

TO HELP OTHERS ON THEIR WAY

MR. DANIELS

So, tell us, Mr. Johnson. How is it that you decided to teach English as a Second Language (ESL)?

MR. JOHNSON

(thinking)

Well... you know, my grandmother taught English to displaced persons or "DPs" as she said they were called, the refugees from Europe, after World War II, and she said that it was a life-changing experience. The story always fascinated me, so I chose teaching ESL as my major in college.

*The TEACHERS offer no comment
to this account and MR.
JOHNSON's exuberance soon
fades away.*

*Uncomfortable with the
silence, MR. JOHNSON turns the
question around.*

MR. JOHNSON (Continued)

Well, if I may ask you the same question: Why is it that all of you have chosen to teach ESL, and how is it that you have been able to continue with the profession for so many years?

*(up music: To Help Others On
Their Way)*

TEACHERS

IT'S WHAT WE DO
IT'S OUR REASON D'ETRE
IT'S OUR PURPOSE FOR BEING HERE
TO HELP OTHERS ON THEIR WAY

IT'S OUR LIFE'S WORK
IT BRINGS US OUR MONTHLY PAY
IT'S WHAT WE SWEAT AND PRAY FOR
TO HELP OTHERS ON THEIR WAY

TEACHERS (Continued)

TO HELP OTHERS ON THEIR WAY
AS THEY SAIL ACROSS THE SEA
LIKE SO MANY DID BEFORE THEM
TO THIS LAND OF JUBILEE

TO HELP OTHERS ON THEIR WAY
WHAT A LOVELY THOUGHT IT IS
TO SPEND A LIFE JUST DOING THAT
HELPING OTHERS ON THEIR WAY

AS OUR FOREFATHERS CAME FROM PLYMOUTH ROCK
AND OTHERS CAME FROM SPAIN
WHILE OTHERS MADE THE JOURNEY HERE
WRACKED IN SLAVERY'S CHAINS

THE NEW WORLD WAS FORBIDDING
WITH ITS SUDDEN WEALTH AND GAIN
BUT SOON THEY GOT THEIR FOOTING
AS OTHERS HELPED THEM ON THEIR WAY
AND WE DO THE SAME TODAY