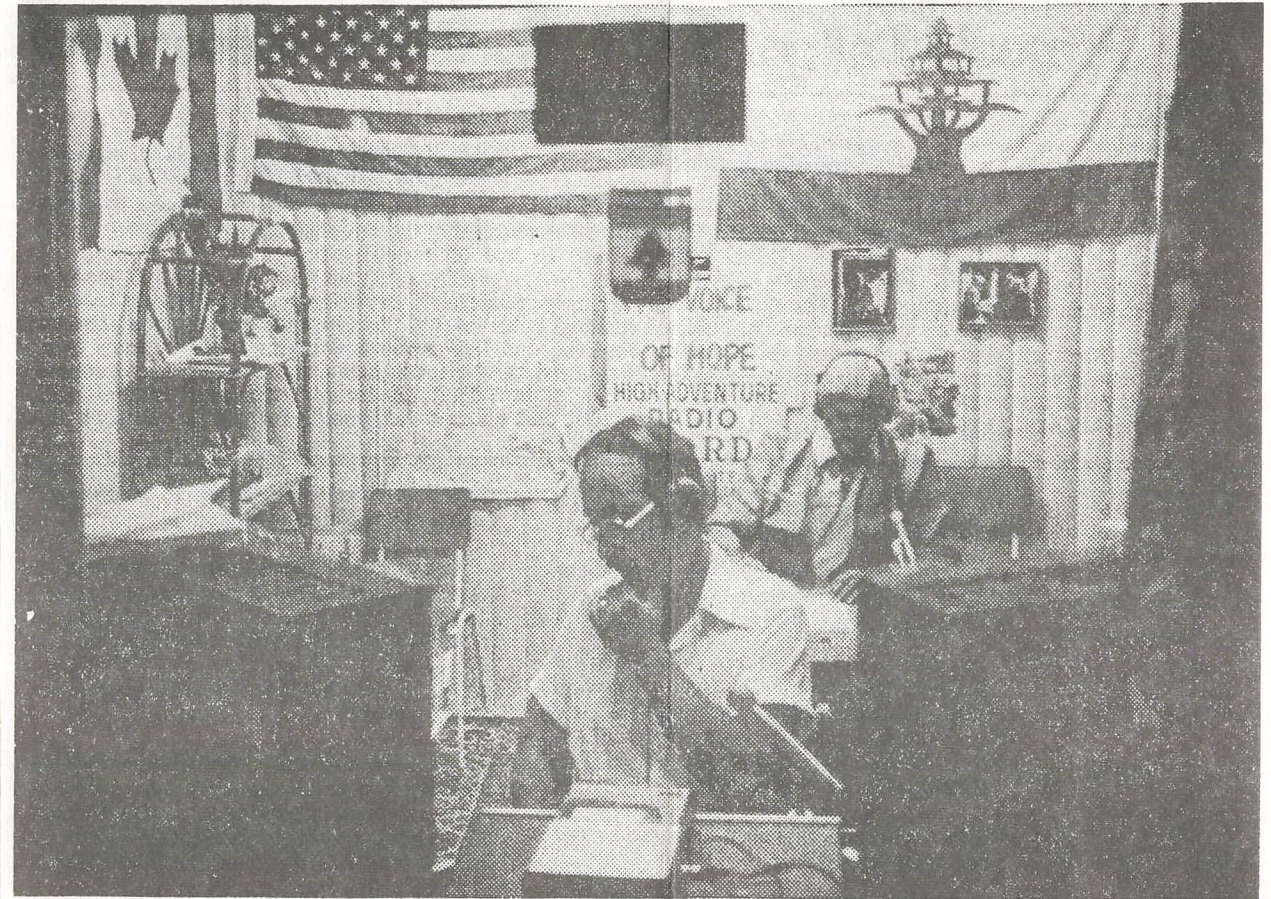
'That Sounds Like Moscow'

Until recently the station's main headache was finding and taping enough country music that didn't glorify drinking, unfaithfulness or seamier subjects. Then recently, the Internal Revenue Service got in touch with his Van Nuys office, "trying to find technicalities to harass us," Mr. Otis said. "That sounds like Moscow, like big brother, to me."

The dispute is not over the 12 hours a day that the Voice of Hope devotes to a skillful mix of Gospel and country music, but to six other hours that are turned over to Arabic-language broadcasts. Francis Rizak, who writes and delivers the news, is also Major Haddad's spokesman. "Before," he said, "the only way to tell our story was to go to the Israeli reporters. Now we have our own way."

Every week or so, Major Haddad himself goes on the air to reassure his friends and warn his enemies. The Beirut Government objected earlier this month when the major threatened over the radio to start selective bombardment of villages that harbored Palestinian and leftist guerrillas.

Mr. Otis explained that letting Major Haddad use the radio was like paying him rent for the station and the land. "If Major Haddad wants to make an announcement over the air or comfort



The New York Times / Christopher S. Wren

Chuck Pollack, foreground, and George Otis broadcasting from the Voice of Hope radio station in Merj 'Uyun, Lebanon

his people, he's earned it," he said. "I don't understand Arabic so we don't know what he's said and it's none of our business," he added.

To avoid being accused of proselytizing Israel's Jews, the Voice of Hope does not broadcast in Hebrew, though some Israelis tune in. The station has found another English-language audience among the 6,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops stationed in south-

ern Lebanon. One army unit from Ghana wrote in asking for Bible instruction material.

Even with the mortar attacks, the station hasn't missed a day on the air. "We've had some close calls but God is faithful," said a disk jockey at the station, Chuck Pollack.

"You know, angels are pretty tough," Mr. Otis said.

"Also Haddad's militiamen," an associate remarked.

"It's nice to have both," Mr. Otis said.

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DIALOGUE

Story on CBN damaging, disappointing

From CAPT. O.A. FISH
BOSTIC, N.C.

I was very disappointed by a recent article in the Virginia Beach Beacon by Gary Stemm entitled "CBN Cash Aided Lebanese Rebel Radio." The date of this issue was July 24/25, 1980.

As a captain for a major airline, I just happened to be laying over in Norfolk when this article was brought to my attention.

After returning from a visit to the Voice of Hope Radio Station last March, I have spent much time and energy to acquaint Christians of this country with the plight of Christians there. Therefore I feel compelled to write a response to this most damaging article.

I am a Christian layman who is very concerned about religious freedom, as well as social and economic freedom the world over.

In addition to the research I have done on Lebanon's brief tumultuous history (through reliable sources, such as encyclopedias, etc.) I have personally heard the story from Major Saad Haddad, the Christian leader of Free Lebanon, and Col. Yuron Hamazracki, the Israeli commanding officer in charge of the forces guarding the Israeli-Lebanese border, and many others.

I only wish I knew more about Mr. Stemm's mysterious state department specialist, the source of information for most of his article. Judging from his derogatory remarks concerning his call to CBN, I sense that he has very little feeling for the Christian cause.

Mr. Stemm's article portrays Maj. Haddad as a rebellious deserter who has no concern for his country. Just the opposite is true. His position was forced upon him. When recently

the PLO and Syrian troops occupying Lebanon sided with the leftist Moslems against the Christian minority, there was a real threat of total annihilation of the Christian population in Lebanon. Contrary to what the so-called State Department specialist may imply, the present Lebanese government is helpless to do anything about it. Nor is this the first time Moslems have tried this. I quote from the American People's Encyclopedia, "In 1860 there was a massacre of Christians; an international investigation was held, and Turkey (a Moslem state which at that time was in control of the Lebanon of today) was forced to grant Lebanon some autonomy." The note inside the brackets is mine.

It might be of interest also to note that according to this same encyclopedia, "In 1949 the population of Lebanon was estimated at 1,246,580, of whom 672,388 were Christians and 557,207 were Moslems." I ask, "What happened to the Christian majority in the past several years?"

History clearly shows that Islam spread by the sword, never by love. This present day Islamic revival is proving to be no different. Only a fool would believe that they have any plans for a coalition government with either Christians or Jews.

In view of his most desperate situation, I personally think Maj. Haddad has shown remarkable restraint in his remarks over Voice of Hope radio. I wonder what Mr. Stemm's reaction would be if he heard the Ayatollah Khomeini on worldwide television boast to Yasser Arafat that he had a 50,000-man volunteer army which would go down to South Lebanon and stamp him out! Last fall I saw and

heard as millions of other people did the Ayatollah make this threat concerning Major Haddad and his people. This telecast was just prior to the following two statements quoted from the Virginia Beach Beacon article:

Dec. 5, 1979. "After Iranian volunteers had joined Palestinian forces opposed to Haddad, the major warned that any village or sect cooperating with the Iranians would be dealt with as he would deal with the enemy."

Dec. 27, 1979. "We have received confirmation of the presence of 60 Iranian volunteers in Tyre and the Burjash-Sharmali. We ask public opinion: Can anyone blame us if we shell and destroy the town of Tyre?"

According to a 20/20 television report aired last fall there are about 100,000 people in the enclave under Major Haddad's control. To the PLO and Moslem left he may be a renegade, but to these people he is the defender of the faith. He lives in a modest home among his people. To my knowledge he does not own a personal automobile.

George Otis, president of High Adventure Ministries of Van Nuys, Calif., who was responsible for building the radio station, is a very good man and, I might add, a friend of mine. I know of no one on the face of this earth who is working harder to bring peace and love to the Middle East. He is a great influence on Major Haddad and is showing him by his own unselfish love the better way. He, along with some other brave, dedicated Christian men from the United States and Canada, built the station while under continuous cannon and rocket fire from the PLO in their Beaufort Castle stronghold just a few miles away. God miraculously spared them. Major Haddad and Col. Hamazracki were astounded when

Beaufort Castle blew up from within just a few days after George Otis told them that God had impressed upon him that this would happen.

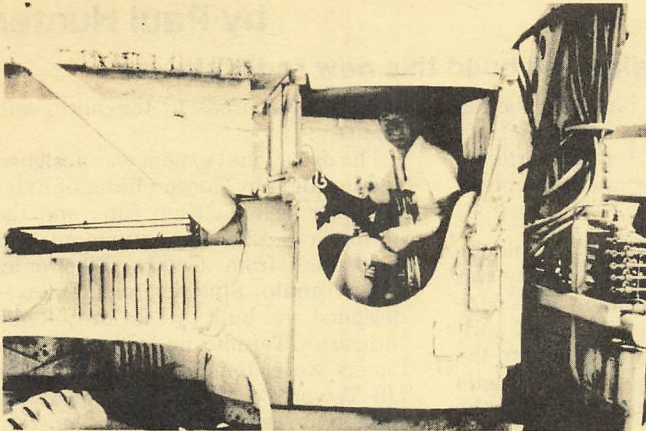
Then there is the miracle of the rain. This past year has been the best season for desperately needed crops in a long time in that part of the country. It was in the midst of a three year drought last August when the rains started. In the same week George Otis led them in prayer for rain. These and other miracles are helping an otherwise humble and simple group of Christians to put their trust in God, who seemingly is their only source of help.

George Otis and I, along with thousands of other Christians in the United States and Canada, believe the Voice of Hope radio is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy. To paraphrase a couple of passages in Jeremiah 22: 20, the Bible says, "to go up to Lebanon and shout from the passages . . .," and in Isaiah 29: 17-18 it says, "and in that day the words of the book will be heard out of Lebanon and the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the deaf ears shall hear."

There is little doubt that in just a short time the whole Middle East will be embroiled in a bloody war. I believe that when this happens the Voice of Hope radio will be in position to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, shortly before His return. As a king to the Christians and as the long awaited Messiah for the Jews, He will come.

If this is not true, then there is absolutely no hope left for peace on earth, and self-centered men will destroy themselves in the end. If it is true, then neither the efforts of men nor devils will be able to silence the Voice of Hope.

YOU CAN HAVE A SHOWING OF THE THRILLING NEW HOLY LAND FILM, "THE VOICE OF HOPE", IN YOUR OWN CHURCH OR GROUP. CALL: PAUL HUNTER (416) 895-1070.



Author Paul Hunter smiles despite problems of working in a war zone: this army crane truck wouldn't start and the boom, once raised, would only turn left!



Just prior to opening ceremonies, Dale Chote, of 100 Huntley Street organization, Toronto, makes last-minute repairs.

kw diesel generators—a must, as no power was available at the transmitter or studio site. An added problem was the fact that both transmitters had been accidentally dropped while being transported inland, resulting in delays in going to full power. By the middle of the third week, work commenced on the tuning and phasing equipment.

As we approached our target date, crews worked day and night and tension mounted, but despite all the mishaps—some technical, some of the result of war—on September 9, Radio WORD signed on the air, only three weeks from the date of our arrival in Metulla: a miracle by any standard! Needless to say it was very rewarding when, on opening day, representatives from the three major American networks, as well as British and European press, covered the opening of the *Voice of Hope* in Free Lebanon.

The project was not without problems—both usual and unusual. For example: obtaining such basic materials as wood, so easily taken for granted. Fortunately, most of the equipment shipped from Toronto was crated in

¾" plywood, which proved to be worth its weight in gold and which was used in building such things as work benches and tuning huts. Another problem, which seemed insurmountable, at first, occurred on the day the concrete forms were to be poured for the tower bases. Apparently, because of insurance problems, the suppliers would not enter the war zone area. But with the dawning of a new day came another miracle: the roar of two large cement trucks, as they headed towards the transmitter site! Apparently they were enlisted into the army "for active duty"—temporarily, of course!

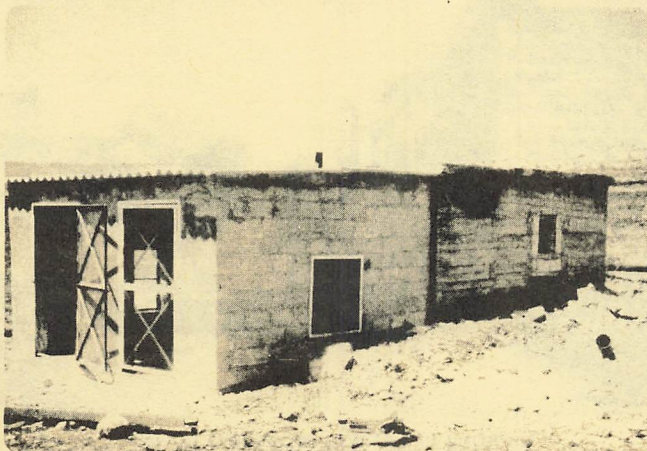
The most amusing problem of all occurred only 15 minutes prior to the opening, when the program line—strung across a field, a mile from the studio—was cut by a tank, which in its hurry to attend the opening, unfortunately took the station off the air. For a few minutes, there was panic and the hectic scurry of two technicians, armed with portable radios, headphones, wire strippers and electrical tape, as we commandeered a press bus to take us along the road looking for the break in

the line. At last, the break was sighted, the repair quickly made, and the station returned to air just minutes prior to the opening.

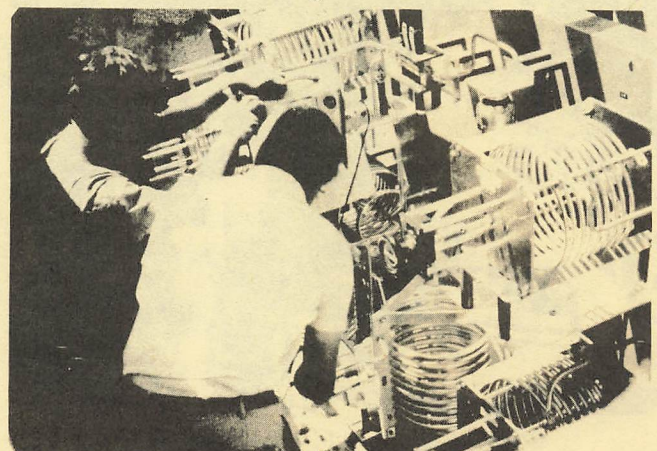
The project has since proved to be very worthwhile and rewarding. So much so, that two more projects are being undertaken: the installation of a shortwave transmitting facility; then, hopefully, a color TV station by the end of 1980.

The station probably received more press coverage from around the world than any other broadcast station built recently. *Voice of Hope* has also started a new trend in the Middle East with, yes, you guessed it, Bluegrass, Country & Western, and Gospel music! The total cost of the station ended up being close to \$500,000, nearly four times that originally anticipated. Almost 90% of the funding has been received from Christian congregations in both Canada and the U.S.—a gift of love from friends in North America to the victims of war-torn Free Lebanon!

Paul Hunter is vice-president of engineering at CHIN AM/FM Toronto.



Transmitter building, showing addition built for power generators.



Consultant Gordon Elder adjusts phasing system for new station.

A WORD OF HOPE

by Paul Hunter

In war-torn Free Lebanon, Canadians helped to build this new radio station.

Have you ever wished that you could build a radio station somewhere, someday, without any technical or engineering briefs to worry about, no government submissions to be made, or hearings to be attended and no federal inspector watching over your shoulder, questioning every move that you make?

In other words, to build it *your way!* Well, this has been my experience this past year in the Middle East.

The project was a Christian radio station, established in a little, unknown country, Free Lebanon. The country is under the command of Major Saad Haadad. The only technical criterion was to have an AM broadcasting station in operation as soon as possible.

All of this sounded great, with just one exception. It was to be built in the middle of an active war zone!

It is no wonder that the project was conceived and undertaken by High Adventure Ministries of Van Nuys, California. The president of High Adventure Ministries is an evangelist by the name of George Otis, who was formerly the managing director of Lear Jet Corporation. Mr. Otis first met with Major Haadad, the president of Free Lebanon, in March of 1979, after being urged to do so by the president of Israel. The meeting was to try to establish some means of helping the Christians living within the war-torn area of Lebanon, cut off from other Christian churches around the world. It was agreed that a radio station would help to communicate hope to the people within the area and present some measure of entertainment. Thus, the station became known as the *Voice of Hope*.

I first met Mr. Otis following a TV program in Toronto in early April,

1979. As I listened to him describe the needs of this war-torn country, it became apparent that I most certainly would become very much involved from that day forward.

It was decided that little could be accomplished until a field survey was undertaken, and so, armed with a portable field strength meter, a small portable digital frequency counter and the latest edition of the *World Radio Handbook*, we made our first trip to the Middle East.

Little was known of the latest frequency assignments, and even less information was available regarding ground conductivity, so it became a very important fact-gathering mission. Free Lebanon's closest and friendliest neighbor is Israel, therefore it was necessary to co-ordinate all of our facts with what we could glean from Israeli sources. Notes were made and field strengths measured on as many stations as we could detect within the coverage area to establish criteria for ground conductivity. Further measurements were made on many channels—low, mid and high band. These were then tabulated with the frequency counter to establish the right channel. We endeavoured to maintain channels that were currently recognized by the EBU (European Broadcast Union), however, soon learned that not all countries conform to EBU standards. An important part of the field trip was to acquire a piece of land, reasonably safe and flat, that would enable us to install a good ground system. After all the information had been correlated, it was decided to use a 10 kw operation with a two-tower directional antenna system, beaming the signal to the most

concentrated areas to the north and south.

The directional system was designed and installed by Gordon Elder of Elder Engineering Ltd., King City, and the tuning and phasing equipment was purchased from Geleco Electronics Ltd., Toronto. Studio equipment was designed and built by McCurdy Radio Industries, Toronto, and the two 200-ft. towers were donated and erected by US Tower Co., Oklahoma. Two Sintonic 10 kw transmitters were selected, because they incorporate a fully solid-state RF driver system and a synthesized exciter. This feature was of the utmost importance because of the uncertainty of channel allocations in the Middle East, and proved to be of great benefit shortly after the station was on the air.

It was decided to purchase as much of the equipment as possible in North America. Most of it was accumulated in Toronto, then forwarded by sea and air to the Middle East. This allowed us to co-ordinate the arrival of all parts and personnel without too many problems.

On August 19, 1979, a crew of approximately 10 people from North America met at the Arazim Hotel in Metulla, Israel, and construction commenced. Within two days of our arrival on the site, two large containers with all the studio transmitting, tuning and phasing equipment and towers had arrived. A sight to behold, to say the least!

Meanwhile, a small concrete building, which had been deserted for some time, was renovated to accommodate the transmitter facilities, and a small 10' x 10' room added for two 55

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Crates of equipment for Radio WORD arrive in Metulla, Israel, after shipment from Toronto.



Building at left was renovated for studios of Free Lebanon's "Voice of Hope".