

TEEN LIFE WITH DAD IN HUNTINGTON BEACH!

by Hosea David



LIVING WITH TEENAGERS

A lot of our discipline centered around teaching new disciples to take care of household responsibilities. Their parents could hardly believe the change because they wouldn't touch a dish at home, but they would come over to our house & be doing dishes.

First we just had the cottage & the Club for all the boys to stay in. (Later we got a big house from someone who went away for the summer & left us this house for some months. That was where we were able to have some of these teens move in with us. Dad brought "the Ark" Camper there & Dad would teach there every day. But for the first months we just had the cottage & the Club.) At the club the boys had to take responsibility for themselves, they had to cook there, they'd help to do dishes, & so on, but we had to be a bit *selah*, we weren't supposed to let anyone know we were sleeping in the Club.

Before long we got up to around 10 boys at the Club. When we set up the Manthi House we had about a dozen young people that really lived in. At first it was about a half a dozen that moved in, & then it got up to about a dozen. It was added slowly, because some kids would sleep at home & come over in the daytime & go back home at night, but all day they'd be there. It was mostly boys &

about 3 or 4 girls.

One time somebody left their washcloth in the sink in the bathroom, their face cloth, & Dad gave a long big lecture to all the teenagers. (What would Dad talk about at times like these?) About responsibilities for taking care of things, & cleanliness. A lot of things which have come out in the Letters now. Dad has always been teaching us about taking care of our things & hanging up our clothes, faithfulness, etc.

(Did Dad ever spank any of the teenagers?) Well, he sure came awful close! I can't remember if he actually ever did it or not, I think he might have. I remember a few times with Lois (Honey), I remember him getting so mad with her he was going to spank her. A few times he almost spanked some, he came real close, but the lecture was worse! A lecture in front of everybody for a few hours was harder, having that in front of everybody was so embarrassing. Some of them were big teens then, about 18 or 19 years old. To try to spank them then was a little bit difficult, but he could sure get his point across!

You think it's hard living with one teenager, Dad had been living in the Ark (Camper) with us for about 2 years straight with about 6 teenagers, which was like sleeping in the same room. (How did you

sleep?) Side by side! Snugly! The Ark was less than 8 feet wide & 26 feet long on the outside, with a double bed in the back & the driver's seat in the front, so it didn't leave you much room. We had 4 double beds in it, a double bunk in the back & 2 doubles in the front.

So Dad was with all those teenagers all the time, so he was always giving us talks on cleaning up & saving water & taking showers. (Did anyone record those talks?) Not exactly. He gave us classes on Revelation & things like that & we'd tape'm, but not when we were getting lectures for things we didn't do right, such as taking responsibility. So Dad was quite used to living with teenagers.

A lot of the teenagers that came to live with us at Huntington Beach were spoiled, really spoiled, & they'd just go to the refrigerator & take a whole quart of milk & drink the thing down in one swig, the whole thing! All our milk was gone! It was nothing to them to eat a whole loaf of bread at one time! That was what they were used to doing at home, so when they came to our house they had to learn how everything was rationed, one for you & one for each one, a lot of lessons like that. Also we had to learn that you don't just do things by feeling, when you "feel like it". Teenagers go thru a lot of trials like wanting to stay up late, or not wanting to get up in the morning to be at devotions on time. So right away as soon as we all moved into this big house, they started learning the lessons, everybody had to get up on time, they had to go to bed on time, there had to be a schedule, they had to schedule the dishes & all these things. The first day Dad had a big organisational meeting which took all day, & he laid down a lot of the rules, & worked out the schedule, & everybody had to take responsibility. There was no fiddling around, it wasn't a game, he made us take it seriously!

(Was Dad directly there overseeing things?) Yes, he was directly there much of the time, especially for our daily class together after brunch. So if somebody blew it & they left their washcloth in the sink, they got a direct lecture that day at class time before all. You sure never wanted to do that again!

When they went out witnessing they had to come back on time. If you went out witnessing you didn't get tripped off just to talk with some girl or just go wander off down the road. Dad was directly overseeing, though he wasn't always there. It was our responsibility to set it up & run it day to

day. We were there on the spot for organisational things, but then he'd come in for classes every day. We made sure that everybody got up in the morning & went to breakfast, & did JJT, all these different things. It was up to us to do that because we were sleeping right there with the boys. I wasn't married then.

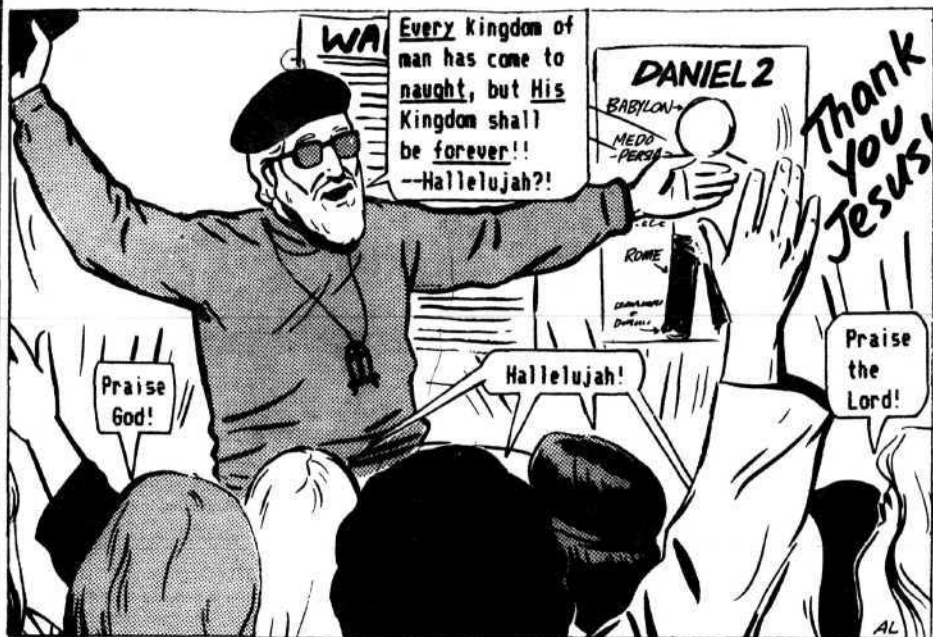
Faithy was 17 & I was 19, so some of these kids were older than us. Others were about 13 or 16, & a couple of them were 20 or 25, but they were all on the same level, it didn't matter how old they were, age didn't matter. They were teenagers, on the "team", so it didn't really matter if they were 14 or if they were 18, they were really on quite the same level as far as what they were supposed to do.

The girls weren't pampered any more than the boys. They had responsibilities to take care of. We had a girls' room & a separate boys' room at this big house. Before that we had the cottage where the girls slept & the boys slept at the Club, & they had to take care of their own house, their own clothes & so on.

Basically, a lot of the training Dad had to give them right off was how to take care of themselves. They didn't know how to cook a meal, they didn't know how to boil an egg, they didn't know how to wash their clothes! Some of them came from rich families, but some of them had been on their own & they hadn't had any responsibility in their home. From the time they were 12 or 13 they just blew off all parental restrictions or discipline. Even if they still lived at home, they would just flatly refuse to do anything, clean their room or wash the dishes or help in the home. They wouldn't do anything for their parents before they came to us, so it took a big revolutionary change to join the Team!

We had one boy, Happy, who was in the Marine Corps, & he would come on weekends, or whenever he was free he would spend his leave time with us. He was a teenager too, but he was used to more discipline, a more regimented life. But with some of the guys who were used to doing their own thing, when we became a little more regimented it was a bit of a shock. They liked to be "Spirit-led" about what time they were going to get up in the morning & what time they were going to go to bed, etc.!

Abner joined then & was older (19) & ready to take responsibility. Some of these other boys like David Z., I think he was only just 14 when he joined. His parents didn't care anything about him. They didn't care if he didn't come home or if he was out



"There's a cry of revolution in my country! There's a cry of hatred of idolatry! And the cry comes from the hungry, from people like you & me!"

Look, brother, it says right here, "Ye cannot serve God & Mammon!"-- Mammon is money, material wealth, things!





You know, we've got a little place up the road called the 'Light Club' & we've got plenty of sandwiches, doughnuts & coffee there.--And if you come tonight, my Dad's going to give a prophecy lesson that I'm sure will really blow your mind!



of school. He didn't have any responsibilities & the same with Jeremiah (15). He was one of those boys who didn't do anything at home, his mother couldn't do anything with him. He didn't have a father, or his father left them or something, so he was very independent.

Some of them were still going to school & they were still required by law to go to school. So long as they were required to go to school by the law or by their parents, we made them go to school & just come after school. Then if they could get kicked out of school, well, then they were free. Some of them purposely worked towards that goal! They'd take lit with them & pass out tracts in school & do as much as they could to witness in school, as much as they could get away with until they couldn't get away with it anymore & they'd get kicked out of school.

Jeremiah was certainly a man of action & a man of faults. He was about 15 when he joined. He was one of the younger teens, along with David Z. They matured a lot, learning to take responsibility in the home, do the dishes & clean the Club & things like that. The more they got into the Word the more they grew.

Some of these teens couldn't really read that well. Even though they came from high school, they couldn't read well so our knowledge & experience in the Word & our sitting down & sharing the Word was what really gave us our authority. We were there for Jesus & we were there to teach them how to witness & litness & we knew the answers & they wanted to learn the answers. That was the great leveler, witnessing, because it's not how smart you are or how much experience you've had in a variety of System things, when you go out witnessing then you find out if you know the answers or you don't, there's no two ways about it. So that was the thing that really kept you humble, because you'd say, "This guy asked me this & I didn't know what to say" & "What should I say when they ask me this?" & then we would go over all these things. That really gave them the humility to want to learn. Then the fellows who really knew, who had studied the Word & knew the answers, it gave them an authority in the Word that the others respected. So it didn't matter so much about the ages or system education.

EXCERPTS FROM "TEEN TERRORS"

"(Maria: Look who we had in Huntington Beach, they were almost all teens! Some of them were 14, 15 & 16 years old, but they were expected to carry the responsibility of

adults! They didn't get away with anything!) Nothing! And one reason for it was that I cracked the whip! I lowered the boom & I applied the rod if we had anybody that stepped out of line in any way! But we had hardly anybody do it because they were serious soldiers of Jesus Christ, not playing around!

"Our first teens in Huntington Beach— they were in the System all their lives, but look how well-behaved they became at the Club when they started living with the Family! (Maria: They knew it was a privilege to get to stay at the Club.)—To be where they had the Truth & Jesus & an opportunity to serve the Lord & help others, to preach the Gospel."

CLEAN UP

(How about clean-up at the Club after everybody left?) We all took responsibility, we cleaned the bathroom, the little kitchen area. (Did the teens really work hard to clean things or sort of slip through it?) We vacuumed the place & picked up all the wrappers from the floor. We would try to teach people to throw the wrappers in the bin.

It was a debatable thing at first whether or not to let them smoke in there. The church people would let them smoke when they had their nights at the Club, but when we had our nights at the Club, when we were trying to witness to these people & they were blowing smoke in our face it was rather distracting. So we put up a big sign, "No Smoking." If they wanted to smoke they could go outside & then come back in, so we didn't have the whole place fill up with smoke so we couldn't sing. Also so we didn't have to pick up cigarette butts. Before that they were burning holes in the carpet & dropping cigarette butts all over the floor. We'd have to clean that up after the church people & we didn't like that.

EXCITING LIFE & SCHEDULE AT THE CLUB

(What motivated the teens to move in? What really attracted them?) It was our life as a "team", & our witnessing. In our witnessing we were always doing exciting things. They liked the fellowship, they liked that we were working together. They liked the Word, Dad's classes that were teaching them Bible Prophecy. They had the vision, the Endtime Vision. We would have Bible Studies all morning, like a real long devotions, & then in the afternoon we'd all go out witnessing from early afternoon onwards.

Then about 6:00 pm, we would all meet together at the Club for dinner & more wit-

nessing. Our singing & inspiration wasn't so much just an inspiration for ourselves, because we would have devotions & inspiration in the morning. We would not get up so early because we had usually been up late witnessing, because the Club usually didn't close till midnight. The Club was usually open from about dark until midnight. So then we would get up in the morning about 9:00 or 10:00 and then we would have brunch. Then everybody would have Bible Study together or devotions at about 11:00 on into the afternoon till about 2:00 & then go out witnessing. We would go to the schools & witness & then all meet back at the Club at dark.

We would sit around then & share our exciting witnessing testimonies, have questions & answers, victories, then have our evening meal together, which was usually a one-pot stew or soup. Then later in the evening at about 9:00 pm Dad would come & teach a Bible Study. We would bring back provisioned sandwiches & we would have that with all the other teenagers together.

When the Club opened at 7:00 pm & the teens would come in, we would be witnessing to them & have someone singing folk-style songs. Different people would take a turn playing the guitar & singing songs. But it wasn't anything where everybody was raising their hands & doing a "praise the Lord" type of inspiration, it was more like singing witnessing songs. Esther would sing or Aaron would sing or Miguel would sing & they would take turns.

And then Dad would come down & teach classes especially about Bible Prophecy and against the System. After that we would have prayer, & that could take quite a long time with tongues, interpretations & prophecies. When Dad would get into teaching the class, then the people who weren't really regulars, who weren't there for the Bible studies, they'd leave. So those who had the classes with Dad were those who were quite faithfully coming for that purpose.

There were some visitors there at that time, but they were in the minority, so there would always be someone right there with them to be sure they had a chance to lead them to the Lord before the night was finished. Before they split, somebody would zero in on them & we would pray with people right there. Sometimes during the closing prayer, Dad would just talk to that new person & ask them if they wanted to receive Jesus in their heart, & we would all pray with them right then to receive Jesus, so everybody learned how to do it. It gave other people the faith to try it. What was happening in the room was quite informal.

One thing that was always a strict rule from the beginning was that everybody always had to come to all the classes & all the meetings. Everybody was required to attend. Even if people were having a little headache or a little tummyache, they were still required to come to the meeting, they weren't excused for little things. And going witnessing was required. You had to be sick in bed to not go witnessing, as well as to get out of household responsibilities & dishes.

The "Revolutionary Rules" really describe all the circumstances of what was going on in Huntington Beach. Our schedule was very tight. We were very active, there was not any time for people to just sit & lounge around. We never watched television or read any System books or read anything besides the Bible. We didn't go to movies or anything like that, go out on the town. We never even went dancing!

But then on Sunday afternoons, we'd have a big fellowship, which would be a big get-together, & it was just us & maybe a few people we'd invited along, those who were regularly with us. We weren't all living at the same place. We still had the cottage & there were still some boys at the Club & others of us at the big house, so this was the time we would all get together. We would try to have a big picnic meal we would take out to the park & have the fellowship & the singing. The boys would play football (similar to English Rugby). We kept the rules so as not to get too rough, "tag" football.—Hal! It was good "get-out".

DATING, LOVE & TEEN MARRIAGES

(Was there any dating?) No, no dating. (What about marriages, teenage marriages?) If people were really serious about each other & wanted to get married. (How did people get serious with each other if they never dated or got together?) The girls & the boys were living separately. We didn't want to have a competition thing where several boys liked the same girl, so if one boy was a little bit more on the attack to get the girl, then it would make friction there. But we could team up for things relating to the work, like sharing the word together or going out witnessing together or things like that, so it would work out. Some of us would go to testify in churches or sing somewhere or go out on a little team. But nobody would pick out a girl & take her to the movies, for instance, nothing like that.

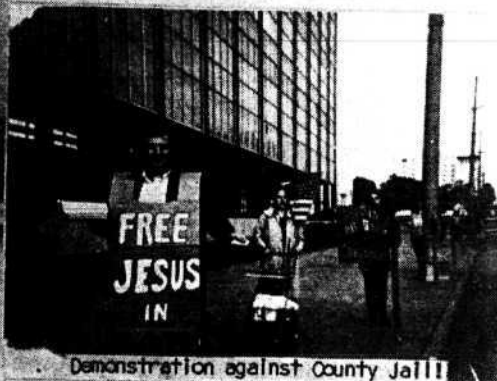
We were always reporting anything to Dad, so anything he felt was necessary to take care of he would take care of it right



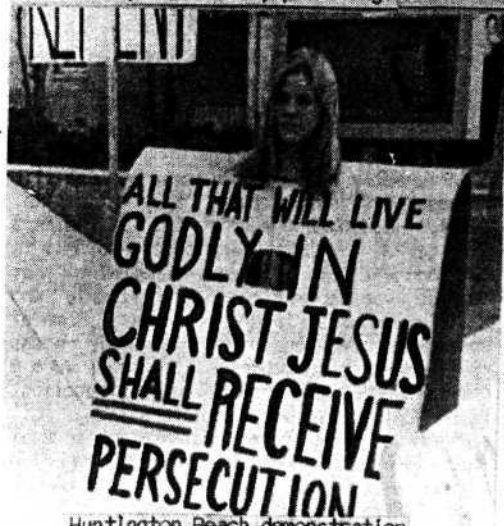
1968, Huntington Beach, Calif.—Dad leading radical band of Revolutionaries for Jesus in bold public demonstrations.—Taking Jesus & His Gospel to the streets for all to see!



[Aaron boldly picketing]



Demonstration against County Jail!



Huntington Beach demonstration



Faithy picketing in Long Beach—1968.

away. Dad would really use situations that arose to teach lessons, he was always doing that. (When people did fall in love, what would happen? Would they come & tell somebody about it or would word just filter up, how would Dad handle it?) It would become quite obvious that these two people had a special thing together, so then Dad would talk to them about putting the Lord first & about their responsibilities, that it was not a game, they had to be willing to take responsibility & be a team serving the Lord & that sort of thing.

It was not taken in a very casual off-hand boyfriend-girlfriend sort of way, like some teenagers at that age. "Going steady" is a thing, & they can become quite possessive of each other in that sort of way. That way of looking at it was not permitted. But if two people really felt that the Lord was really bringing them together, then they were allowed to go witnessing together & be on teams together & things like that, but not to just go off & have dinner together & do their own thing.

There wasn't any sexual sharing. The degree to which they could fellowship together was quite closely restricted, & explained to them for the purpose of not distracting them from why they were there, that they were there to serve Jesus & to put the Lord first & that this was part of their training, & that this was like a boot camp training, just like a crash course, & during this course was not the time to get involved like that. We told them, "Later on the time will come & the Lord will work it out."

To show you when it wasn't the Lord, some of the couples really insisted on wanting to get together, they really felt it was the Lord's will, they really wanted to get married, & so Dad would go through with it. In a few cases he would go ahead & betroth them, but those people were putting more their relationship together before serving the Lord, & some of those people didn't make it. We had the betrothal for Happy & Honey, that was one couple that came through. A couple of others got more wrapped up in themselves. We told them that when someone wants to go that far to get married, then they're ready to go pioneer on their own! They're not going to live in that same intensive training crash course situation. They're ready to start a family, so that's why we had to keep it at that restricted level at that time.

When we had to be ready to send teams out, pioneering teams that were going to go on the road, then it was really encouraged for people to team up & get married. But

prior to that it had been held back so that they really learned to witness & were sure what they were going to do for the Lord first & to be tried & proven.

BELLMETHERS

(What was the hardest thing for you?) The hardest thing for us I think was trying to get everyone to get along with each other & respect each other. They had respect for Dad & his authority in the Word, & they would have a degree of respect for us because we pioneered it, they were joining our "team". It wasn't like joining a big group or organisation, it was just us, just our family. They were joining our family, so we were the brothers there, the ones that were there before them. But then when different ones of them joined, there were varying degrees of dedication among them when they first moved in. Some were really diligent & some were not so diligent, & some really pressed in in the spirit & some were more casual about it. So getting them to have respect & understanding for each other & unity with each other, that common denominator, of being a revolutionary disciple & keeping that was hard. The thing that did it was the Word, really getting them into the Word, memorizing the Word & praying together & witnessing together.

Most of our time was spent witnessing, so we really didn't have much time to sit around & get on each other's cases. It was a very tight schedule, very busy, up in the morning, do the housework, have a brunch & devotions & then get out witnessing. So by the time the night was finished you were just pooped out!

I was 18 & 19 then, & it was pretty heavy for us because we really had to take authority over these guys & make everybody toe the line according to the Word, even though we were just teenagers ourselves. We didn't really look at the ages. Because with teenagers, a lot of them, they think like, "Well, he's 16 & I'm 18", & boy, that's a mile gap as far as they're concerned! But in our house it didn't count. The thing that counted was who was the most diligent, who could memorise Scriptures the best! Some of the younger ones could memorise their verses really quick & some of the older ones were a bit slower & were struggling & struggling. We had sets of verses & chapters then, too. For some of them it was easier & for some of them it was harder. We had to memorise verses every day, about two or three or more, & then review all our verses.

Shadrach was a bit older, I think he had been in the Army. He was quite tough. I

don't know if he had actually been in the Army, but he had quite a firm way of dealing. One thing we found was that teenagers can be quite strict with other teenagers when it comes to making each other toe the line. They wouldn't like to take it from an adult in the System, but between each other they could be quite strict & the other teens would take it because they would respect their authority, their seniority.

Dad would really emphasise the seniority. "This fellow has been here longer than you, it doesn't matter if you're older, he is in charge & what he says goes." Dad really laid it on the line so nobody would give the younger leader a hard time. Then if they didn't pay attention he'd deal with them.

PROVISIONING DAILY

(Did you provision food? Did you ever have vegetables?) We did get into provisioning fruits & vegetables later on. Mainly we would buy in quantity, like a box or two boxes of fruit so we would get it cheaper. Mother Eve was always good about that all our lives, getting the fruit & the vegetables. She would say, "If I get a whole box, then how much is it?"

As for provisioning, we found out they threw away all these sandwiches every night, because by law the ones that were unsold by the end of the day had to be thrown away. In America they have these little pick-up trucks & the whole back is laid out with sandwiches, & they'd drive around & sell them to people at the factories. They were packaged sandwiches wrapped in cellophane, all different kinds. They had meat, cheese, lettuce & tomato, & some of them were boxed dinners. We would go & pick them up for free.

I discovered this & made a contact with one of the truck drivers. At first it was just one guy & he'd give me all the sandwiches & we thought it was fantastic, a whole box of sandwiches! Then he said, "You ought to come to the factory, we have about 20 trucks & there's just boxes & boxes, all hot, straight off the trucks." We'd take 'em straight off the truck hot & take 'em straight back, & we'd get to the Club & dump 'em on the table & say grace & the hippies would dive in practically on 'em! We used to have so many that we'd put the ones that were left over in the freezer, because on Sunday & weekends we wouldn't get them, & on those nights we'd warm up the ones we'd saved & eat them.

LESSONS ON GOD'S PROVISION, FORSAKING ALL, & SAVING

When it came time to pay the rent on

the Club, we paid it any way we could. We went out singing & witnessing & took offerings if we could. We'd go to churches & get them to give money by telling them what we were doing. But the churches would hardly ever give anything. The kids who were joining didn't really have any money, so the Lord would have to do something special. Someone would get a tax refund or their parents gave them some money. When we had to start paying the rent it was a hundred dollars a month. For us it was a lot of money. Our expenses were a few hundred dollars a month.

When it came time to pay the rent or this bill or that bill, everybody would pray & we would ask, "Has anybody got any anywhere?" Then we'd have a forsake-all session & say, "Well, the Lord is always faithful to provide, & if the Lord hasn't provided by some other way it must be because somebody here has got it somewhere", & we'd maybe find out that somebody had a little stashed away for a rainy day & they'd come up with it, & that would cover it for that month. But their forsake-alls might be \$50 or \$100, not much at all! Then we'd sell some things, because practically everybody had things like a stereo set up or a stack of records we could sell. It was really hand-to-mouth though. Dad didn't have any special income from anywhere.

For clothing & things like that, & for people's personal expenses, we didn't give them any money, so they really had to trust the Lord. (Esther: One time Dad took us girls shopping in the department stores into the nightown section to buy some that we could use as outdoor long dresses, because we were dressed kind of real systemy. So he took us shopping for something that looked long & sort of hippy, psychedelic looking, that we could wear when out. Those were our first hippie-looking things.) The girls also made their things. Most of our boys' clothes came from other boys joining, because they'd have lots of extra clothes they didn't need. They'd share if they had an extra pair of shoes or something like that. And we'd always shop in the 2nd hand clothing shops.

So Dad was just as thrifty then as he is now, about saving on everything, being diligent about not wasting water, not wasting food. We didn't throw things away. If we had more sandwiches than we could eat we'd put them in the freezer. A lot of our lessons to the teenagers then was about being saving, about being diligent, about the care for the house, & our clothing, about helping out in the house. Some of our new teen members came from wealthy families



Huntington Beach, Calif.—Picket line outside Anti-Christ high school warning the wicked & calling the youth to "Revolution!—For Jesus!"



Huntington Beach, Calif.—Pickets for Jesus fill Court steps—"Signs & wonders" to thousands!

"Our militant attacks on System-addict religion & the educational & commercial system in general with invasions, sit-ins, demonstrations, marches, picketing, beach baptisms, revolutionary shouts, wild worship & real red-hot subversive, radical, Bible-teaching with the bare & naked flashing sword of God, really turned the kids on!—A declaration of spiritual warfare on the anti-Christ, godless systems of this World with a little handful of youth who took up the challenge!...The Lord used (us) to start the worldwide Jesus Revolution!...The Revolution was born in the white-hot fires of a soul-winning explosion amongst the spiritually starved youth of this generation, & a disciple-gaining movement of a salvation army on-fire for God to win youth of the World from pitiful hopeless lives of drugs, vice, crime, nothingness & uselessness to the thrilling exciting, inspiring, glorious life of love & usefulness to others in the Kingdom of God on Earth!" (167:14, 142:35, 3288:79)

& could always have everything they wanted in whatever quantity they wanted. So they had to be taught to conserve & be saving & sharing on everything. Systemites live so selfishly & it becomes a habit to think only of themselves, like in eating habits for example.

One of the first mornings at our new house where we'd moved in 11 of our new team members, one brother was cooking breakfast in the kitchen for everyone. As he finished cooking the 11 pieces of bacon, he brought it out to the table while he was finishing cooking the eggs. A new brother got to the table first & ate the whole plate of eleven pieces of bacon all by himself, not thinking about anyone else! You were only supposed to get one piece & the guy ate the whole plateful!—Dad was real mad, oh! After breakfast Dad gave us a long lesson on sharing, System selfishness, preferring your brothers, etc. Such firm, loving lessons really stuck with us, & you didn't want to be guilty again!

TALKING ON THE PHONE

Another thing we had was a pay phone on the wall in the Club. We didn't let people just talk on the phone, for instance, a boy couldn't call up his girlfriend & talk for hours, or even witness for hours & hours. You could invite them to come over but you couldn't just talk on the telephone. Some of these kids were used to getting on the phone & talking unlimited, but 3 minutes was the limit. (It sounds like you had a lot of rules for these teenagers.) Oh yes, quite a few! We had to have a lot of rules.

READING & LEARNING

(What about education? Did it matter much if anyone didn't have much education? How did you handle it if a teen couldn't read?) They had the Bible & they had to memorise Scripture every day. Because we were all memorising the same Scriptures they would have somebody work with them to review, to help them. We would memorise Scripture two by two. So it was quite humbling for those who were older to have someone younger helping them to memorise Scripture, but through memorising the verses they would also learn how to read the verses, & their reading would improve.

Reading was one thing, & reading in public was another, because when we'd go through a Bible study or in Devotions, Dad would read a verse & then have another person read a verse, & then go around the circle & have everybody read one or two verses. When you do that, one boy could

barely stumble through his verse & the next boy would read through his verses real well. That was another thing that really humbled the older fellows, to read out loud. But Dad would really encourage them to read out loud, he wouldn't pass them up. They would read & Dad would always help them over the big words that they couldn't understand. Nobody was allowed to laugh at them or anything, we were having a Bible study & it was an important class. We would help them with the verse & they learned to read & everybody would respect them & help them, so that would give them the determination to press in.

So reading orally all those times helped everybody's reading to improve. Everytime Dad would come across a big word, someone would ask, "What does that mean?" & Dad would explain what that word was, for instance, what is "predestination" or what is this word about "redemption", & Dad would explain. Even if people could read, reading the Bible was another thing, reading all the "thee's" & the "thou's" & many words in the Bible that were unfamiliar to them, Bible names & all that. Of course, Aaron, Faithy & I had been raised on that all our lives, so for us to read the Bible out loud was quite natural, but for them it was very difficult.

(So there was no real emphasis on education & high school?)—The whole purpose of everything was the Word & witnessing. People weren't looked down on because of a lack of education. We didn't have math classes or anything like that. Everything was organised around witnessing or studying the Word, such as Dad giving a class on Bible History or understanding Daniel 2 & 9 & 7. But other than that, the teens who were going to school would quickly lose interest in school & want to be out witnessing. Those teens were already in high school in at least 9th or 10th grade.

I dropped out of school when I was in the 8th grade at 13 or 14. Dad figured that was far enough. The thing we really needed was the Word, so he didn't really push the other subjects. The other things we learned was from our experiences in travelling, practical things. Dad could make a class out of everything in all types of responsibilities, just like he's done ever since in the MD Letters. (See "New Bottles", 251:1—10)

DAD, THE TEACHER & EXAMPLE

Dad has always been a teacher & has always been teaching us. He was always very good at establishing a real camaraderie with all of the teenagers, with all of us, not

trying to make himself the "priest" image in the situation, not trying to be the big leader. He would really get down on their level with them, all of us together & show'm how to do it, & he really went out of his way to manifest that he was becoming one with the hippies & with the teenagers, dressing like them, wearing outlandish things that would make sure he didn't look like a systemite. He wouldn't wear a coat & a tie, & he would use as many of the terms that the teens would understand that he could. So that made us feel he was not way up on a high level.

The thing about system parents is that they are always condemning their kids, nagging them, trying to make them feel humiliated. So the fact that he was always encouraging them, encouraging them to learn, encouraging them to read, encouraging them to witness, made us love him all the more.

Dad was always making fun of the System! "What did you learn at home anyway? What did they teach you in school?" He'd always make fun of the System like that. The teens knew how hypocritical the System was, so he was always making fun of the System to help them understand.

FOLLOWING DAD IS EXCITING FOR TEENAGERS!

Dad really made everything exciting! It was an exciting battle all the time. I think some of the teenagers today may lose their interest or zeal because their parents are a bit too settled into some sort of a conforming or compromising situation. We had those kind of situations arise & people would get involved in them, but the Lord would really shake us out of those things & get us back fighting & revolting & on the attack & getting persecuted & going on. So that kept us moving or we would have died on the vine. If we hadn't gotten kicked out of every place we had reaped the harvest in, we'd still be back there plowing dead old dried fields. But the Lord always managed to get us to move on, & He used Dad as the tool!

I was reading all the newspaper articles one after the other, there was one every few days for a few months, or at least one every week for about 2 months, with us talking to the Press & the churches blasting us & us blasting them, whew! Dad, when he talked to the Press, he really blasted them! The ire of the System was being raised higher & higher with each article & they were really out to smash us with all their might. Finally one newspaper said they were instructed not to write anything else about us in their newspaper unless it was negative, & to stop keeping track of our inspir-

ing events & reporting all of our radical activities. With the controversy & doing things unacceptable, & really blasting the System, Dad really went to this extreme to identify with the kids.

When some representative of the System would come to the Club, some church person or interested Systemite would come in & sit down in the meeting, he would just lay it all on them, all the ire that he had against the religious system would be thrown at a few little church people sitting on the back row, & the kids would really be eating it up, & the church people would be blasted against the wall. But that really gave the kids the zeal & the fervour & the excitement to really drop everything & just join right there & then!

There was no wishy-washyness. It was really all or nothing! And it's the same way now! It's really all or nothing. Like in "Builders Beware", if we stray from the pattern, that's our fault. But Dad continues to bring us back to the Standard. You can see how the Chain brought in other influences of more worldliness & more covetousness & more possessions & material things & all that sort of thing, & losing the pilgrim attitude & the pilgrim spirit. But that's the thing Dad's never lost!—Being a pilgrim & a stranger!—A revolutionary!

THERE & THEN FOR HERE & NOW!

TYL for this opportunity. We pray, Lord, that You'd help all of our teenagers today, that they will see that we have been through what they are going through. It is not so far past that we cannot remember our experiences. To us those things are a very real part of our lives, the key beginning of our lives. Lord, we thank You for the privilege You have given us to have had these experiences. We pray, Lord, that You would help us to remember & help us to relate any of these things that we can to be a help & be a blessing & be an encouragement to the other young people, our teenagers today, so they can see that they are not expected to be any more than what we are & what we have been through, & that they can have that same dedication, that same fervour, that same dedication to souls & reaching the lost, In Jesus' Name. TYL.

And we know, Lord, that many of the children being trained today are going to be teenagers when You come back, & when You begin to set up Your Kingdom on this Earth. Lord, I pray You'll help us to take any of these lessons that can apply & pass them on, In Jesus' Name, amen.