



NEWS
-BY YOU!

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D.O.

Edited by Maria & the Zs.

Letters From Former Leaders!

From Jethro, former KQC of Latin America:

Dear Dad, Maria, Rachel & Emanuele, 10 Feb. 78

God bless you all and greetings in Jesus' precious Name. It seems that in times like this it is often extremely difficult to really write you the kind of letter that will express my heart's meaning.

It seems that in the last two years (as KQC's of Latin America) we've made so many mistakes, so many blow-its, just not being in tune, not hearing enough and not listening enough. I want you to know that I'm really, really sorry. Please forgive me for my part in some of these tremendous errors which have affected not only a few, but hundreds, even thousands of lives.

I have been guilty of so many gross errors, gross neglects, falling short, unspirituality, drinking too much, being ununified with Deborah, being too hard on the flock, it really freaks me out sometimes when I think about it. It's awful, disgusting! I didn't deserve to serve as a KQC.

I can't even begin to confess all the mistakes, blunders, faults and failings I've done in two years, it would take a book: freaking out

over our blob colony in Lima but not being able to do anything about it because of not being able to get together with Deborah, then over-reacting in other areas and freaking others out because of my own frustration, etc. I've also been guilty of being the "big luxury leader" as you mention in "RNR" and not being careful enough with the finances, maybe sometimes as a retreat because of the problems or whatever. I was wrong, and by the grace of God I'm going to try to right it all. And may God help me to change and get back to Him and the basics.

We've been out witnessing and FF'ing almost every night for the last two weeks. I feel I've really failed in this in not getting out very much, and we're really trying harder. It's been such a blessing to get personally involved in people's lives and helping them to come closer to the Lord.

Reactions to the "RNR": You can't imagine how much I flipped out and how relieved I was and how happy I was when I read the Letter. I want you to know from the bottom of my heart that I think it is

wonderful, fantastic and I couldn't agree more totally with every one of your suggestions in that Letter. As I just wrote in a note to Deborah: "I am thankful for these changes in the "RNR" Revolution, even if one of those changes is me." I want you to know that I want to cooperate and to help see them done in whatever manner I can be a blessing and a help.

Love, Jethro.

From Lydia, former KQC of Pacific & North America:

Dear David & Maria, 22 Nov. 77

I love you so very much and want to thank you for your counsel and what you received from the Lord. I hardly know how to express how I feel, especially as I am still going through these changes and getting my spiritual eyes and heart back into focus, cleansed by the Word and faith restored and strengthened.

I hadn't realised that Josh had had that much influence on me and I am still seeing these things. After reading "Bewitched", I saw how things have happened to me. As Deborah was in the Letter, I too was "fascinated" with Josh, since coming back to the Pacific from visiting you, and it's something too I guess I have always done, since before he was my over-shepherd always. I have no excuse, I know, because of the time I was with you and all you had to share, but like Deb, I wasn't in tune with you and the checks you were giving and had given.

I've been seeing these things for a long time, but I haven't had the strength, faith and conviction to

stand on the things the Lord gave me and to really deal with the situation. I feel that I've also had a fear of man more than of the Lord. I have had in the past a real fear of Josh. I see I try to be too nice and friendly when you can't when it comes to disobedience and leadership.

When I was reading the latest Spirit Letters, it made me realise how much depends on who you yield to. Although I don't understand it all, I know I just fell back into being yielded to their spirit and I see Caleb did too with Josh. Having fear of man and of the law has influenced me instead of having faith in the Lord and His Word. I was more in tune with Josh's and Caleb's spirit and the Law than the Lord's Spirit upon my life.

When Faithy prayed for me, she prayed that I would have faith in your love and prayed for faith for me. I knew and still know that I had to really get desperate and to the depths of my heart if the Lord was going to really be able to change me. It's like I need to open up, as you said, and break down and confess so the Lord can make me anew.

I pray for your prayers and am so thankful to you for the Lord's Love and help. I want the Lord's will and His Spirit and to surrender my all. I ask for your forgiveness and the Lord's and for help to start over. I love you so and want all these things gone and completely forsaken so I can love you with a new, real and complete love like never before.

Love always,

Lydia.

From Martha & Imrah, former P.M.'s of N. Europe:

Dearest Dad & Maria,

Well, we have at last all arrived in Athens, Greece and the weather is just beautiful! It is quite a radical change from northern Europe, but we are all learning to adjust ourselves. It's such a refreshing change to be out from under the weight of so much administration. We even refused to be the Home Servants of our little Home here, but chose another married couple instead.

We have more than enough to do with caring for our four children, litnessing daily, FF'ing three nights a week and learning a new language. Imrah and I are just trying to get

our little Home together and do what God wants us to do. We are learning some Greek songs that we can teach the children to take them cafe singing. The Greeks just love children, so we're going to major on these little blessings. I think they'll be some of our greatest tools.

The "RNR" has changed all of our lives for the better and we wouldn't have it any other way. It's such a blessing to be in a new field, pioneering once again. We wanted to let you know how much we love and appreciate you. I miss you so very much but I'll stay close through the words. Love and kisses from your little birdie,

—Martha (& Imrah too)

LATIN AMERICA:

What FF'ing was like before the 'RNR'!

—A Report from Shaul & Abiah, KQS's of Latin America!

Dearest Dad & Maria, 4 Feb. 78

I just finished reading Deb and Isaiah's report on her big Peruvian fish, and I wanted to write my reactions and a few observations on FF'ing in general in Latin America.

We ourselves, sad to say, did not have any real heavy FF experience in Latin America and can blame no one but ourselves, as we believe the counsel in the Letters is as plain as day, so that we and others like us are without excuse. Although a few things were done that discouraged FF'ing, it only proves to me that we were looking too much to man and his inspiration (or lack of it) rather than to the Lord and the

heavenly counsel already written down.

Many on the field waited on us, but the ones who did meet the most success were those who ventured out on their own, encouraged only by the Lord and His Letters. So Lord forgive us and those like us who didn't trust you and the Letters over our overseers enough to venture out. Even if it meant disapproval or losing a title, our obedience to the Letters must come first!

Deb's report, though showing that she is meeting some success in FF'ing, also shows a few examples of the type of spiritualising of the Letters and technique of FF'ing

that we had previously mentioned. I underlined in yellow on her report three simple examples that stuck out to me, to show how FF'ing has been treated in Latin America:

(1) Deb mentions about sex and manners: He's "not European...he's almost animal-like". But he sounds like most men I know, like in "Male or Female".

(2) Isaiah says: "That's a mistake I think a lot of these girls are making, like Rosa" (Juan Carlos' wife) and Deb says, "Really making love with their bodies" (therefore saying they're using the flesh too much). It seems to me that they try to separate body from spirit, instead of seeing that men do have an almost uncontrollable hunger for sex and physical love and that when they know you love them enough to give them physical love, they trust that you also love their spirit and soul. So I believe that there is a tendency to spiritualise the physical side of FF'ing.

For instance, Isaiah said five or six times in my presence and others: "People have this fleshy idea of FF'ing, so let's not call it FF'ing.— Let's call it witnessing." But they don't see what an important part the bait plays.

Deborah and Isaiah always stressed that the most important person was the fisherman. It seems to us that in most instances, the fisherman is scarcely needed until the fish is hooked, as you can't reel in a fish that isn't hooked on the line. Ruthie, Luis Manuel's wife, (Emanuele's Peruvian cousin) wrote Rachel yesterday about her first FF experience, where she chased a

fish to ask him to dance "without letting the fish see her ask her fisherman" (to be a bigger testimony). Ruth wrote: "We now see that was our mistake" (paraphrased).

When we were in Lima, Deborah and Isaiah would tell us to go to clubs but "don't worry if you don't meet anyone. Just relax, have a few drinks and go home." So even if people have been going to clubs in Peru, it's no wonder it hasn't borne a whole lot of fruit, as no one was encouraged to go after them.

(3) Isaiah says: "I think sometimes when we go out to try to FF, those are...like in our own works..we went out and met those people." In other words, don't go to clubs to get them, but make them come to you. This seems to us to typify the attitude about FF'ing. They give them flesh if it's some important official, but they don't go to the attack and meet them in clubs and love them, even if they aren't quite such big fish.

So overall, I think the attitude has been to emphasise the fish's spiritual need (which of course does exist) and de-emphasise their physical needs. Deb would emphasise over and over again how sex was "the absolute last resort" and bragged of how she got men interested without sex (prior to her first FF'ing in Ecuador) and how she had seen one fish three times and had gotten away with only kissing him once and nothing more. I agree that it's good to feed their spirits and that sex is a last resort, but over-emphasising it seems to be an unbalanced view of the subject.

When I first came here and Maria

visited me, I expected her to share something heavy and spiritual, but when we shared physical love, I knew not only that she was concerned about my spiritual needs but also my physical needs, and it was also a very spiritual experience, that heart-to-heart sharing without walls or barriers, that we had sorely missed in Latin America.

What Ebed and Leah shared about Deborah's FF'ing in Ecuador threw a lot of light on the situation. For instance, Deborah told us that all of these men flipped over her, whereas Ebed and Leah said that she hustled her way in and pushed the other girls out of the way in order to FF these big fish.

In Lima, Deb was quite upset with Rosa, Juan Carlos' wife, for not "stepping enough out of the way" with Rosa's fish, R., the son of a high government official, to enable Deb to hook him, although Rosa had met him and FF'ed him and he was very interested in her. He showed little interest in Deb, so Deb returned furious at Rosa for not pushing the fish on Deb, who showed little concern for what was best for R.

Ebed and Leah stated she had only been interested in the big shots and each time pushed one of the girls out of the way to get them. Then they would talk about how "fleshy" Rosa and nearly all the other girls are. Even this report on her big fish seems aimed at pointing out how flipped he was over Deb rather than giving any insight into him, his character or needs.

We went to clubs with Deb and Isaiah three or four times. Mostly,

we danced together and little effort was made to meet men. Deb met one man, but I think he was the only man we really met in three or four nights between six of us (Zadok and Pal also). At one point, one girl met several single men in their 30's, but Deb and Isaiah thought she didn't know how to control him (he had had a little to drink) and therefore suggested she not go to clubs but be more or less restricted to ministering to friends, etc.

It's such a testimony of trust that you not only let the girls act on their own faith and leadings, but encourage them to step out and get on the attack. In Mexico, I went to a club several times with Zadok, but he also did little more than have a drink and talk. After an hour-and-a-half, I went to the bar with Tekoa, our secretary, and we immediately met four hungry men. I went back to our table and dragged Katrina, the only remaining girl, back to the bar and we met three more men, leaving Zadok and Watchman to mostly talk and do little more.

So, even when people do go to clubs, they aren't being encouraged to really work at it, but it's treated as more of a "social event". There is a real lack of trust of the girls to follow their own leadings, and the fisherman's initial role is overemphasised.

Isaiah stated: "I don't see how single girls can FF", as their connection with the fisherman needed to be so strong. Deb and Jeth sent out an advisory suggesting that people FF, but stating something like:

"But be sure to counsel with upper-level leaders" (loosely paraphrased). So the overall effect, although their words said to FF, was to stifle a real FF push.

They were at least trying, but I don't think they saw the adverse effect their "spiritual" view of FF'ing and going to clubs had. Here, the single girls and the girls without their mates make the initial strike and really go after them, and in an hour or two make more effect than we were making after three or four nights! Fisherwomen—what a bomb that's going to be!

Jeth had a meeting and told 20 people that their heads were in their pants and bawled them out (as I mentioned previously). Deb had an FF meeting and gave testimonies, but again made it all sound so spiritual that I think some wanted to avoid it for fear of not being spiritual enough.

Personally, I believe most of our girls would do best just to be their own natural selves, concerned for

each sheep that they meet. Rather than trying to work up the Spirit, they should just show them genuine love and a little bit of physical concern before putting out a big "spiritual love" rap, if you know what I mean! Deb tried to talk about things relating to the Spirit, and did well at this. But the flesh seemed just a tiny bit too removed.

To explain how it lacked that certain intimacy with fish that I've seen here, Isaiah announced in the big FF meeting: "Maybe the girls shouldn't do FF reports, but rather the fisherman should report on each fish." In other words, the girls weren't trusted with getting intimate with the men first, without the fisherman butting in. So the girls need to be given more leeway, more line.

Praise the Lord! I love you and love being here. We're learning so much, it's truly a great blessing to us. We have so much to learn and are thankful for the sample here!

Much love,
Shaul & Abiah

Love Letters from Kenaz and Hodiah

—Former Ministers of
Mideast, India & Africa.

Dearest Dad & Maria, 23 Feb. 78

I love you! Thank you so much for the privilege of being here. Your Letters come more alive to me than ever now. Lord help us to share our hearts!

"Where Are The Shepherds?" really carried the spirit behind the whole "RNR" to me. The sample of love and caring you set and manifest in this talk convicts my heart deeply, as one who for a long time has been entrusted with the care of many of your precious sheep and stands exposed as having failed in so many ways to lay down my life for them. All I can say is thank God He has kept them through your words and kisses!

And may the Lord forgive me for my failures, and "lead me in the way everlasting". My New Year's prayer

was for the Lord to make me a better shepherd and He's sure fulfilling it by first clearly showing me the sample to strive for. Thank the Lord for His mercies! And thank the Lord He's got you looking out for His flocks!

One thing I really saw from the Letter is how fearful I've been about coming directly to you, how foolish to remain out in the cold rather than in the arms of David. We've been troubled about many things concerning the pioneer teams in the Mideast, Asia and Africa, most of whom we've personally visited or lived with. We wrote many letters and reports, sent phone messages, etc. about their situations and plights, sometimes extremely dangerous conditions, but with very little response or guidance, and occasionally only a chiding for the "low stats" on these very difficult fields. We were so frustrated at times we almost quit.

But now I feel sure that if we'd only had more faith and come to you with it first, our teams could have had more help and direction long ago. They really need it, we feel, and are so thrilled whenever you mention India or another area in a Letter! They suck on it for all it's worth! They love you and your message and gladly hazard their lives to bring it to these darkened lands! And God is leading and using them in new and exciting ways. May God help us to share it with you more faithfully! And they love to FF!!

Another point that really stood out is that need for visitation!

We've never felt so fulfilled as when visiting pioneer teams, some of whom hadn't had a visit in 6-8 months! They were so desperate just to counsel and pray with someone besides their local shepherds. Reading these new Letters, though, we see how we could have done so much more to help them! Thank God someone will be now! Another thing we are so thankful about is that we feel confident that when all the sheep from the pioneer fields write in and you personally get to see their needs and hearts, that the Lord will use you to help them more than ever with guidance and attention.

"RNR": We really wanted to tell you personally what a tremendous liberation the "RNR" has been to us as "leaders"! We know that the sheep were suffering, but I must say that the superblob tended to alienate "leaders" from the personal love we needed from our brothers and sisters! We were so afraid of getting "too familiar" and letting people see our faults, that we couldn't be real! What a blessing to be so freed! All the artificial relationships have been stripped away and we've been so much freer to enter into real ones! And it's great! We love this Family!

Your personal sample and lack of vanity and ability to let your true heart be seen by all is such a tremendous inspiration! Thank you and thank God! There must be 300 others just like us!—Flipped out to be free from ladder climbing, fear of failure and chains of pride!

We really love you, Dad and Maria! And we're praying for you! We

pray that we can in some way be of help to this area. We definitely feel more at home in the Southern and Eastern fields than anywhere else! We can really see millions of hungry sheep crying out for the Love of their Father! Love & prayers, gratefully, Kenaz & Hodiah.

Dearest Dad & Maria, 23 Feb. 78

I love you so, so much and am so grateful for the privilege to be with you! In fact, it's really unbelievable I am even here, and it sure proves the mercy and love of God, as I can't figure out why I was even considered to come!

You were so right when you said that when a person comes here he has hit the bottom, because that is what I feel like. There is so much light, love and truth all around you and this beautiful heavenly home that it truly exposes how far I am from really giving all! What a long way to go—to have such unselfish love to be a true shepherdess—or rather servant!

"Where Are The Shepherds?" hit home and was such a tremendous guideline for us all—something we can read over and over! What I am seeing more and more through each Letter and now meeting you is what Jesus really meant when He asked us all to lay down our lives for the brethren and he that is greatest among you shall be servant of all! Thank God for the "RNR" and Jesus' and your love to help us through! Love forever, Hodiah.

P.S. from Kenaz: Amen! We love you so, Dad, and can hardly believe we're here! We were always afraid we'd completely melt in your pre-

sence, but you're so kind and loving and understanding that only our fears melted away!—And our hearts within us! We can never thank you enough but will try to spill that wine from our cracked bottles wherever we go! Love, Kenaz.

Dearest Dad & Maria, 25 Feb. 78

I love, love, love you! I can't tell you how much love and unselfish giving I felt last night—the true love of Jesus! Wow! I'll never forget looking right into your eyes as we had communion together and how much love and continual thoughtfulness you gave me! Lord help me to give all that love right out to our Family and all the hungry sheep in the world!

Thank you so very, very much for blessing me and making me one of your wives! Thank you, Maria, for sharing Dad with me and being such a sample to us of our beautiful One-Wife-One-Family! With this kind of love, by His grace, we can't fail to win the world for Jesus! Love, kisses and hugs, Hodiah.

P.S. from Kenaz: We really feel our cups running over! We are really in love with you! And so grateful for the attention you've shown, though we are so unworthy to be under your roof. It shows how much love and mercy He's got and makes us want to be "as big and thoughtful" as you two have been with us! And it's sure rubbed off on all your helpers! What a loving family! It's like the naked hippie heaven underneath the drug-store here! But the girls are even more beautiful than Eman's illustrations! Love to you both, Kenaz.