

Jerry Morin ... Our Lady's Troubadour

By **Larry** and **Mary Sue Eck**

Reprinted from the Fall 1991 issue of *Medjugorje Magazine*.

It was one of those moments you remember the rest of your life. Our bus was crossing the bridge coming into Medjugorje when the song burst forth from the loudspeakers ...

“Oh, the Lady is calling,
Is calling us all ...”

Somewhere, deep inside, THE LADY OF MEDJUGORJE touched each of us at that moment. We answered her call with an overpowering hunger to know her love and to love her in return. All over the bus people cried; men and women alike. That song made us little children again, coming home repentant to Our Mother.

Next, there was the night we felt discouraged, never wanted to see another magazine, and the words of **The Servant** touched our hearts, as though they had

been written for us alone ...

“Here’s where I have you, where the sea meets the sand,

To give my words to them, I place in your hands,

Be not troubled, be not afraid,

For this I have called you,

For this you’ve been made.”

Finally, there is the memory of hearing **At The Cross**. We sat at the Wichita Conference with its darkened stage and heard the poignant beauty of that voice as it sang ...

“How could this all have happened?

What had He ever done?

And now to see you dying,

I’m dying too, my Son.”

They said later that people were sobbing everywhere. We didn’t notice. We were caught up too much in our own sinfulness and sorrow and the wonder that He should have loved us that much; and she, too.

They are Jerry’s songs, of course;

songs to his Lady. They come from her, through him, to the world, and like the troubadours of old, he crosses the country singing the praises of his Queen.

Most of us know the story of Jerry Morin and how Our Lady called him to Medjugorje and gave him his wonderful first song, *The Lady of Medjugorje*. We know how she spoke to him there and how his life changed. But we wanted to know where the other songs came from. And we wanted to know where Regina, the lady with the beautiful voice on the tapes, came from.

Here are the stories:

Regina Meyers is the Assistant Admissions Director at the University of Northeast Missouri, in Kirksville. [She is no longer there today.] It was on a Tuesday that a student gave Regina a song. The song was a petition, asking God to remove the bitterness from one’s heart. Hearing the song, Regina recognized the bitterness in her own heart.

Holy Spirit

May 25, 1993 – Dear children, today I invite you to open yourself to God by means of prayer so the Holy Spirit may begin to work miracles in you and through you. I am with you and I intercede before God for each one of you because, dear children, each one of you is important in my plan of salvation. I invite you to be carriers of good and peace. God can give you peace only if you convert and pray. Therefore, my dear little children, pray, pray, pray and do that which the Holy Spirit inspires you. **Thank you for having responded to my call.**

Over and over she said the words of the song, throughout the next few days. Then, on Sunday, she drove to visit her friend who had just moved to Des Moines, Iowa.

The two gals decided to go to a noon Mass. They found one listed in the phone book at St. Augustine's Church. Somehow they lost their way, however, and ended up at St. Theresa's Church instead. They stayed after Mass to pray, wanting to make up for arriving late.

Once again Regina prayed, "Lord, take the bitterness from my heart and replace it with Your love." Again and again she said those same words. Suddenly a man's voice broke in. "So, have you two been to Medjugorje?"

Jerry Morin had been to Mass earlier that day. Now, as he was driving past the Church, he suddenly felt the urge to stop and see his pastor. St. Theresa's was his parish. When he walked into the Church, twenty minutes after Mass had ended, he saw the two women kneeling in prayer. He had been back from Medjugorje only a couple of weeks, and his life had completely changed. He said, "I figured that any two people still in Church that long after Mass must have been converted in Medjugorje, like I was."

Regina's friend, Susan, was not only moving to a new town, she was embracing a new faith, Catholicism. The women were initially frightened by this young man's approach in an empty Church. Then, seeing his sincerity, Regina tried to concentrate on the question he had asked. She'd never heard of Medjugorje. She thought he was asking about "mystagogy," the final stage of the conversion process for a convert, that she and Susan had discussed often. So, Regina started talking to Jerry about the RCIA convert program.

Once the misunderstanding was cleared up, Jerry told Regina and Susan about Medjugorje and his experience there. When he mentioned the song he had been given in Medjugorje by Our Lady, and a second song he had been given just the night before, they expressed an interest in hearing them. Regina was especially curious because she was a singer, so Jerry invited them to his house, nearby.

Jerry had framed a picture he had taken of the sun breaking through the trees and shining on a wooden Cross in Medjugorje. It was the first thing Regina saw as she entered the house. She was vividly reminded of a time when she had been broken in spirit and had spent



Regina Meyers and Jerry Morin during their interview with *Medjugorje Magazine*, 1991.

three days in prayer at a Marian Shrine. The last day, sorrowing because she had to leave, she took a walk through the trees. "Suddenly," she said, "the sun broke through the branches and hit me in the face. I fell to my knees and knelt there sobbing."

Now, seeing that picture, she blurted out, "I've been there!" Embarrassed, she tried to mumble an explanation. Later, as Jerry began to sing, something happened to Regina. "It was like a light shot up inside me," she explained. "All the bitterness fell away, like chains would fall from your body. I literally felt it break off of me." She suddenly knew that this meeting was not by chance. She looked at Jerry and told him, "I'm supposed to sing with you."

Jerry was not convinced.

The next day, Rick, Jerry's sound engineer, called to say he'd been listening to "The Lady of Medjugorje," and had heard a woman's voice saying something. "I couldn't make out the words," he told Jerry, "but I had chills as I heard them." Immediately Jerry knew. "I think I've met the person who's supposed to do that," he replied.

Regina had asked Jerry to sing at Christmas Midnight Mass in her hometown of Kirksville, Missouri. While there, Jerry heard Regina sing and asked her to work with him on recording the songs for his first album and tape. He also gave her a rosary from Medjugorje as a Christmas gift.

In February, after recording a song, Regina was in her car on her way back home from Des Moines, listening to the studio tape. She pulled out her rosary and it had turned gold. "I almost drove off the highway," she said, laughing.

Vision at the Cross

Jerry's second tape, "To The World II," contains the hauntingly beautiful song, *At The Cross*. He told us the origin of that song. It took place on a Friday, one week before Good Friday, and Jerry was at his desk at work.

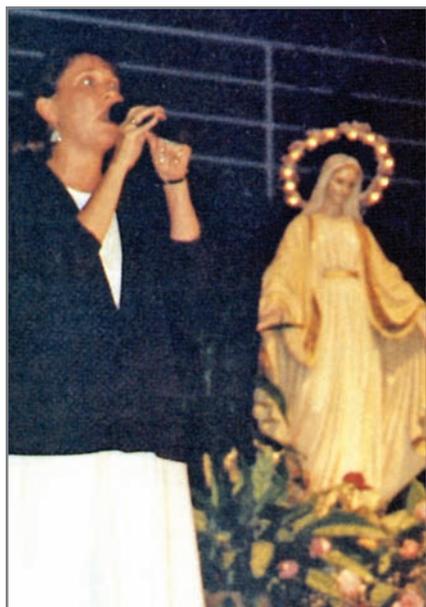
He began to enter a vision. He said, "I was up in dark clouds, looking down on a desolate area. I began to see the Body of Jesus, crucified on the Cross. He was still alive and I saw His flesh moving in agony. Hearing Him moan in pain, I was overcome with grief. Then I heard the words, word for word, as you hear them today on the tape.

'At the Cross, the lonely sadness, piercing to my very soul ...' They were Mary's words, yet I somehow was Mary. God had placed me in Mary, in her mind and in her heart. Through her eyes I saw the crucifixion from her perspective. God had given me this grace so I could write this song of Mary's, having actually felt it. They are her words at the Cross."

Jerry continued, his eyes closed, caught up in the memory of the vision. "I see them take Jesus from the Cross and bring Him to me ... as Mary. Mary is sobbing, broken-hearted. She is asking, 'Where is everyone? I'm here alone, with John.' Then Jesus begins to comfort her, interiorly, with the words, 'Very soon I'm going to stop your crying. You will see the fullness of My glory.'"

Jerry explained, "I knew Jesus meant that Mary would call the apostles to the Upper Room to see Him after the Resurrection, and when the Holy Spirit came I was transported into the future as Jesus said to His Mother, 'You'll call them all

(more on next page)



Regina and Jerry singing at one of the many conferences where they perform the songs inspired by Mary.

back together again,' meaning the children. I could hear all these voices singing, 'We'll be all called by Your Mother ...' It sounded like angels."

Jerry was visibly moved as he related this.

As this was taking place, miles away in her car on the highway, Regina sensed something was wrong. "I pulled over and called Jerry from a roadside phone," she said. "He read me the words of the song, **At The Cross**, over the phone. He was crying, almost sobbing. It was just incredible."

Jerry knew Regina would sing the words of Our Lady. He could actually hear the song during the vision. All he had to do was reproduce it. He explained, "It's not like sitting down and trying to create something. It was all laid out for me."

Two months later, Regina went to Medjugorje "to prepare myself to sing that song. I asked for the grace to sing the way God wanted, so people would really be sorry, would really think about what they had done. I wanted them to put themselves inside Our Lady and feel her pain when Jesus died for us."

On the last day of her pilgrimage, Regina climbed Cross Mountain, making the Stations of the Cross. She said, "I was so convicted of all I had done wrong that I couldn't stop crying. I felt this great sadness all the way up and all the way down."

Before singing the song, Regina said the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary

and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and prayed to feel some of what Mary felt. She said, "At the beginning, when the music started, I was standing with headphones on and a picture of the crucifix in front of me. I meditated as I listened to the music. Then I had the strangest sensation. All of a sudden I had her clothes on. I knew I had on a veil and a robe. The song just flowed. It was as though Our Lady was there engulfing me; like I didn't have control anymore over what I was singing."

Jerry added, "It was one of those times in the studio when the Spirit was weaving everything together. It was like cutting butter with a warm knife."

They said they receive more mail from people about that song than any other. Jerry said, "It's Our Lady singing that song. In a way it's a song of rejoicing – rejoicing because you're being purified."

Placed At Her Feet

During his first trip to Medjugorje, Jerry received instructions on the recording he was to make. Our Lady also told him to bring it back and place it at her feet, before he gave it to the world. The recording was made on a record album first, and Jerry returned to Medjugorje with the album. He was allowed to take it to the choir loft during one of Our Lady's apparitions. Marija, one of the visionaries, knowing nothing of Our Lady's request to Jerry, took the record album from him and laid it below a

painting on the wall. It was the exact spot where Blessed Mother appeared. The album had been placed at her feet.

On that first record/tape, "To the World," Jerry sings *The Lady of Medjugorje* and this tape ends with a wonderful instrumental of this melody. Listening to it after it was recorded, Jerry realized it could be a beautiful trumpet song. Jerry's father had been a great trumpet player with the big bands of the forties, and Jerry began playing the trumpet when he was five years old. However, he hadn't touched the instrument in twelve years.

Dad's Trumpet

"I thought God wanted me to play the trumpet for this song, and I knew I needed to do it on Dad's trumpet," Jerry said. "I hadn't touched it since he died in 1971, but I told my mother to send it." Jerry felt many emotions as he carefully held and cleaned the instrument. Then he started to play. "It was awful – really terrible!" he said. "I tried again the next night and it wasn't any better. I figured it would take me six months to play well again."

Regina was at the studio when Jerry walked in carrying his father's trumpet. She knew he'd been disappointed in his playing, yet there he was with the trumpet. "It's indelible in my mind," she told us. "It was Ash Wednesday and Jerry still had ashes on his forehead. He told them to rerun the reel; he was going to try something. I was sitting on the sofa, right behind the engineer and all the instrumentation. Jerry was standing in the sound room."

She continued, "Rick started the tape going and Jerry began to play the trumpet. We watched and listened, awestruck. Tears ran down his cheeks as he played. He had a look on his face that said, 'I can't believe the sound I'm making.'"

"When I finished," Jerry said, "I dropped to my knees, overwhelmed, thanking God. The trumpet you hear in that song was done only once."

Regina told him, "Jerry, your Dad was right here."

Later, when his mother heard the tape for the first time, she wept. She asked her son, "Are you sure that's you playing that trumpet? That's your dad's tone, not yours." His brother said the same thing.

Jerry's father died in 1971 but since Respond Ministry began Jerry had felt his dad's closeness. One day he heard his father's voice asking him to give his

whole heart to this ministry, in thanking for the prayers of his mother, which transported his dad to Heaven.

Jerry said, "I also know there are certain angels walking with this ministry and protecting it. Many people have been touched, been led. Hearts crack open and the Holy Spirit takes over. There's no end to what God does through His inspired music." He was quiet a minute; then added, "It's a responsibility, however. Sometimes I want to run from that."

Regina agreed. "It's hard to juggle jobs and get it all done, but we always figure out a way."

Sometimes people ask them why their ministry isn't full time. Jerry is an employee of a financial institution in real estate [At that time, not presently.] "There's a lot to be said for being in the world," he said. "People listen to those they relate to. If my ministry was the central focus of my life, people might ask, 'What's he getting out of this?' But keeping the balance is difficult."

When Jerry decided to make the tape, *The Queen Of Peace Messages To The World*, he planned for a woman to come from Davenport, Iowa to do the readings, with background music from the first two tapes. There was a snow storm, however, and things didn't connect. They had the studio time booked and were there waiting. Rick suggested, "Regina, you should try reading."

Regina hadn't even read the messages, yet here was another time when everything went perfectly, with no rehearsal. They almost finished the whole recording that first day. Regina asserted, "The words didn't seem to be coming out of my own volition. It's like it wasn't me saying them."

Miracle of the Bells

Several months before this interview, we had met Jerry and Regina in an airport after a Marian Conference. Waiting for the plane, they told us a wonderful story. Now we asked them to tell us once again the story of the bells.

"It happened at St. Theresa's, my own parish, where I first met Regina," Jerry began. "It was eight o'clock at night. I was giving a presentation and had just finished quoting Our Lady's message, 'These are my times,' when the bells began to ring. They sounded like they were everywhere. I commented to the people, 'Those bells sound just like the bells of St. James in Medjugorje.' We had been looking for bells to play at the end of one of our songs. Rick was there and he said, 'Those are the bells we need for the end of **I'll Never Let You Go.**'"

During the break, one of the parishioners told Jerry the bells hadn't sounded like St. Theresa's bells. Jerry mentioned this when the presentation re-

sumed. People began calling out, "That's right. Those weren't our bells." One woman said, "I live one block from here. I listen to the bells all the time and those aren't our bells that just rang."

Someone else added, "Our bells don't ring at night, anyway."

Jerry said, "Chills ran up and down my spine. Everyone could feel the presence of grace. I was very tired at that point, wondering if I could go on. What that did to my faith!"

Regina reminded him, "You forgot to tell them about the second time." She explained, "*The Servant* is played during a slide presentation. Jerry doesn't sing it. He just sits down at that point. In the middle of that song the bells rang again, right on pitch with the music."

Afterwards, Jerry asked the associate pastor, "Father, what's the story with the bells?" The priest answered, "I've never heard those bells before. I don't know – I don't know."

The Des Moines Register, a large local newspaper, heard the story and came to investigate. Like everyone else, they realized that when the regular church bells rang, you had to go outside to hear them. The story made the local news.

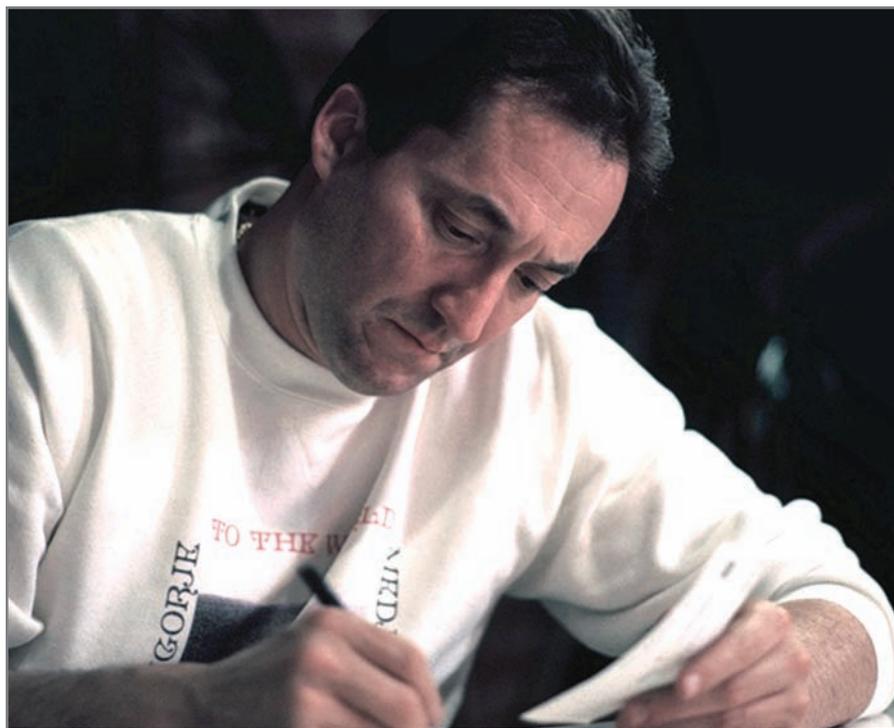
Heritage of Faith

Regina said they all feel blessed because they keep getting told what to do. "If we're moving in another direction, we get pulled back into focus." She agrees with Jerry that they've been called to witness to Medjugorje in a unique way, just as previous generations were called to witness to Lourdes and Fatima. "I know it's the prayers of those who came before me that brought me to this ministry, and subsequently also brought my brother and his wife, Kyle and Jill Clark, who now sing background."

Regina's mother is a convert. Her father has always been devoted to Our Lady, and they grew up saying the rosary. Her grandparents before them did the same. "Jerry's mother has been so devout, and has prayed the rosary daily also." Regina added.

They all believe in the prayers of their families, past and present, that help them keep up with a hectic schedule. When they recorded the second tape, Regina's brother left work early, she left work early, they drove three hours to Des Moines, sang for several hours, and then drove three hours back because

(more on next page)



Jerry finds a few quiet moments to work on his music.

they had to work the next day. "That was our penance," Regina laughed. "We couldn't record on weekends because they were all booked up in parishes and conferences across the country."

Both Jerry and Regina agree that if they hadn't "lived the story," they wouldn't believe it. Regina contends, "To relate it to someone makes it seem impossible, yet people believe it because of the music." Jerry added, "People experience the music telling it, and it gives them life."

They spoke of the many obstacles that have turned into blessings. Regina said that when making "The Servant," something malfunctioned and ate half the tape. It was in little shreds, but the recording turned out twice as good the second time. Jerry said, "It's all part of the purification. It's like a test, a barrier to overcome and keep going. We're sensing that somehow our salvation is tied into this ministry we've been given. It's not show biz, that's for sure. It's a real responsibility."

Regina interjected, "It's a real privilege, too. And if we say no, she'll ask somebody else. But sometimes my

prayer is, 'Can't you make it easier? Can't I get rid of this long drive, the problems of having to make a living? Can't you make the ministry a little less complicated?'"

"It's tiring, exhausting," Jerry continued, "The test is to carry these times with joy and to focus on the blessings."

Regina agreed. "That's right. Now I use those three hours to listen to Christian music and to pray."

Respond Ministry helped plan the Medjugorje Peace and Life Conference scheduled for Des Moines, Iowa, in May of 1991. Jerry made the visual and musical aspects of the conference exciting for everyone. He knew the speakers' messages were very important, but also realized that music touches people in a unique way on its own. The focus of the conference was to show Our Lady as the Mother of Life; she always comes to bring life. And the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was there, because she is the patroness of the unborn.

[This Marian Conference turned out to be the largest attended conference in the history of Marian Conferences in the United States, with over 10,000 peo-

ple in attendance. This was in spite of the fact that Des Moines, Iowa, is not the easiest place to get to, yet people arrived from all over the country.]

After two years of work, everyone with Respond Ministry is excited about their first video release in September, 1991: *To The World, A Call To Conversion*. It is the story of Jerry's conversion, interwoven with messages and songs.

We asked Jerry how he personally changed because of Medjugorje. He said Our Lady made him feel needed. He believes this is true for many who go to that holy village. "To feel needed is a basic human need. When we have that sense of fulfillment, we begin doing things we never did before."

He smiled, "We wake up in the morning with a new direction. We wake up ready to go. The bottom line is, Our Lady is waking us up to new life."

Right now, as this story is being written, Our Lady's Troubadour prepares to fly out on yet another weekend, to another city, to sing his songs in another parish, to another group of people, all eager to hear the messages of their Heavenly Queen. ■