



TO OUR TEENS: DO YOUR BEST!



-Sara D.
8/85

A Teenage Challenge

I was thinking & praying last night how we're possibly going to update our new teen on all our many many lessons that we've learned with the children here. It seems we've learned so many important lessons together, we'll never be able to bring them all to mind. But I was surprised most of all to realise how so much of the training here is composed of just little things.

It's not that often that we have a big major lesson, a major eye-opener or heart-washing or something, but it's just been a day-to-day routine of little things, even with David for ten years, it's been training in the little things. But this is what really makes the Kingdom stand & that's just like Grandpa has brought out in so many of the Letters.

The main burden I had was to try to give you the vision at least of what we're trying to accomplish here in our training. With people coming here for training we feel so responsible & accountable for having had so much & so many blessings & so many lessons from Grandpa & Maria, & most people who leave here are accountable to be used at "bigger jobs" when they go on to other places. So therefore it's a real responsibility to share everything we can with you & it's a big responsibility on your part, to impart this same kind of training & same kind of vision everywhere you go from now on!

One of the major things I wanted to talk to you teens about is vision because that's such a major goal. Often in my plans & prayers & lessons I share with the kids, the Lord reminds me, "Now, what's your vision here? What's your goal?" That's a very important thing to have in life, & certainly is in my life, because I'm trying to envision the children in so many areas & that's what you need especially in your life, now that you're older.

You're not just children, you're older, young adults. When you've been in the Family 10, 12 or 14 years, you're real leadership material. You've been more years in the Family than some of the people who are right here in this house, more than some of our adult leadership.

When David started getting older & then you teens came along, I realised that we've got to really set ourselves a goal, to prayerfully consider how short the time is & how old you are & how little time we have left to accomplish so so many things! This

sometimes is an overwhelming feeling, that there's so much to be done, & this is why I felt so burdened lately, that there is so much to accomplish. But the Bible says, "Without a vision the people perish." (Pro.29:18), so vision is almost your number one requirement in being here & in receiving any kind of training, whether it's here or anywhere!

In other words, if we just piddle & plod along day-by-day, just taking care of children daily, wash the laundry, put away the dishes, take a nap, sweep the floor, go to bed, etc., it's merely a mundane routine, dull & boring, & you're not really accomplishing that much for the Lord, although those little jobs have to get done. It all depends on how much vision you have for each of those jobs you're doing & how much glory you put into it, how much initiative & diligence & faithfulness is behind it because of your vision. Just like Grandpa says, pioneers must have vision & faith & initiative & courage to climb any mountain! Without vision all these little things are zero, they're nothing, they're boring, & for girls your age it could be very boring! (Girls: Yes!)

I remember very clearly when I first joined the Family that I was very busy too with the little things. The girls always had training in meal prep, kitchen work & doing laundry & cleaning up, & it was quite routine day-to-day. There was never-ending laundry to do, never-ending babies born, never-ending meals to cook & dishes to wash. But it was Alf, thank the Lord, who came along in my life & really envisioned me about WHY we do those "little things". See, Alf had such a glory in the things that he did, he has the "gift of helps" (1Cor.12:28), & almost from the beginning of his time in the Family he has helped care for leadership. He was a leadership helper just like we are now on the staff.

Alf witnessed to me & won me to the Family & only three months later we got married. It was sweet Alf who envisioned me with the faith & initiative & diligence by his sample of just really digging in there with all his heart & getting any job done! When he'd cook a meal he would put his all into it, he would make it look nice & he would clean the kitchen spic-&-span before the meal was done. He would always be on time & was always on the go & always happy & super cheerful & really challenged by every

job, no matter how little or menial it was. I was surprised at first to see they weren't big jobs, they weren't big things at all, & mostly accomplished on his own initiative!

He wasn't usually asked to teach classes or lead a big witnessing team on his own or anything, but he was a behind-the-scenes person, & without his faithfulness & diligence & his real vision to get a job done well behind the scenes, then the leadership were almost helpless. He was always busy cooking & cleaning & caring for the leadership so wholeheartedly & so cheerfully & so full of initiative, without hardly being told. He always saw the need before anyone even asked him to do it. He was right where the need was, helping wholeheartedly, cheerfully, willingly with all his heart, faithful from the time he woke up till the time he went to bed, & that was a tremendous sample to me! GB'm!

Especially when you're young in the Lord & even as young as you are, these things make a real deep impression on you spiritually, because I know that as a babe in the Lord I admired this in Alf & wanted to be more like him because of his very dedicated sample. He'd get his inspiration from the M.'s & stay in the Word daily.—He's no spiritual giant & he wasn't tops in memorising or anything like that, but it was the little things that he was so faithful & so diligent in.—The fruits of the Word & Spirit!

See, Alf had a vision—he could see the need: "The leadership should be hungry by now, they haven't eaten in six hours, I'm going to make a nice meal & have it ready for them by the time they're out of their prayer meeting." He was busy busy busy for the Lord all the time, & it'd "catch on" to others too. You know, our spirits are contagious, whether good or bad, & this is how I got some of my first training, is from Uncle Alf & thank the Lord for it!

I thank the Lord for it all the time because by nature, I'm kind of slow & more on the lazy side & a lot more selfish & not so considerate of others by nature as he is. But because of his sample, a lot of that rubbed off on me & it challenged me & turned me on & got me on-fire about serving the Lord, & I realised that I could make myself very very useful in the Family in any situation, if I just had that enthusiasm & that vision to try & use my initiative & faithfulness & diligence to the utmost in every given situation. "There's always a place for the man of gifts or talents, even if his only talent is to know how to work! There is always a good place for people who are

willing workers & work well." "If it's not worth putting everything you've got into it, it's not worth doing it! So give it all you've got!"

Make it a challenge, challenge yourself every day with that idea of just really serving the Lord with gladness & getting as much done as you can for the Lord & really redeeming the time & cheering others up & teaching others. This, I think, is what sparked my flame, sparked my enthusiasm & burden for our Family children, this same kind of vision carried over into childcare. At first I seldom got to take care of babies or even see any babies for a long long time because Alf & I were always pioneering new fields.

That kind of faith that Alf had in the little things & that kind of vision & enthusiasm & faithfulness in every way made him ruler over many things because he was faithful in the least. Soon after we were married we were asked to help pioneer & Alf had that same enthusiasm & vision & faithfulness & diligence in every area, in finding a house or winning disciples or teaching Bible classes or setting up a new Home schedule or inspiring the new babes! He really had that spizerinktum that carried on in both of us by now, & made us really enjoy serving the Lord in every way!

So I can say that those were my teen years, so to speak, because I grew up as a babe under his training. You've got to put faith into action, & we saw our faith blessed in so many ways, we saw so many scores of disciples won in Europe! It was the Lord & His Spirit bringing forth fruit in the Family because of that little seed of vision & faith, sparked by the MD Letters, of course, the Word!

I'm sharing with you that it's not my natural self to be so much that way, but Alf encourages me in that area because of his sample. See, I had to make a choice somewhere along the way in the Family whether I wanted to give it my all & really be what the Lord wanted me to be as his wife, or I could just plod along after him & ride on his coat tails & be "myself". So I made the choice! It was so wonderful then to later be called to help take care of Davidito & live with Dad & Maria!

And all that to say, this is the time in your life when you all have to make that same kind of decision. You've got to let your vision far surpass the day-to-day routine of things. I know we schedule you quite tightly & you've got lots & lots of physical workload in the house, the laundry, the baby, the clean up, dish put away, then we schedule some school time & then we give

you free-time projects to do so that even your freetime is taken up with learning typing & shorthand & making teaching aids & all. GBY & thanks so much for your help!

Yet you've got to pray for & hold on to the vision that all these little things that you learn here are your bootcamp & your training for what will mold your life & habits & attitudes for the future, your very soon future! You, right now at this age, if you haven't already, need to make a choice as to what kind of adult, what kind of soldier you're going to be for the Lord.— It's up to you!

You even have to make a choice in each ministry you're in as to how much you want to learn & benefit from it. We always have plenty of babies in the Family & everybody always needs you kids' help in childcare, & it's your most natural place to be because older kids & teens like yourself are naturally expected to take care of the younger brothers & sisters. We're always going to have lots of babies, so that's almost a natural place for you to be needed, whether it's your "calling" or it's just a big part of your day & something you're going to be held accountable for doing the rest of your life.

So you have a choice, & why not look at it as a challenge, "Well, I can sit here & watch the baby or toddler, or play tea set & then colour with the toddler, then well, maybe we can go outside & play." You can go about it in a "baby-sitter" type way, which is even helpful in itself because you're still freeing the mommy or daddy to get their work done for the Lord,

Or you can really pray & ask the Lord for more vision & more gifts & talents in that area to become a top-notch teacher! Why just settle for being a baby-sitter when you can learn to teach & train that little tiny child to be a future prophet & prince for Jesus! Our little ones only have seven or eight years before Jesus comes back! These little kids have a very very short time to learn all that you've learned & we don't have much time to teach them, so every minute counts. Don't you think you've got an awful lot to share & teach them? And if you don't, who will?

Day-by-day, little by little, if you just have the vision for childcare & the vision to be a teacher, look what you could do with that child, especially when you only have one child to take care of! It doesn't matter if it's 30 minutes a day or four hours a day or if it's all day long, you yourself personally have to make a choice, "The Lord has put me in this place, the Lord

has asked me to take care of this child, so Jesus, You help me to pour all I can into him every moment!"

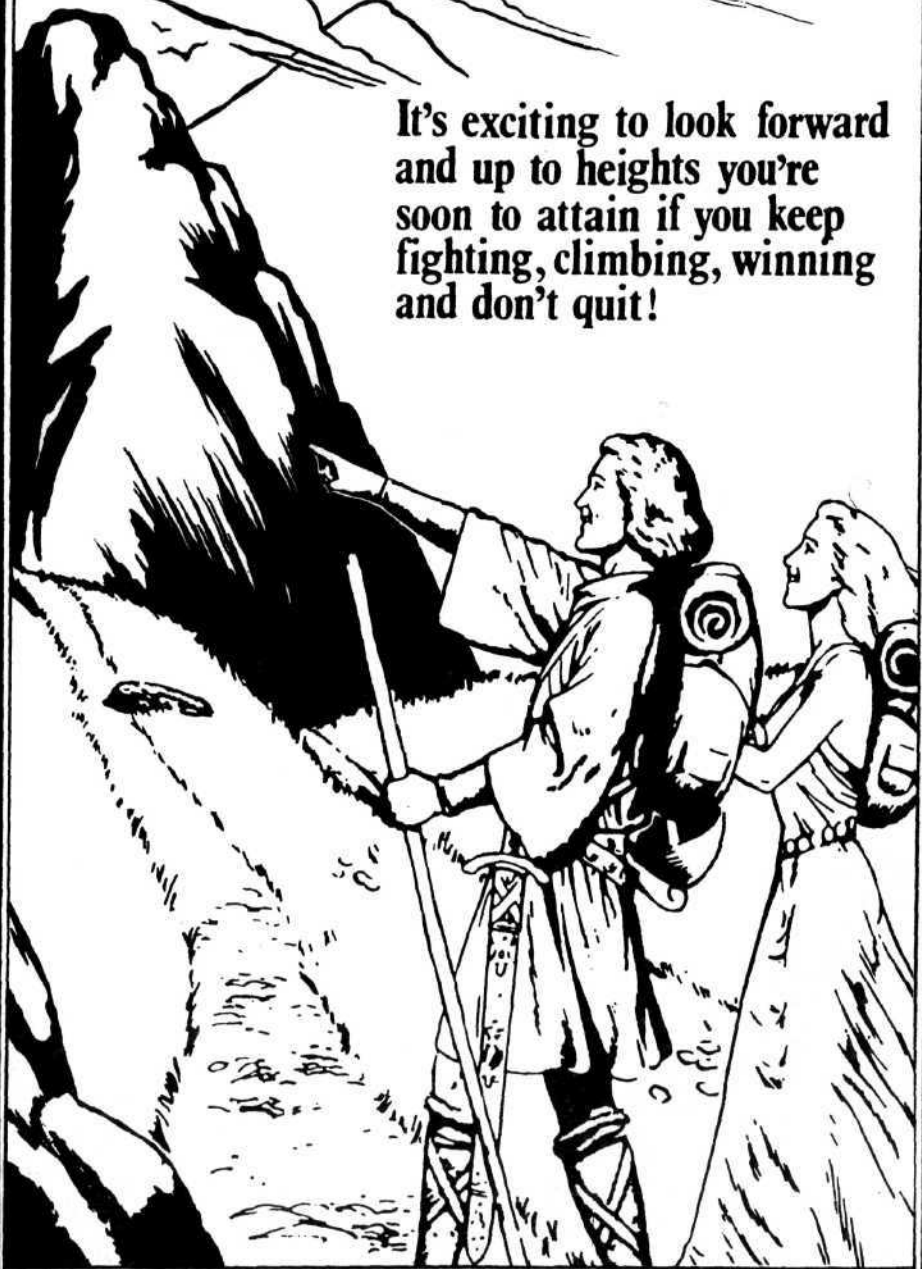
Nobody can push you, nobody can make you get that vision, but you need to desire that vision & faith from the Lord & His Word. You have to make a stand, a choice one way or the other how much you're going to put into each ministry & what you want to make of that child through the Lord's Spirit & help. Just think, you can pray for any gift in the World, you have access to any tool you want. We have Family pubs available to teach every given educational area possible, including all their schooling & childcare & cooking & kitchen & handyman & office work.—Every ministry in our Family is in print today. So we are without excuse, we have the personnel at our hand, we have the materials at our hand, we have the time at our hand, we have the golden opportunities at our hand, but it all depends on what you're going to do with it, see?

First of all, you've got to have the vision for it, you've got to make the choice what you're going to do with yourself. Do you want to just be a dishwasher & a floor sweeper & a baby-sitter from now till Jesus comes back? Or can you take full advantage of this training in the little things & instantly apply everything you learn to yourself, put it into action, pray about it, get on-fire about it & impart that same enthusiasm & faithfulness & diligence & initiative in everything that you do, & turn it into a fruitful, helpful service for the Lord?

You could read all the pubs about teaching children to read, & learn to teach every child you ever take care of to read by the time he's practically walking & talking. It can be done! You can do it better than almost anybody else because you're young & energetic & enthusiastic & babies love you because you're a fun change from mummies & daddies. You can teach the child to count, you can teach science, you can teach them the things you're most interested & the most gifted in, like the word & art & music & dancing. Those are the talents the Lord has given you & you don't have to hide them under a bushel, use'm daily by teaching others!

You can plant that seed in every little heart of every little child you take care of & they can be even greater artists & performers than you have ever been, see? It's just the same way that I & so many others desired to accept that challenge in my growing years in the Family, then imparted that seed of vision & faithfulness & dili-

**It's exciting to look forward
and up to heights you're
soon to attain if you keep
fighting, climbing, winning
and don't quit!**



gence in the little things to every disciple we ever won.—And it really paid off! All those early disciples were also trained in much the same way, "Memorise your verse, put away your clothes, wash your laundry, air your sleeping bag, take time with the Lord now, get to bed on time."—Just like I do for the children today, & just like those disciples are teaching new & knew disciples today!

That's the kind of thing that someone taught me that I could teach others that they are teaching others, & now they are World leaders & responsible for so many things because they took the challenge, they got the vision, they used their initiative to the fullest, they prayed for gifts, they got on-fire for the Lord & they went somewhere, they did something with it!

That's the way it is even in the World today, not only in our Family. There are always leaders & there are followers & it's really up to you what you do with your training, how much you work at it & earn it & feed on the Word daily & get on-fire for the Lord! We expect each & every one of our children to be a leader.—Why not?

So little things can be very great things if you look at them with a vision in your heart & take each task as a challenge & really apply every lesson to your heart personally & live in the Word! We always have overseers, we always have shepherds & people who help & guide us, TTL, so you're never really "on your own". So why not launch out to be a help to a mommy by taking care of their child & become a fantastic, indispensable blessing to a Unit or a Home by being not just a baby-sitter but a teacher & inspirationalist, teaching music & reading & writing & the Word & science & math & more!

Look at all the opportunities you have in this Home right now to learn so many different ministries—cooking & kitchen work, childcare, teaching, office work, etc.—If you take the challenge & get the vision & really give it your best, which I believe you want to do! I'm just trying to remind you that all these little things grow into big things but it's up to you how you put them into action, see? You can learn how to do every aspect of each ministry if you take it upon yourself to learn all you can & put it into practice & pray for wisdom & help. Isn't that exciting?

You have the opportunity to learn all those things from very good teachers, "Faithful Servants" who have been found faithful in the little things & have grown to be responsible too in big things.

Every child in our Family has the same opportunities to learn typing or shorthand, other languages, music & busking & witnessing in any language you choose to learn, etc., all depending on how much you put into it, see? And see how mightily the Lord can use you when you're willing & obedient & yielded to learn & grow?

So all these opportunities in the Family are available everywhere to every one of our people, but some people do more with a little than others do. It's up to us, all these opportunities are available to all you children, but it's up to you what you're going to do with it!

You can even shine in several ministries instead of just one. Why not do your best while you're at it? Why be specialised in only one area when you have many opportunities to learn & grow in?

I hope & pray that going anywhere else from here that you will have a completely different vision, a different frame of mind, a different outlook & different state of heart than ever before, because the Lord wants to give you His vision, the Lord is offering you on a gold platter right from the King's table anything you choose to excel in, offering you all these ministries, all these opportunities, the best training probably you could ever get anywhere. We know we're not perfect, & we are learning ourselves all the time, but that's just the thing about being here, is we are learning & all the time we're not just standing still.

The Lord is offering you this special blessing.—Now what are you going to do with it? How much vision do you have for it? If you were to go back tomorrow, how changed would you be? You should be asking yourself those questions. How changed would I be? What changes would people see in me? What would I do if tomorrow I went back & my leadership asked of me, "Oh, we're really busy, could you please take care of the two toddlers today?" That's not a very "glorious" return, or is it?

It could seem to you to start off the same old way, the same dally routine taking care of the kids, wiping their noses, feeding them, naps, washing their hands, do the laundry, do the dishes. Well it may be all the same jobs, but it all depends on how much you put into it & what vision you have for it! Would you plop down & colour & draw with the toddlers for an hour & then go play with clay & then go read a story & drag it out as long as you can & then put'm down to nap so you can finally do what you want?

Or would you have a new vision & a new outlook of how to really teach them & make

the best of their time & put into them what no one else has ever done before, because their parents are already busy for the Lord. Would you expect your overseers & family to see a real change in your childcare help, a real change in your cooking & a real change in your cleanliness habits & a real change in your relationship with the Lord & His Word & in your overall attitude of cheerfulness & willingness & enthusiasm?

Believe it or not, there have been some heartbreaking incidences where people have been with us before, sometimes for a short time & sometimes for a long time, when they haven't really shone for the Lord after leaving here, they didn't take the challenge, they didn't change & make the choice to be a David's Mighty Man!

There is a difference, there are David's Mighty Men, leaders, real fighters for Jesus & there are even leadership "little people" in the Family, real dedicated labourers for the Lord, really on-fire & challenged & cheerful & turned on about whatever they do, no matter what it is! And there are plodders & day-to-day, ho-hum, "Okay, what do I do next? Is there anything more I have to do?" People who just kind of drag along & do only what's expected of them to do & do only what they're told to do & don't really press-in & enjoy serving the Lord! There are that kind of people in all walks of life even in the World, in school, in the business World & in a group of friends.

Nothing ever motivated me to make that change in my life from being a selfish, lazy, self-centered, proud person, & I'm really being truthful about it—I dropped out of college four times, I had everything I wanted in life, but I eventually resorted to just taking drugs & dragging along as a big lazy zero. But I was fed up & disgusted with myself & that's why I was searching! That's why I jumped at the chance to join when I met the Family because I knew it was my only hope in life to do something with myself, especially for the sake of others, & it was the Lord's Spirit that sparked & spurred me on! TYJ! "My sheep hear My voice!" (Jn.10:27)

This is the vision we have for these children, that's why I'm constantly every day prodding them, teaching them & reminding them & encouraging them & trying to bring them out every single day to learn—it's that vision put into action, to have faithfulness & diligence & initiative, those three things, in everything they do! If you're told once & you're given perfectly good reasons why & someone explains to you

why & they give you the vision for that job with an enthusiastic cheerful heart, like cleaning up your room, then the next time it comes time to clean up your room you ought to dig in there & give it your best & do it the way you were taught to do it by good faithful people & carry that out for the rest of your life every time you ever clean your room! Just put a glory in it & do it for the Lord, do it for Grandpa, do it for others & enjoy it & pretty soon when you make that grade, when you learn these lessons I'm telling you, the Lord is going to give you greater things & greater jobs & greater ministries! How rewarding!

That's not why we try to be faithful in those things, for rewards, but the Lord needs labour leaders desperately in every way. And I have every bit of faith that our teens & children in our Family can outshine our adults far better & excel in every ministry, in every opportunity they have they can cultivate it into a top-notch talent if they've been given that vision, if they've been taught & led faithfully by someone, if they're challenged with the idea & they make that choice! "Here's a golden opportunity, now what are you going to do with it?" See?

Look at Grandpa, how he takes advantage of every opportunity for the Lord's work. Everything he puts his hand to do he does with his whole heart, the best possible way he could do it. If he's going to build a goodminton court, he's going to make it practical, simple, useful & he's going to try to get it done the same day the Lord gave him the idea! He jumps right in there, he does it wholeheartedly, faithfully, safely, prayerfully & it's done, & the next day he's right at another job, another project, another goal. You see? Vision & goals, that's something we should read in the MOP because it's really up to you!

There have been people, like I said, that have gone on from here who haven't done so well because they didn't take the challenge. They had it offered to them, they had the sample, they had the opportunity, they had the training, they had the discipline, they had the reminders, but they didn't choose to follow. "Many are called but few are chosen because so few choose His way."

Many are called in our Family, but very few are leaders maybe because they don't choose to be leaders, they don't choose to be faithful, they don't make that choice in their own life to be faithful & obedient in the little things, so the Lord can't trust them to be faithful in the bigger things. It's a big job, it's a big responsibility, but what a challenge, what a blessing to be



*I know they'll be
our flame. Our youths have
got it, they've got the anointing
and they're the new wave, the
Future, our tomorrow!*

*They're going to do it no matter
what, because they love the Lord
and they love me.
They're my treasures of the
Future! They know it, they feel it
and they'll do it!*

really on-fire for the Lord & really in love with Jesus & bringing forth fruit in everything you put your hand to do. How much better than being a stunted vine that grows yellow leaves & stunts the rest of the plant & doesn't really grow into a big strong tree bringing forth fruit every season. Every little fruit that a good tree brings forth can plant seeds in others & bring forth even more & more fruit!

All these little things poured into you, you can pour into the younger children & it won't return void because they're new models & new bottles & good copycats, & they're the easiest & best people to train in the whole world! You of course have to be a sample yourself first in the littlest things—being prayerful, keeping clean, don't bite your nails, keep the schedule, be obedient, etc! Meanwhile, even the big people will see that vision & goal in you & those children will be a sample to everybody who visits your house as to what their children should be like too. Childcare, like Dad said, is one of our very most important ministries of the Family because they are our eternal souls we'll take with us to Heaven. Our children are eternal souls, they'll reap dividends that you'll be profiting from for the rest of your life. You'll get the reward for all their labours if you're faithful to teach them everything you've learned.

Remember, "Without a vision the people perish" (Prov.29:18), & all these little things don't amount to anything if you don't have a vision of how far they can go, how important they are in your training. Although I'm sure you've learned some of these things before, we assume here that you've learned nothing & we try to start from scratch & cover every area in your training. If I sat & shared with you 500 little things a day, it wouldn't do you any good without the vision of needing that real faithfulness & diligence & initiative, that obedience & willingness & cheerfulness & getting on-fire for the Lord about each little thing.

If you were to leave here tomorrow, you should ask yourself, "What have I done with my life? What have I done with my time here?" You've got to pray to absorb every possible thing that you can, either for now or even the future, to really retain all your training & not only taking it to heart for yourself, but imparting it to others at every opportunity. Has this ever occurred to you before, about making that choice in your life & making that decision of what you want to do for the Lord & how you want to be for the Lord & all the opportunities that you

have that you need to take on as a challenge?

That spark & that enthusiasm, like in the Letter "God's Explosions", only comes from God! You've got to suck for it, you've got to desire it. The Holy Spirit is like a dove, if you repel the Spirit then it's going to go somewhere else where it's more wanted. So thus it is up to us to accept the challenge, to accept that Teenage Challenge!

You don't have the worries we had growing up, "Well, am I going to be a banker? Am I going to be a secretary? Am I going to be a housewife? What am I going to be? That was real difficult & a lot of pressure to grow up with in life, & everybody was always pressing you about it. Everything depended on your education & how much money you were going to earn. You couldn't "eat" if you didn't have a good System job & education & all these worries that come with it!

But you've got it made! You've got it all! The Lord's going to take care of you no matter what you do & you've got so many golden opportunities to choose from! You could be tops in every field & there's no reason why you shouldn't be. Why not? Maybe you're not really gifted in art, whereas she is very artistic. Maybe you're not as gifted in cooking or sewing as she would be. But we're not trying to have any kind of competition about it, we're all just striving to do our best for the Lord in every area we can.

You can really excel in some fields & still really shine in other fields. You can choose to be that way, or you can choose to do the least for the Lord & follow the schedule & only do what's required of you day by day by day. Jesus will come & you'll go to Heaven & everything's going to work out all right. But what have you done with your life? (Teen: Like the Letter says about how "To Be Faithful Unto Death", it's just to be faithful every day.)

Yes, you have to stir yourself up with a vision, it's something you have to constantly pray for, you have to constantly pray for the Lord to re-envision you & re-challenge you & "Lord, I'm losing that fire for You. I really pray You re-envision me & give me more faith & vision & initiative & diligence in every area." It all comes down to your prayer life & your desire, "If you will ask anything in His name He will do it!" (Jn.14:14) It's just a matter of asking & receiving, see?

All that faith & vision comes from the Word, it's the Word. "Without faith it's impossible to please God, & faith comes by

hearing the Word"; so the Word is your source of inspiration to keep envisioned. That's another real important point, without the vision you'll perish, & without the Word you'll perish. The Word sparks all the vision & faithfulness & diligence & inspiration, & initiative. You can't live on someone's glowing sample forever. I couldn't live on Alf's inspiration forever. I've got to get my faith & inspiration from the Word & the Lord!

Especially the children of leadership people who are good leaders in the Family deserve to have good childcare helpers in the Family, don't you think? They deserve to have someone who's going to teach their children faithfulness in the little things, just as those leaders themselves learned as they were growing up in the Family. They deserve the best, those children deserve the best training they can get because their parents are sacrificing them for the Lord, therefore the Lord wants to bless those children with good training, real top training & quicker & faster & better than ever, because the time is so short!

Dora & I are constantly challenging ourselves with new ideas & different ways to do things & sharing the load, so to speak, because we know that we have a big responsibility here & we want to do our best for the Lord & that's what I wanted to share with you. Do your best for Jesus! People who work here in this house like John, nobody's watching him, nobody's making him, nobody's breathing down his neck, nobody requires a work report of him every day. But I'll tell you, he is busy & he is faithful for the Lord! He's faithful in the Word, he's willing, cheerful, always the littlest person around who will just jump in & do whatever is needed to be done without always having to be told. You don't have to worry about him, he is faithful, he's diligent, he's on the job, & that's why he's here!

Why choose to be any other way? Why be content with anything less than the best? You get your reward right here on Earth, your reward comes daily with the blessings God gives you for that faithfulness. Your reward is right here on Earth day by day. Why just drag through the day doing your least when you can do your best & feel rewarded & fulfilled & accomplished & turned on & inspired!—That's the reward day by day for faithfulness.

It's a big reward to me every day that little Mary Dear will raise her hand & testify, like, "I have an announcement: My little pimple's all better!" When she makes a little testimony of faith like that I

think, "Boy, thank You Lord, she's learning & she's progressing, she's growing!" That's my reward right there! When I hear Grandpa praise the kids or have the kids do well in school or have them take a correction well & humbly & say, "Yes, Ma'am. I'm sorry." then I know that's my reward right there. It's a pay off day by day, I'm rewarded daily! I see the rewards of my labours face-to-face!

That's why it's so wonderful to work with children. They're actually much easier to work with than big people because they're so new, so revolutionary & receptive, they're so eager to learn. They can do more for the Lord than we could ever imagine or than we could ever put into them. But we've just got to do our part so that the Lord can do the rest & we don't have much time to do it. So TYL! Do your best for Jesus!

"When you're willing to be what God wants you to be, not what you are, but what God wants you to be, then He can mightily use you!" Are you doing your very best for Jesus?

"It Just Took Vision!"

Agostino d'Antonio, a sculptor of Florence, Italy, wrought diligently but unsuccessfully on a large piece of marble. "I can do nothing with it," he finally said. Other sculptors, too, worked with the piece of marble, but they, too, gave up the task. The stone was discarded. It lay on a rubbish heap for forty years.

Out strolling one day, Michelangelo saw the stone & the latent possibilities in it. It was brought to his studio. He began to work on it. Ultimately, his vision & work were crowned with success. From that seemingly worthless stone was carved one of the World's masterpieces of sculpture—David!

Out in the world's highways & byways are a lot of folks who others have given up on & who are hopeless & helpless & discarded, but who are potential saints. Oh, for the vision to see them, not as they are, but as they may become by the transforming grace of God!

—Told by Rev. James Seward