

# TEEN MATURITY & THE CHALLENGE!

--Letter from Faithy

What has puzzled me all along while reading reports about some Family teen terrors & backsliders is how they could turn against Grandpa, since he's the one who really lit the fires of this Teen Revolution & got us all going! He's the one who's really had the faith for our teens, & even overlooks their faults & teen frailties, his love covering a multitude of sins!

I know I believe in Dad, & would gladly lay down my life for him, & it grieves me that any of our teens would feel differently, when Dad's the one that had faith for me & helped me to serve Jesus as a teen, & ever since! Dad really knew how to love teens & get them on-fire for God! I know he sure did us, his first four children!

Dad just had a way of having faith in us that gave us faith in ourselves & that we could do what he & the Lord expected of us! Dad sure wasn't self-righteous. He lived what he taught--& still does!!!--Not the letter of the law & harsh enforcement of it, but real love for the Lord & the lost, & for us, always making us feel on his level, co-workers with him, team members, an important essential part of the team & really needed for the success of our mission! I remember one reason that I dropped my college scholarship & just dropped out, was because Dad said he couldn't do the job without us, & we just couldn't fail him when he had so much faith in us!

How did Dad make us feel like his friends & even equals, & at the same time keep our fear of the Lord in him at a healthy level? I don't remember feeling any generation gap between us & "adults", although I do know that we sure knew who was boss of the Team! Why do our teens today feel this generation gap, if that's what it is, when they resent the "adults"? I even married a man 10 years older than me when I was a young 15-year-old teen, & he was 25 when we were betrothed!

Were we more mature as teens then than our teens today who've been raised in the Family, & if so, why? I look at our 14 & 15-year-olds & remember what I was doing when I was 14, & am amazed at their seeming childishness. I had the responsibility of our home at 14, pretty much alone, except for the meals that Mom cooked. Then I went to help at my sister's house & taught myself

school & took care of Deb's house & baby! I just wonder if our teens today have that kind of maturity? I was 13 when Ho & I ran the witnessing booth at the World's Fair alone! Was it perhaps because our mother was so weak that we had to be stronger to help Dad & keep the family going? Maybe if we had had stronger leadership from our mother we might have relied on her too much & not have been forced ourselves to grow up so quickly?

I've felt this same way about a lot of the teen girls at the TTC, & really wondered what made the difference--why we were such serious-minded teens at their age, & it seemed to me we were more mature, & ready for leadership!

It must have been Dad's attitude towards us that really grew us up! Just like he's trying to do now with our teens in the Family! He made serving Jesus the most exciting thing happening & the System couldn't lure us because we had a much more exciting life serving Jesus than we saw either in movies or real life in all of our travels! We always felt superior to the Systemites, so what could they possibly offer us!

Why is the System luring our teens so, if they've had all the grounding in the Word all these years & an exciting life for Jesus, & been made to feel the responsibility that is theirs to carry on the Revolution for Jesus?

One thing that is different perhaps is that sometimes Dad would let us get a taste of the System, like letting us go to System school so that we would appreciate our home & Family! We would bring home our questions from school & he would expose the lies, & we could see that we had the truth! Knowing God's Word was an advantage over the poor Systemites at school. I'm just trying to fathom why some of our teens are getting sucked in by the System!

We were always raised in the Family, & although probably tempted by the System sometimes, like to go on to college, etc., it was never at the expense of forsaking our faith & convictions. When the challenge came over & over again, we always chose our family & Dad over the System, & went out to reach the lost! I do remember almost getting sucked in & wanting to take the scholarship & go to college at 15, being the youngest student to graduate from High School in that

part of Texas in 50 years, I was told. But Dad very wisely took us on the road that summer for an exciting road team of reaping & street witnessing, fairs, etc., so we could see the harvest of hippies & our generation so lost & searching for God & love. He then placed the responsibility totally on our shoulders, whether we were going to go back to college, or take this last chance to save the youth which were white already to harvest!"

I remember vividly to this day, sitting in that house in N.Y., & Dad having a very serious talk with Ho, Aaron & I & also Josh! The summer of witnessing & winning souls & travelling was over, & we were anxious to get back so we wouldn't be late to our schools & colleges, which were starting. Aaron & I had already taken our entrance exams & been accepted into very good schools. Mine was an excellent teacher's college, the best in the state. But then Dad called us in one morning as we were preparing to return to Texas & the Ranch, which was our home base at the time.

Dad sat us down & challenged us with what the Lord had given him that morning while praying about what we should do, & he gave us this verse that he'd received: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended & we are not saved!" (Jer.8:20) He then presented to us the responsibility of a whole generation, our generation, that needed to be saved, a lost hippie generation! He told us that if we didn't do it, who would? What if we knew that this was our last chance to reach them, would we go back to school, or would we drop everything & just hit the road with him to reach & help as many as we could?

I know that I was so moved by his timely plea & warning, that this could be our last chance to reach them! We ourselves had seen the desperate need, having just been witnessing in places like Greenwich Village in N.Y., preaching to crowds of hundreds of radicals & beatniks (they weren't called hippies yet), stoned-out on drugs, & Communists who were ready to burn down the System right in Washington Square, & other famous radical centers of the time, like Georgetown University, etc. where we would stay up nearly all night witnessing, even amongst the most hardened elements & very dangerous situations!

We knew the need was urgent, as Dad had personally taken us out to see it for ourselves & let us burn free witnessing to

them, so that our hearts were so broken for them, that by the time he challenged us to forsake all to go out & reach them fulltime, we were ready for it! I wept through the whole session, & I knew it was a real big decision that only I could make. It was a turning point in my life, & a choice for the rest of my life! We were now responsible to save a whole generation of teens & youth, our generation, we were just 3 teens & one 25-year-old ex-N.Y. playboy, gangster & explorer!

How did Dad convince us that we could do it?! Well, for one thing, a picture was worth a thousand sermons, & we had already been on the streets & in the squares & parks, universities & drug dens witnessing, & had seen phenomenal results from our tiny Teen Team! So we knew that something could be done, as we'd already had a taste of the battle & winning those lost souls! I think he got us so addicted to it that we were hopelessly hooked on it already! TTL!

We were really "fearless" as Teens for Christ, & just walked in where angels feared to tread, witnessing even to gangs & "Hell's Angels", etc. I remember in San Francisco, we won some of their "dolls" to the Lord, their girl gang members, & about 12 of them surrounded me & my partner & threatened to kill us. And how we prayed! I was with a poor little Teen Challenge church girl, & she was scared to death, poor thing! But then I just started to quote them John 3:16 & tell them how much God loved them & how much I loved them. I was almost in tears, & eyeball-to-eyeball with the leader, & suddenly he just told them all to let us go! We ducked into the nearest club, as it was all clubs & bars there, the roughest area of San Francisco.

We knew the power of God as teens, & had even faced death in the line of duty & saw the Lord protect & deliver us many times! So what's wrong with our teens who are such cowards that they are running to the System instead of jumping into the fray & the frontlines like we did, to save our generation, to be willing to fight & die for Jesus & lost souls, Grandpa & the Family!-- Are they just copping out for comforts of the System, & letting their generation go to Hell? God have mercy on them, because they know the Truth! They need to see that there is still a whole generation without Jesus, lost souls worth fighting for! PTL! ILY! Love, Faithy