

Helping you find happiness, health, and healing

Practitioner and Teacher of Christian Science healing

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About Beverly Goldsmith: Musician and Singer in Vietnam War.

Beverly's Christian Science healing practice began in earnest during the Vietnam War. Shot at, bombed, constantly under threat of danger, exposed to Agent Orange, malaria, disease, knowing of a colleague shot dead, suffering from fatigue, exhaustion, loneliness, experiencing lack of food, testing times, disaster, tragedy, and trauma, Beverly learned to successfully pray about every situation that arose.

Her experiences are recounted in <u>articles</u> she's <u>written</u> for the Christian Science Sentinel, <u>spirituality.com</u>, and in <u>Q&A chats</u>. These appear on her <u>web site</u>. Click on blue links to read her experiences.



Beverly and Robert Smartt, The Temple Two

While performing at a Sydney Leagues Club in early 1969, Beverly and her brother - known as the vocal instrumental duo "The Temple Two", were offered a job by a commercial agent who was putting together a group of performers to entertain American troops during the Vietnam War. The offer included singing engagements for the duo in other Asian countries afterwards.

Before accepting, Beverly prayed about the offer and whether she should go. She felt she would be doing a good thing for the troops, so the brother and sister duo agreed to join the show, 'Sugar & Spice' - a group comprised of a male stand-up comedian, three female dancers and the singing duo.

After brief rehearsals in Australia, the show flew to Manila and then into Saigon. Two days later they auditioned for a United States entertainment panel who rated the performance of shows and set the fees that shows could charge for their performances in Vietnam. Sugar & Spice received the top rating.

Next day, they flew north to their home base - a cramped 2-storey villa in a small Vietnamese village in the city of Da Nang. Beverly shared a rectangular, windowless, ground floor room with the dancers which had 4 doors, two double bunks and a bare concrete floor. There was no privacy or space to move around.

The group was not permitted to venture into Da Nang at all. When not performing on military bases, they remained confined to their villa for their own safety and well-being. At first, having to live in close proximity with each other 24/7 caused <u>personal conflict</u> amongst the group. Beverly prayed, and was able to restore peace and harmony. It was the moment she realized that every day she would need to practice the principles of Christian Science healing outlined in <u>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</u> by Mary Baker Eddy.



Beverly and Robert Smartt The Temple Two of Sugar & Spice, at Freedom Hill, Da Nang, 1969

Sugar & Spice,

sometimes accompanied by their road manager, undertook a gruelling 4 month schedule in a hot, humid, uncomfortable, exhausting, hostile environment. Two shows per day of more than an hour each was not uncommon.

They gave 133 performances in 120 days.

They travelled to bases in South Vietnam aboard helicopter gun ships, Hercules transport planes, Chinook and Jolly Green Giant helicopters, trucks, and jeeps - whatever was available.



Sugar & Spice with road manager in South Vietnam, 1969. Photo: By Beverly



Sugar & Spice waiting on a tarmac for a helicopter to pick the show up. Photo: By Beverly

As Australian performers who went to Vietnam with a commercial agency,

'Sugar & Spice' didn't have the benefit of organized <u>meals</u>, <u>protection</u>, accommodation, or transport. They traveled instead by whatever means were available.

Low on the list of priorities, they were forced to wait long, empty hours for a lift or a flight.

Sugar & Spice had two special friends in the 282nd Assault Helicopter Company "Black Cats" at Da Nang.



"Black Cat" helicopter

Sugar & Spice' entertained on US Air force bases at Pleiku, Phan Rang, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Phu Cat, Cam Ranh Bay; at remote fire bases; for units near Ban Me Thout - the Montagnards region,



in the Central Highlands; for the Army, Navy, Marines, Air force, Seabees at Phu Bai, Chu Lai, Quang Tri, and other locations in the South.

While on the bases, the four young women were not permitted to leave their accommodation. They had to shower and visit the latrine together under escort and the guard remained stationed outside ready to escort them back.

During the tour, Beverly struggled with 'culture shock' having never been in Asia before. She knew nothing of war, had not met military men from the USA, nor experienced the racial tension that was apparent between white and African-American servicemen in the 1960's.

One performance for US personnel showed the racial tension which troubled many American units. Sugar & Spice were performing to an all African-American male audience. The show ended abruptly when one of the African-Americans took offence at something one of the dancers said on stage during her solo. He stood up and gave the 'Black Power' salute, the place erupted, and a racial riot broke out.

The four women took refuge in a storeroom which was locked until it was safe for the show to leave the venue. However, as they departed, bottles, cans and rocks were hurled at them as they crouched on their uncovered army truck. read story of how Beverly prayed and remained safe in this situation.

Sugar & Spice successfully completed their 4-month tour of Vietnam by October 1969. Returning to Australia, the show disbanded and the Temple Two parted company.

Beverly married, and began a career as a music and drama teacher at Mannum and Marion High schools in South Australia.

Beverly also sang with a 4-piece band the "Nite Beats" based in Murray Bridge, South Australia.

Later Beverly retired from music altogether to enter the practice of Christian Science healing.



Beverly Goldsmith, C.S.B.

She became a professional Christian Science practitioner and commenced advertising her healing practice in the Christian Science Journal Directory.

In addition to her healing practice, Beverly also became

- a teacher of Christian Science
- a Contributing Editor, and author of over 140 inspirational articles for the Christian Science Sentinel and Journal, The Christian Science Monitor and spirituality.com
- a speaker for the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.