

# TEEN GRADUATION!

BE A SAMPLE-NOT SELF-RIGHTEOUS-TEEN SOLDIER!

—By Sara

9/86

You've all had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have this special Revolutionary Discipleship Training at Teen Camp. The Lord has done many miracles in remaking & renewing & re-envisioning you adults & you teens alike, & the Lord has worked in & changed each of you. Remember the goals that you all set for yourselves that you listed on the board in one of your very first classes?

Now's the time, at the end of your TTC, to stop & take stats with your hearts & spirits & selves to see what you've really learned, & most important of all, what you're to do now with these many life-changing lessons & Word studies & good training! How can you put what you've learned into practice & be faithful with all that's been poured into you day & night for weeks? What do the Lord & others expect of you now, & what do you want to do now with your training you've received?

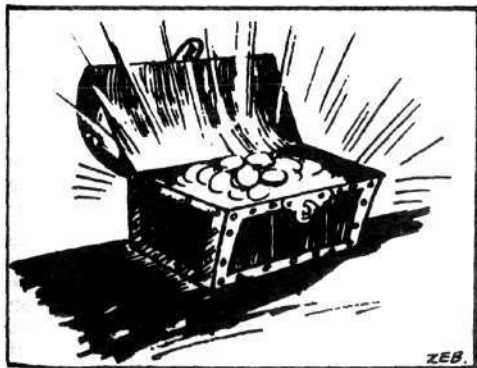
Everyone at TTC will go on now to new situations, either a new Home or field or your former, "old" situation, but as a new creature in Christ! You're all going to experience meeting brand new people & situations & lessons & changes from now on & for the rest of your lives. You'll all be in a new field even if it's your "old" field, because you've learned so very much in your time at TTC that now "old things are passed away & all things are become new!" It's a little scary, isn't it, to go as a new person into an entirely new situation, but the Lord's given you a new powerful tool to use to help you in each new experience that comes along! This tool is a treasure chest

full of important, basic lessons & Word classes & all that good basic training that's now stored up in your hearts that you can refer to & use like a "library of lessons". (—Read Matthew 13:51,52.)

We'll all find ourselves in many new situations for the rest of our lives, but after having had this Discipleship & Word training, you now have a very helpful tool to use, a "treasure chest of lessons" stored up in your hearts to refer to as a standard or reminder of the right way that a faithful, obedient, humble soldier of the Lord should behave & live & act. Won't that be a terrific help to you now? Isn't it wonderful to have all your notes & lessons & classes on paper too for easy review? It's important that you have united prayer together that you will remember all these important Basic Training Lessons for the rest of your lives (Jn.14:26,27) & that the Holy Spirit will help you to be faithful, humble servants & "doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

Now a very important point that each of you teens & adults needs to fully realize, is that things are never going to be like Teen Training Camp again. You can't expect things to be exactly the same wherever you go from here, whether it's back with your parents on your former field, or with them to a new field, or by yourself to a new field. Each situation will be new to you & very different, so you cannot compare your new situation to your Teen Camp situation. You may be in a stricter situation than Teen Camp, but if so, you'll know that the Lord placed you there & you shouldn't complain & murmur about it & compare it, or if you end up in a situation that is more lax, & not as strict or active, you'll know that the Lord placed you there, & you'll have to make sure you don't let your guard down & forget the good standard & habits you've been taught, but strive even more so to be a faithful sample of what you learned here at TTC!

One of the worst things that could now happen is if in your new location you teens act real self-righteous & proud because you're comparing everything to the way your leadership did things at Teen Camp. It's very important that you understand the difference, why the field is not like TTC & that the leadership here at TTC are not in the same situation as a field Home or the Home where you came from. (And this is ano-



their example of how you should put yourself in the other person's place to understand them better:.) The leadership, adults & teens at Teen Camp don't have lots of babies & children & visitors to take care of, like they do in field Homes, plus the hard work of getting Home support & witnessing & provisioning & writing letters, along with possible persecution, or having to move to a new field etc., & so many other ministries they have to take care of all the time! Teen Camp is a special situation which was solely organised for your benefit for the Boot Camp Basic Training Course! Once TTC is over, it's done & will not be repeated in field Homes!

"Old things are now passed away", including Teen Camp soon, & although you can apply & use the lessons you learned, like a tool or library of lessons to refer to, you should all be very careful to not be self-righteous in your new field & criticise or murmur that "things just aren't done the way we did it at Teen Camp!"

It's very important that you understand—(Are you listening?)—that the sole interest of your next Home will not be just you teens or Word classes or the care & training of you teens. Everything on the field will not be done just for you as it has been here at TTC, with so much inspiration, so many special classes & activities, skits & Pow-Wows. You won't continue getting as much attention & training because Teen Camp will soon be over. We can't continue to spend so much of the Lord's money each month on your training & the precious time of so much leadership. Now you will have to go out there & show us it was worth it!

You're graduating from the Course & will no longer be in such a special different-than-usual Teen Training situation. It's been an Intense Discipleship Training Course & a chance-in-a-lifetime opportunity that you'll probably never have again, so thank the Lord for it. It has been a once-in-a-lifetime special privilege, a gift that the Lord has given you to see what you will do with it, whether you will bury it or go out & invest it so it will bring forth more fruit.—We're preparing you in advance now to give you the vision to take full advantage of every moment you still have here in training, because it will not be this way for long, & will soon end, & you'll go on to "Bigger Jobs" of serving the Lord elsewhere! And the biggest job you could have is to be a faithful witness & good sample of a humble little person, faithful in all things, amen?

You teens must realise you shouldn't murmur or complain about any situation

you're going to find yourselves in in the future, because things are not going to be the same! They can't be. We don't have the personnel & the money it takes to continue this special course, & why should we? Don't you think you've learned what the Lord wanted to teach you & aren't you eager to go out there & use it for His glory? The wonderful "Days of Heaven" at Teen Training Camp have been a special blessing that many others have not had, & you should not expect at all to find this type of situation in other places & fields. You will not be waited on hand-&-foot & shepherded so closely, entertained & inspired & trained & taught, or probably even disciplined as much in your new location.

It's very important that you teens learn to humble yourselves & cooperate all you can in your new Home situation & try to be a sample of the Teen Training that you've had.—Not a sermon!! Maybe you kids from the States are going to expect your wonderful, special new situation in a field Home to be very close to that of the Teen Training Camp, but you need to realise here & now that things will probably not be so perfect or ideal or the same at all, so don't be surprised if you find this to be true later.

At TTC you have all been in a very protected, regimented, specialised environment for these weeks of training, but now it is your time of graduation, passing from one type of school to another & you're leaving this "school" very soon. You've finished your course here now, PTL! It's been terrific, amen? But now you've got to do something with what you've learned! Although you'll never again be in the very same TTC situation, you will have to put your tool or "treasure chest" of lessons & training to use in your all-new situation!

You of course will still need discipline, & get some, but even more important you're going to have to now discipline yourself! You will still need the Word, & will get some, but you're going to have to now feed yourself daily with the Word! You'll still need to be faithful & obedient & loving & humble & helpful, & get some counsel & guidance, but you're going to have to now be all these things of your own accord & not be so pushed & prodded & trained by others to do so! And we know you can do it, with His help! (Phil.4:13; Jn.15:3,4)

People will be looking to you as "products" or results or good fruits & graduates of this Teen Training Camp, so you are going to have to try to live up to it, & be a sample, just as you have looked to the Searchers as examples because you know

they've been trained by Grandpa & Maria, right? The sheep naturally look to good shepherds for guidance or an example of what to follow. So in the same way & for a similar reason, others will now be looking to you too, because you've been trained by Grandpa & Maria's trained leadership & now you are their fruits! (Jn.15:8)

Do you realise that your sample from now on, whether good or bad, will be a reflection on this TTC whether it is things you've learned here or not. Don't you think your parents & brothers & sisters & friends will look to see a change in you, an improvement & newer dedication & spirit & all? That's why we're going to have desperate prayer that you all do your best to walk in love & humility & obedience, to be a good fruit from this good TTC tree & bring forth more good fruit in others—for Jesus! (Jn.15:16) We know you can do it!

We're constantly going through changes like this in our life of faith! Let's take a look at a little seed, for example: The seed of the Word & seeds of good discipleship training & discipline & faithfulness & all these things have been planted in your hearts at Teen Training Camp. Just one little brown seed will grow gradually & change to a sprout, then a shoot, to a stem & then into a seedling plant right on up till it's grown into a big strong tree!

Just look how different a great big, green tree looks than a little tiny brown seed, & look at all the many different changes & growing processes it's been through over a long period of time, yet it all resulted from the initial planting & dying to itself in order to bring forth new life that bears even more fruit—and all that resulted from one little tiny faithful seed! That little seed just yielded & let the Lord do all that through it, it let the Lord use it!

In the same way, you teens now have the seeds of good training planted in your hearts & you will now experience constant change too & have to die to yourself in order to grow, & be purged & cleansed & pruned, & experience not only the sunshine & springtime, but rain storms & difficult winters sometimes, but through all these changes will result a good, beautiful, blossoming, fruit-bearing tree for Jesus! So you see, in the Family we go through many new & different stages of learning, changing, dying to ourselves, & growing, even suffering at times, but it is all for the same purpose & goal.—We want to bring forth fruit unto God! (John 15)

So you teens are now graduating, & will now continue to grow & change & learn as you near adulthood. Remember you still have lots & lots to learn & years of lessons ahead, & no one expects you to be perfect, don't worry! And don't worry that you can't make it!—We adults have thought we couldn't make it a lot of times, but the Lord has always brought us through! You'll definitely still make mistakes & "fall" a few times, & get discouraged at times, (Read Pro.24:16), but the Lord is with you, & He's faithful & He never fails! So all the glory to Jesus!

But one of the most important lessons to learn from all of this is that you teens should not expect others to be perfect either, & criticise them or look down on your field Home or our hardworking Family missionaries for their mistakes or trials & weaknesses, just like they won't expect you to be perfect either! Don't you have trials too? You're going to have to learn to sympathise with them & understand the trials & lessons adults go through, if you haven't already.

The Lord may deliberately allow you to make a lot of mistakes, too, to show you that you aren't perfect or any better than others! We are all men of like passions (or the same desires & ways) & the Lord is merciful & He "knows our weaknesses & remembers that we are just dust!" (Read Psa.103:8-18) So teens, please try to show the same love & mercy to others that you have been shown, & don't condemn or complain or criticise & compare them to your good ol' TTC. Be a "Holy Hole", just full of Jesus!

You're going to have to be prepared for many changes ahead! "The Revolutionary Rules" even tells us that "The only things you can be sure of are the Lord, hard work, suffering, constant change & joy, & 'whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might!' (Ecc.9:10a)—duties, study, witnessing, sharing, prayer, praising, sacrificing, accepting suffering joyfully, etc!"



Our whole life is full of changes & revolutions & we don't know in advance what situation we're going to end up in & what

It's going to be like, but you're going to have to be prepared for many, many changes to happen throughout your whole lives! You'll still always be in training, you haven't learned everything at Teen Camp, have you?—Because the Lord is always pouring out lessons for us to learn & grow & progress from.

In some respects things could even be better on the field than they are at Teen Training Camp, but you should learn not to complain if they're not, or if you don't think they are. Maybe in your new situation things will be somewhat worse or just totally different, but you'll have to learn not to complain if that's the case! Even if you don't think it's better, or even if you think it's worse, if the Lord has put you there, He must know that it is good for you! Everyone is always learning & growing in the Lord, so we're all always in training, & you teens are going to have to learn to live & act like real good soldiers now & be humble & submit to leadership, submit to & respect your elders & be a real blessing & teen soldier wherever you go, & to put all you've learned & will continue to learn into practice by being a humble servant, not a self-righteous sermon!

Things may be better, & things may be worse, you'll probably experience both kinds of situations eventually, but you teens should be very very thankful that you can be in the Family, whether you're on the mission field with or without your parents or whether you're back on the Home field. Be thankful to be of service to Jesus at all! You shouldn't complain & murmur that your new field or Home "Isn't like wonderful Teen Camp", but be thankful you're even in this Family & can do anything of service, & are on the field or in the Family at all & have a chance to be used of the Lord in any way at all! If you don't like where you are, try to be thankful anyway, & entrust the situation to the Lord & tell Him about it. But say, "Not my will, but Thine be done!" (Luk.22:42) He'll only keep you in that situation as long as He knows you need to be there.

Be prepared for things to constantly be changing in our Family! Look how our present adults joined as young people, many of them teens like you, who travelled & pioneered & sacrificed & eventually got married. They then had a whole new life to share together.—It was all new & they had a wonderful time! Then they had their children, & they still had a wonderful time, but things started changing quite a bit, & probably they couldn't spend as much time

together anymore.—They couldn't exactly have the same "romantic" situation when the baby (maybe you!) was crying every few hours to be fed, & they had to feed & diaper it & still get out witnessing daily, & continue having & raising children from then on!

Things are constantly changing in our lives & in some ways & times they seem better, & in some ways & times they seem worse, but things balance out. And the Lord knows that whatever He allows us to go through is good for us. (Rom.8:28) We all experience it & in our life of faith we must learn how to be abased & how to abound! (Read Phil.4:11-13)

"All things change, but Jesus never!" People's relationships change, rules change, ways of doing things change, environments change, people are always changing & growing & progressing, & sometimes they're backsliding too! You can't expect any situation to stay the same! You're probably never going to have a Teen Training Camp again & you're never going to be in such a controlled, special situation like this where you're getting so much attention & special training. You're going to have to start taking some responsibility yourselves now, that shows you're growing up! That's the price you're now going to have to pay for all of this attention & training you've had! You're going to have to go out & apply the lessons you've learned at TTC to your everyday life & grow up & continue learning lessons & help others too, most of all by your sample of love, obedience & humility! Teen Camp is a very special time of schooling, of education, of training & learning how to be a good, loving revolutionary disciple, so now you need to use it for the glory of God!

That's why you've been learning all these lessons, so you can use them, not so you can just look back on it as a nice remembrance of "the wonderful things of yesterday". Teen Training is a tool. You should look at the weeks you've spent here as a tool to use in your life after you graduate from here, & not look on it from now on as "the way things should always be". When you discover the field or a Home doesn't come up to the same exact standard, don't consider it's rotten & wrong: "Oh dear, too bad we can't be in Teen Camp all the days of our lives."—That attitude of comparing your future with "the old days of Teen Camp" is not right & it's self-righteous & means you think you know better than God & others what is right & best, & Grandpa says self-righteous people are the worst sinners of all because they think they're more righteous than God! They're proud &



critical, like the Devil!



**"The World's idea of righteousness is self-righteous perfection. God's idea of righteousness is the pitiful, hopeless, lost, humble, loving sinner who knows he needs God!"**

--MOP 111:39

This self-righteous attitude is something we need to talk seriously about as it's something you may be tempted with. We've had to drill this lesson into people who have gone from our house, & it's the same type of situation. Most people consider that being at our house is about the best situation they've ever had.—It may not be ideal in every respect, & they may have some trials while with us because the Devil fights them so hard, but it is a wonderful blessing to be here, just as Teen Camp is for you. If you are always in the center of God's will, it's the best place to be.

So when you go on somewhere else from Grandpa's house it's kind of like going from Heaven down to Earth.—You may be in for some shocks & disappointments & maybe disillusionments. But why did people who were at Grandpa & Maria's Home go somewhere else, why did they leave?—So they could use the training that they got while there to do a better job in their next place!

That is why you've been to Teen Camp, not to be shown an example of "the way life should always be" necessarily. Of course, the ideal is that you continue these good habits & attitudes & use the lessons you've learned in Teen Camp & study & live the Word. You do want to continue in those good ways, but you can't expect to be in the same kind of controlled environment & situation & can't expect things to continue with the same kind of leadership & the same kind of teachers & the same number of hours spent on you daily from now on.

Because you've been so privileged, there are two attitudes that you can take, one is to go & complain that every place isn't as good as where you just were, or you can say, "We've been so privileged, now it is our responsibility to use this good training. Now we're more responsible & accountable than other people to be a good sample & to use what we've learned in helping others & loving others & being more

loving & kind, & to make things easier for others & teach others." But not self-righteously, because since you've been to TTC you have to remember you were privileged to be there, not because you were so great, but because of this special situation you were blessed with, & that a lot of other people would have wanted to be there too but they didn't get the same opportunity.

So you teens have no reason to look down on other kids or adults, or anyone who has not been privileged with this good training & sample you've had, & say, "Look, you don't do things right! You should do it this way! That's what I learned at TTC!" See, the people whom you're criticising who "aren't doing things right" haven't had a chance to know & learn how to do it any differently, like you more privileged kids who've been at the Teen Camp. Remember from whence you came & the mess you were before Teen Training.—In fact, you're still a mess, we all are! Only Jesus is good & right, amen?—Besides, maybe the way they did things at Teen Camp isn't always the best way to do things on the field in a small Home in a different country with a different language, etc., etc.

So there is absolutely no reason for you to get self-righteous or proud of what you've learned & experienced! Do you get the point? That is the most important talk that is given to people before they leave Dad's house or WS, if they ever do, is this self-righteousness talk.

We told the teen girls who left from Teen Training at the Folks' house that it is not so important to do things just exactly the same as we do here. The most important part of their training was not learning a bunch of rules & laws that don't always apply to a new & different situation! Their job was not to go out & push on others exactly how we memorise the Memory Book or how to butter bread or wash the laundry or teach school or cook the meals. Those physical rules & procedures are good in many cases, but not nearly as important as the spiritual lessons & attitudes they learned, & their own sample of Love which is what they were expected to share most of all with others!

People are going to be looking at you & your sample to see if you've borne good fruit or bad fruit, that's what it comes down to! You are a "Sermon in Shoes!" Are you loving & are you obedient? Are you faithful & humble & kind? You teens' personal sample is what's going to show if the Teen Camp & your training was really all that great or fruitful or not. That is going

to show & prove it to people; you don't have to sermonise & tell them, "Oh, the Teen Camp was the greatest place we ever went to, it was the most wonderful place & you should be doing everything like we did it at Teen Camp!" People are going to make that decision whether they should do things "just like the Teen Camp" according to how they see the product teen of the Teen Camp behaving!—YOU! And the products or fruits they're going to look for in you are love, obedience, humility, kindness & if you teens live & show that good sample & behaviour!

**A SAMPLE NOT A SERMON**, Edgar A. Guest  
 I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;  
 I'd rather one would walk with me than merely tell the way.  
 The eye's a better pupil & more willing than the ear,  
 Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;  
 And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,  
 For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;  
 I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.  
 And the lecture you deliver may be very wise & true,  
 But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;  
 For I might misunderstand you & the high advice you give,  
 But there's no misunderstanding how you act & how you live.

When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.  
 When a weaker brother stumbles & a strong man stays behind  
 Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me  
 To become as big & thoughtful as I know that friend to be.  
 And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today  
 Is not the one who tells them but the one who shows the way.

One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;  
 One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.  
 Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,  
 For right living speaks a language which to

every one is clear.  
 Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,  
 I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.

If you self-righteously sermonise about it, nobody is going to want to go to a TTC if they may come out the way some self-righteous rascal comes out, proud, self-righteous & critical & always looking back at the good ol' days of Teen Camp, like an old bottle! In other words, what's the criterion & proof of how great & fruitful & helpful TTC was? How great your training was shows by the product that comes out of it! Read Matthew 7:17-20!

Just like we told the teens who were at Dad's house about how to treat their younger brothers & sisters: We said, "Now how are you going to act towards your younger brothers & sisters? Now that you've had Teen Training, they're going to be looking at your sample, not listening to your sermons & nagging & lectures! What's going to impress them isn't hearing how wonderful it was at Grandpa's house, but seeing how wonderful you are to them! That's what is going to speak to them, & encourage them to change & learn too! Your living sample is going to be the good fruit of your training! And then they'll think & see that it was wonderful at Grandpa's house when they see how wonderful & loving & kind & obedient a sample you are being to them!"

Remember this, teens: Be a sample, not a sermon, of a faithful, obedient, loving, humble, helpful, Revolutionary Teen for Christ, a guide who shows the way by his sample. What you do speaks much louder than what you say! (Phil.4:9) And we believe you can do it because you're the Lord's! **GBY!** **WLY!**



What major points have we established?

1. Teen Training Camp is a special different situation from Family Homes.

2. We should not compare our next Homes to the TTC or self-righteously criticize & murmur when things are done differently.

3. We may offer loving suggestions, but not be offended or upset if they aren't accepted for some reason.

4. If we really think they should be doing things differently but no one will listen or change, leave the problem with the Lord & let Him straighten it out in His good time. Pray, but don't murmur. If you're right, the Lord will work it out. Have

patience & pray & don't get bitter or condemnatory. That's even worse than what you think is wrong. Remember that you could be wrong, so pray & let the Lord decide.

5. We should expect constant changes in our faith life for the Lord!

6. We should try our best to live up to the standard & sample we've learned here & continue in good habits & attitudes.

7. We're to be a sample, not a sermon!—A Revolutionary Teen for Christ!

8. Prayer!—(Have United Prayer for retaining all the lessons from TTC: To live in the Word, & for wisdom, love & faith to be the living sample of a Teen for Christ!)—Song: "Make Me A Blessing!"

## TG for Our Teens!--Photos!

1. Etoile, (11-1/2) of Zac & Lamb, India.
2. Maria, (10) of Gabriel & Claire, Japan.
3. Kezia, (11) of Zattu & Mo'star, Japan.
4. Heidi, (12) of Sos & Ahlai, Brazil.

