



# NEWS —BY YOU!

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D.O.

Edited by Maria & the Zs.

More

## GREEN SHIRTERS

### LETTER FROM GREECE!

Speak Out!

Dear Dad & Maria, 15 Jan. 78

We've wanted to write to you for a long time, but we've always put it off. Well, we can't anymore. The *Family News* (Vol. 1, No. 2) brought so many things to the surface that needed to be brought out.

The following are parts of a letter we wrote to you six months ago (just after we came to Holland from Greece), but never sent. We were always under condemnation and thought that maybe we were listening to the Devil because we saw so many things that were wrong.

21/6/77: For a long time in Greece we were feeling spiritually dry and barren and bored! —Uninspired! At different times we were Colony, District and Regional Shepherds and also oversaw the work in Cyprus for a short time. Finally, we ended up in Athens as provisioners for the Bishopric.

One day while lying on our bed, we really cried out to the Lord and told Him that we just couldn't take it any more! —That we were unin-

spired and dry and felt like we were just going through the motions, that we weren't bearing fruit and that we were bored! We almost felt that if there were an adventure book in the room, we'd read that instead of the Word! We weren't even getting fed from the Word any more! (Because we weren't obeying it!)

Clear as a bell the Lord said, "If you're starved for adventure, read the FF Letters and obey them!" The Lord also showed us that we'd always been in some position of "responsibility" and that we'd always accepted it because it fed our ego and there was a certain amount of glory involved, but that His perfect will for us was to just litness and witness and learn how to keep our first love and win disciples and that He was waiting for us to choose to do that of our own free will!

Also we were sick of how spiritually dead our colony was and how it was just run like a dictatorship.

We were going out litnessing just like it was a system job, and the whole spirit was just to make money! We'd become so much like everything we'd accused the churches of! So many souls that were prayed with —it was just so the stats could look good. It wasn't with the spirit of really leading someone to Jesus, God's Kingdom, so there was no lasting fruit! It was like "Hamburger Boat" and that quote from "The Disciple Revolution": *"If this is not a life worth winning disciples to then let's save our breath and our paper and our legwork and go back to the pit from which we came, if we've become nothing but another money-making, just-make-a-living and merely-exist system like they are!"* (No. 328B:83.)

We felt that we and the whole work needed to "get back on where we got off". Well, we were so excited that we'd finally heard from the Lord (this was Nov. '76) and we felt like we'd just woken up. But when we shared it all with our leadership and told them that we wanted to stop as provisioners and just get out and witness and litness and start FF'ing and told them what we thought of the way the work was, they rebuked us and told us that they had had a direct revelation about us provisioning and that we were being self-righteous and critical of others, even though they agreed that the work did need to change. We tried to repent, but from this point on we started to lose faith in our leadership and feel that they were old bottles and being just like the churches.

We were sent to the city of Patras to be District Shepherds. We started FF'ing a guy who became a real good catacomber, helping us tremendously and becoming a witness to the whole town. (A single sister whom he had fallen in love with was the bait.)

Our Regional Shepherd came down and told us we should stop and absolutely forbade us to do any FF'ing unless we counselled every time with top leadership and had to wait days and days for counsel. So we just blew up and told him we weren't going to do what some old-bottle leader told us to do, and that if they didn't have the faith for us to handle our local situation, that they could bring in someone else as the District Shepherds. Well, we learned the hard way.

Meggido, Mara and Shaphan came down and blasted us with both barrels. That's when the Letter "Pisces" came out (while they were in our colony), and we told them that we thought we should apply it to our situation and that instead of only litnessing until we were blue in the face that we needed to have a proper balance and start making friends, doing more personal witnessing and FF'ing and trust the Lord more for finances, that if we're doing His will, He's going to bring it in.

At the time, litnessing was a full-time job in order to support ourselves, and there was never any time to minister to the friends and sheep that the Lord was trying to raise up. But if we'd had the faith to take more time to minister to them, then just through their help alone, our standard of living would

have improved and we wouldn't have had to go out litnessing with that oppressive burden over us that we were just trying to rake in the money to survive!

**We had learned to speak fluent Greek** while we were there (2½ years and Lily studied Greek for 9 years), enabling us to get to know and understand the people. We soon found that they have a real dislike of foreigners, owing to the way they have been treated by various countries since the War. They also very much resent that they are so dependent on the tourists' income. It hurts their pride.

**So we felt that a more personal ministry such as FF'ing was a sore need** in a country where so many foreign disciples (Americans and Europeans) are distributing literature, and no disciples besides us (except one other) spoke the language. (Everyone who goes there finds the language very difficult.)

**Greece also has only two full-time national disciples**, at least when we left last month (six months ago). They have each been in the Family three or four years and work full-time in Pubs.

**Litnessing is great! But we don't want to have to be slaves to it for our income** to the point where we don't have time to do anything else! The visiting leadership blew their stacks and told us that the "Pisces" Letter could not be applied in Greece, until we had a lit revolution and everyone was bringing in their quotas regularly every day.

**We were put on probation** and another couple came down to be over us. Soon afterwards, our visas

ran out and we had to leave. The people who were over us hardly treated us like we were part of the Family (Heleph & Mara). One time he called us "these God-damn mother-fucking sons of bitches who won't bring in their quotas" (when we were actually the colony shiners and supported the colony, whereas he found it very hard to litness).

**When we wrote that letter six months ago, we had just come to Holland from Greece.** We were really confused after the experience that we had had in Greece. Our marriage was a mess and our whole lives seemed to be in defeat. It all came to a head when Lily had a miscarriage, and then we seemed to start on a new life. Hallelujah!

**One thing that we can say is that we had never seen leaders with so much love and mercy toward us as those in Holland.** Even though we felt that the Lord couldn't use us any more and we were so out of the victory, they showed faith in us and took us into their Region and asked us to be Colony Shepherds. Our marriage is changing, and we feel that we can see straight now and are having some victories in our lives! We are now FF'ing two men, one of whom is a bank manager and a real witness at his work. His life has really changed!

**What we're trying to bring out in this letter is not just a slam against those leaders that we mentioned,** because things may have changed since we left. But there has been a lot of spiritual bondage in some places when the leaders discourage

the freedom that is in the Letters, and you are made to feel under condemnation if you suggest that things could be done differently. Just as in "Grace vs. Law", a leader with a real knowledge of the Word can convince you that you've been wrong and are disobeying leadership, etc., and keep you under the law, when all you really wanted to do was obey the Lord and have the freedom love and grace that the Word promises us. We ended up feeling very confused and that we were just hopeless problem cases and that we could have no faith in our own convictions or connection with the Lord anymore.

You can't imagine the freedom we feel when we read in the Family News about other people that felt the same way, and knowing how you feel about it. Hallelujah!—Lots of love, your children in the Lord,

—Mark & Lily  
Rotterdam, Holland

### Standing up for the Truth in STATS-KEEPING!

Dearest Rachel, 2 Jan. 78

God bless you for all your faithfulness to Dad, and the way you stand up for the truth so strongly in the face of our enemies! Your reply to the "Las Palmas Daily" was an inspiration and a real sample of "how to take it". Also your replies in "Time" were so straight and forward that even my mother could just about understand why we're doing what we do to win the lost!

Anyway, I just wanted to ask, what does one do to stand up for the truth within the Family? I just

came from a colony in which they weren't reporting backsliders, to keep from getting reclassified. The easiest way would be to just do as I'm told and forget about it and leave them off my report and not say anything about them, which apparently all my leaders do. But that doesn't seem very honest to me!

I've just transferred to Frankfurt, and now as I'm faced with writing my first shepherd's report, I find that there are six catacombers listed on my report, 5 of whom nobody knows very much about, except, as the former Shepherd tells me, they're four girls who don't want to really come around anymore and one guy whom they haven't seen for ages.

Well, maybe other Shepherds can fill in a 6 when there should hardly even be a 1, but I can't! So I finally got up to my Bishop and told



Deuel & daughter Rosy, 5, litnesing in St. Gallen, Switzerland!

him I didn't think I should write them down, but that I should clear it all up by reporting that they've backslidden.

**Boy, did he freak out!** He told me that his overseers would really get upset and get on his case, etc., etc. He told me how that once a girl joined with her child and they counted it as two new disciples, and later when she backslid and took her child, they reported two backsliders. He told me his overseer got on his case and said that the child didn't backslide, so they should have counted only 1 backslider, the mother!??

**So, his advice was that I just leave it all blank** and forget about them,

and if the KQC writes anything asking where they went, just to tell them I'm a new Shepherd here and I didn't know anything about them.

**What does one do** when faced with advice from his Bishop like, "Do you want to dig your own grave?", "For God's sake don't do that!", "So-and-so would be furious!", "Do you know what so-and-so would say?"

If I'm wrong, please tell me, because I'd surely like to know! I send all my love and appreciation for your faithfulness is such a great service and responsibility, and I pray this doesn't add a burden. Love in Jesus and David,

Deuel Gardner

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### **A LETTER of APOLOGY from two FORMER PRIME MINISTERS!**

Dear Dad & Maria, 28/1/78

God bless you! We love you both very much and can't tell you how thankful we are to be in the Lord's wonderful Family.

**We wanted to write a note to give our sincere apology** for the way that we so seriously failed you and the Lord. Please forgive us. Rachel pointed out to us the many mistakes, oversights and shortcomings that have taken place in Madrid, for which we are truly sorry.

**The new "RNR" is such a miraculous answer to prayer**—what a beautiful Letter! We are so looking forward to getting back to the basics. I'm sure going to the field is going to teach us so, so much and can see how much it's the Lord's design to keep us all young and close to Him. I'm sure all the kids on the field will be so inspired with the

changes coming from these Letters, the answers. What an explosion!

**Your sample to us as such a loving, concerned and sacrificial father** is such a convicting testimony of the love the Lord has given for us. We love you very dearly and pray that the Lord helps us to more closely follow your leadings and the Letters in the future.

**Once again, please forgive us for our failure.** We know the Lord is going to help us to change and are looking forward to all the Lord has in store. We only hope that the damage can be undone, caused by our lack of love and concern.

We love you and will be praying for you in the many decisions being made with this new Revolution.

Love in Jesus,  
Silas & Endureth



Keda (left) newly appointed KQS of the Pacific, with Esther New Wine & Sarah Wild Child in Australia

# “All I can say is- Thank You!”

3 Feb. 78

Dearest, dearest Dad and Maria,

I've wanted to write you a little poem, or sing a song, or just some small thing to try to express what I feel for you both. But each attempt is so pitiful and so inadequate.—I just can't find the words to capture what's in my heart.

I have never in my entire life had a more beautiful experience than making love with you both! I've never experienced so much love, and ever since I have just felt I'd burst with joy and thanksgiving to the Lord!! I know that making love with Tony, the Filipino, then his getting saved, was a direct fruit of your giving! Hallelujah! TYL!

Experiencing this love, freedom and openness has given me more of a burden than ever to see that our precious sheep are experiencing it too! It just breaks my heart, feeling and touching the way it should be, and knowing the way so many of our precious flocks have been restricted.

Maria, I have always loved you for your faithfulness and your obedience, but I feel that love has been sealed forever in my heart, and I love you more deeply than I can say. After making love, it just broke my heart so much—just overflowing with thankfulness that the Lord could

have such mercy and understanding and love on such a blow-it and out-right sinner like me, and allow us to get so intimate and actually express the love we feel.

And Dad, dearest Dad, as a song one of our brothers wrote recently says: “You are my love and my life ...I need your helping hand to lead others to the Son...” I love you with all my heart and really need you and the Words the Lord gives, to even get up each day. I can't live without you, and though I've felt and known this for a few years now, after experiencing the gentleness, beauty, strength and richness of the Lord's Love in you, I know it's like I loved you, but now I know I'm incurably in love with you! You're so dear to my heart.

I feel like I have so little, but I just wanted to give all and then more if that could ever be—to fit in just wherever Jesus and you need me. I had never in my whole life dared to think this might be possible—to get so intimate with those I love most on the earth.

All I can say is thank you!

Yours all ways and always,  
Keda.

(Editor: Read Keda's personal testimony, coming soon!—Her full life story!)

TOKYO, JAPAN:

# Lost Love... New Love!

Dear Dad & Maria, 1 Jan. 78

I love you so much! Your words from Him set me free, time after time! Just recently I came to a place in my life where my heart was so broken, I didn't think I could go on. The heartache was so deep and I'd lost hope. I had loved you and Jesus since I first met the Family about six years ago and tried to obey and follow, although I'd often found myself flat on my face from failure and weakness. But this test and trial I found unbearable!—

I had fallen hard in love with a young babe. We talked about getting betrothed, but a few weeks later, she backslid. I could only blame myself for her leaving. It seemed the love of my life was gone and I had caused her to leave. But worse than that, I had caused her to fail God. We tried to win her back, but she refused. The pain of the loss and failure to God, you and her was enough to make me almost give up. Each day was unbearable. I felt hopeless, but each day God would give me enough to keep me going one more day.

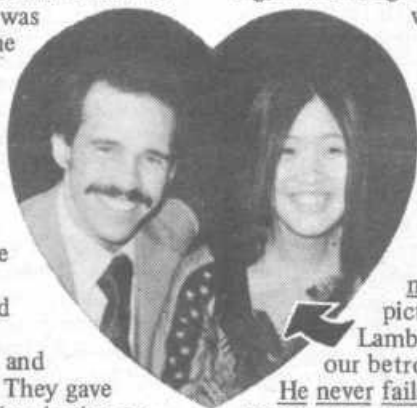
Then we received your Letters "Mothers of God" and "God's Witches". They gave me new hope and inspiration to

keep going and understanding of what was happening in my heart. I felt so far from the Lord, because of the heartache, thinking it was some great judgement for failure.

But when I read these Letters and you explained how sensitive men are and how easily our hearts are broken and how it can also break our spirits and minds, I began to understand what I was going through and it gave me hope.

Thank you so much, Dad, for sharing your love and life and words with us! They truly are strength to the soul and health to the bones. They've helped me so many times when I found help nowhere else. From the first time I heard them, I knew they were the truth, they went straight to my heart. Your words and faithfulness have inspired me so many times to just keep fighting, even though I'm so weak and

wicked. Thank you so much! Love in Jesus, Ahikam Silver; Tokyo, Japan. P.S. That happened 8 months ago. Then in December, the Lord gave me a new love! Here's a picture of my wife, Lamb chop and me at our betrothal! Hallelujah! He never fails! Long live love!



(photo by Ezra Milestone)