

Children's Corner! - OUR KIDS MAKE NEWS!



This is Esther, age 12, singing for Jesus before a crowd of 300 in France!
Photo by Hephher Newman.

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS!

From Adrian, age 6, New Zealand:
AT SCHOOL ADRIAN WAS ASKED TO WRITE A STORY ABOUT THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS. This is what he wrote: "Christmas reminds us of the Birth of Jesus and to love and share and help one another."

HIS TEACHER LIKED IT SO MUCH that she asked him to read it to a class of 10-year-olds—twice! Then the teacher copied it out in large letters and pinned it on the wall of the classroom for all to see. All the children in the class loved the beautiful message.

TRAPPED IN A TOILET!

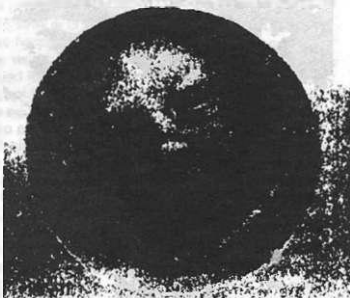
From Sancho, age 5½, France:
WE LIVE IN A CARAVAN. One cold morning we couldn't find our son

ing into the caravan with tears of joy in his eyes. "Daddy, Daddy," he cried, "I have the most wonderful testimony to tell you!" He was cold and shivering but happy as he told us what had happened when he went out to the campground toilets without his coat on and got locked in!

"THE DOOR HANDLE GOT STUCK," he said. "I was trying for 20 minutes to get out and I was crying but no one heard me. But then the Lord showed me to get desperate and pray! So I prayed, 'Lord Jesus, by Your Holy Angels, open this door in Jesus' Name!' Then I gave a big push on the door and it flew open!"

THE LORD TAUGHT SANCHE A LESSON not to be in such a hurry that you go out in the cold without your coat. Also that the Lord will not forsake you if you pray and trust in Him! "Whatever God does, He does in Love!"

Daniel & Nura.



Christian, age 8 months, discovers that the whole world is full of holes! Are YOU a Holy Hole for Jesus? (Read "Holy Holes" Letter No. 237!)

(Christian's parents are Michael & Deborah Christian)

The Fruitful Life of Dr. Padilla!

(Ed.: Here are some interesting parts from the life of a man who for several years was a faithful friend & supporter of the Family. He went to be with the Lord on Sept. 24, 1979 at the age of 80.)

(From an article in "La Nación"; Costa Rica by Jose Marin Canas. Translated from Spanish by Alberto.)



HE JUST COMPLETED A LONG JOURNEY of services for the Country, of love for his friends, innumerable adventures, sowing the seeds of some of our greatest institutions.—That was the humble, small, educated & willing Doctor Don Guillermo Padilla, an uncommon human being who gave his all to his work for his Country without measure & without rest.

HIS LIFE REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING EPISODES of our national heritage, as he did everything from being a common soldier to reaching the highest levels of law by taking the place of the world genius Jimenez de Asua in the Commission of Editors at the Latin American level of the Penal Code.

THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HIS NAME. He was about 20 years old then & they told me that he was "auditor of the war" for the government. His face left an impression on me, & many years later when we were already old, I swore he looked to me like General Romel at the time when the image of "Fox of the Desert" had reached world notoriety because of his campaign in Africa.

WOUNDED IN THE (COSTA RICAN) WAR OF '21, he re-

ceived a government grant & lived many years in France from where he returned with a college degree—the first time we ever heard of such a degree—Doctorate of Law. Some ignorant people, in fact almost everybody, used to go to him asking about their sicknesses, as "doctors" in our country were only ones who took care of sicknesses.

WHEN HE CAME BACK TO COSTA RICA, he gave his all to his work & because of his talent they offered him the great projects of his time, which he accomplished with an effort worthy of a Titan. He was the first representative & first director of the National Childhood Institution, which continues to progress, due to the excellent foundation of its guidelines. That was in the year of 1932. In 1941 he was sent by the government to Chile to make preliminary studies resulting in the first guidelines of the Social Security Bank of Costa Rica. Doctor Padilla was its first sub-director.

IN 1968 HE FIELDED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EDITORS BOARD OF "PENAL PROCEDURES CODE" & of the Penal Code. These great innovations constituted deep changes towards a Costa Rica more developed & educated in the fields of law.

WHEN THE NOTED SPANISH DOCTOR DON LUIS JIMENEZ DE ASUA ARRIVED in our country, a figure of worldwide eminence in the Penal Code field, Doctor Padilla was his disciple & helper with great enthusiasm. When this man died, after having given a lecture that moved all the law authorities of the country, Guillermo Padilla Castro succeeded Jimenez Asua in the Editors Board at the Latin American level, working on the Penal Code which was being constructed specifically for the countries of the Spanish & Portuguese-speaking Americas.

HERE I POINT OUT ALL THE FRUITFUL WORK of a man who was a master in the field of law & who fought, built, led, tasted the mud & sweated blood in the service of his country. His supreme quality was humility & service. Always heading the needs of his fellow Costa Ricans, Doctor Padilla was a refuge for all those who came to him seeking help & counsel. (Including the Family in Costa Rica)

ON REACHING THE AGE OF 80, life asked of him an old account because of his excess of work & sacrifice. As we were burying this great Costa Rican, someone pronounced an immortal sentence: "As we bring to the ground Doctor Padilla Castro, all the lights of the universities, hospitals, orphanages, welfare institutions need to start flickering & going out, because he that founded all of our great institutions has disappeared."

(Dad: Thank God he has gone to be with the Lord & to receive his great reward!—And his dear son Jeremiah & his family are still with us & in our Family!)

9 Years of Marriage & 7 Children Later!

Lessons on Making Marriage Work!
(GBM!—What a miracle!—Dad.)



Matthew, Renee & "Our Little 7"—Helene-1mo., Sara-7, Isabelle-6, twins Setcha & Nathalie-4, Francisco-2½ & Augustin-1½.

From Matthew Canada:
Dear Mo & Maria,
I HAD JUST WRITTEN YOU A LETTER a few days ago, but today I received God's direct answer in the mail to the questions I had asked you: That new Letter "Frustrated?—Your Children Are God's Full-Time Service!" I am speechless to see how the Lord is so faithful to show you exactly what is happening in the Family all over the world & give the right answer that hit the nail right on the head! It literally amazes me! "God works in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."—Every time! He never fails! PTL!
BEFORE I GO FURTHER let me tell you that my wife Renee just gave birth to a big baby girl named Helene Lara. He is so faithful, as we had prayed for a girl, our last 3 be-

ing boys, which we also had prayed for to balance out our little family of now 7 children! **GOD HAS CONFIRMED RENEE'S & MY RELATIONSHIP** & you could almost say cemented it 7 times over. But in this letter I want to share, maybe for the encouragement of others in the same situation, that it hasn't always been a bed of roses. There have been many thorns & scratches in between. But it is worth it! **RENEE & I GOT MARRIED IN THE FAMILY IN L.A.** in the Spring of '71. It was what you could call a "match-making marriage". Then to top it off, our sun signs are at the opposite sides of the spectrum—she being a double Virgo & me a Pisces. So we could have said that we would have had all the reasonable excuses not to have made it together. Like you

said in "Faith & Healing", part 5: "IT IS SO EASY TO MAKE EXCUSES, legitimate, logical, reasonable, acceptable excuses why you couldn't make it... but is God going to excuse you?" So for the first 6 mo. of our married life we had to learn to know each other & at the same time pioneer Quebec & eastern Canada. It was tough, but I cannot say it was unbearable.

THERE THE LORD GAVE US OUR 1ST CHILD, SARA. When Renee was 9 months pregnant, God opened the door for us to go to Europe. It was during the "40 Days" so we launched out by faith.

BY THE TIME THE 1ST "NEW REVOLUTION" CAME AROUND, we found our marriage to be totally on the rocks with little or no communication. I felt I needed to go on the road & pioneer & get back my first love for the Lord.

During this time Renee was in one city in Germany with the children & pregnant & I was in another. After a while I took one of the children.

BEING IN 2 DIFFERENT CITIES, we could not blame the other one for our failures & God began to point the finger at each of us individually. Then God struck again, this time in double measure! I went back to be with Renee who was about to have—twins! What could I say?

ABOUT 6 MONTHS LATER WE WENT TO SPAIN. What a wonderful country, with such beautiful people! For us it was like ointment on our many sores, & we landed on the beautiful Island of Mallorca in the Mediterranean. God put us there with some precious Spanish disciples. It was like Heaven on earth. I think our relationship improved there, as we had more time to work

on it, as well as with the children.

THE LORD BLESSED US MIGHTILY with souls, disciples, much lit out—you name it, & our 5th child, Francisco. Then about 2 months later we got "exiled" to Portugal by members of the old "Chain". We ended up at a campground making barely enough money to exist. TTL the children stayed healthy despite the cold weather & God miraculously opened up new ways to give the message out. A brother & I used to carry the twins in backpacks & go on the suburban trains to sing & pass out lit. It was fantastic!

AFTER 2 MONTHS IN PORTUGAL, just as we were beginning to like it, someone had mercy on us & paid our fare all the way back to Barcelona where I began working in publications, which I really enjoyed. It was so nice to be back.

THRU' OUR EXILE EXPERIENCE THE LORD TAUGHT US SO MANY BEAUTIFUL LESSONS. I knew all that time that if we had been wronged that the Lord would eventually right things. That's one thing I've learned over the years, that maybe sometimes we feel unjustly treated, cast aside & forsaken by our own brothers & sisters, but it was as much for our sins & failures to obey Him as for them, to teach them mercy & compassion. (1 Peter 2:20.) God has always been faithful to recompense faith that praises no matter what happens.

THEN WE WENT TO NORTHERN SPAIN WHERE RENEE GAVE BIRTH TO OUR 6TH CHILD, Augustin. Sometimes I wondered when it was gonna end. But the Lord knew what we could handle! Augustin was born in the midst of in-

credible changes in our married life when we were trying to open our lives up more to others.

WE DECIDED ON A TEMPORARY SEPARATION with me going down to Madrid with 3 of the children & Renee staying in Bilbao with the other 3. After a while I began to feel I really needed her & the children. The Lord began to hook me, especially when Renee said she wasn't sure anymore if it was God's will for us to be together, anyway not the same old ways as we had been in the past, as a selfish private unit.

WE FINALLY DECIDED TO MAKE IT NO MATTER WHAT! Little by little God strengthened that conviction & we decided to return to Canada to start all over again & better prepare ourselves to eventually return to the field.

TTL OUR HOMEGOING WAS A REAL WITNESS to my family whom I had not visited since I had joined the Family 10 years ago! They were absolutely overjoyed to see the children & helped us so much to get set up, GBM!

I GOT A JOB so we could put money aside for our fare, & the Lord supplied a job as a printer. It was thru' a government sponsored training program giving you a diploma at the end. I was also able to get a good price to print Mo Letters for the Homes in the city while getting paid for it! PTL!

OUR 2 OLDEST GIRLS HAVE BEEN LEADING THEIR FRIENDS TO THE LORD at the small-town Catholic school they attend. God has also opened a door thru' a Home in the city for the children to sing on TV & there are many huge shopping centers where the children can litness easily no matter what the weather.

A SWEET SISTER NAMED HARVEST GOLD came all the

way from Peru to help us. The children really loved her. Now a very sweet French-Canadian couple, Denis & Sylvie, have come to replace her. We were praying about the idea of 2 couples getting it together & living as in "One Wife".

ONE COUPLE, LIKE US, WITH MANY CHILDREN, & another couple with few or no children, would create a balance in the Home in cases where a threesome is not practical or where one of them feels left out. Couples teaming up like this might be the answer for some large families, as well as for couples who have been living alone with little fellowship, as has been the case in this area.

FOR COUPLES WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR A WHILE & maybe their relationship has become a little boring, we hope our testimony will be an encouragement. As far as I'm concerned, I am glad we stuck it out no matter what, & believe it or not it is getting better finally after 9 years of marriage.

SO DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP! The gold will not come out unless it is tried with fire, & it sure gets hot sometimes. I think one key to success is to have an open marriage, instead of a self-centered personal marriage, like Grandmother's quote:

"ENLARGE THE PLACE OF THY TENT, & let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, & strengthen thy stakes. For thou shalt break forth on the right hand & on the left, & thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, & make the desolate cities waste...He drew a circle that shut me out, but I drew a circle that brought him in" ("Other Sheep": 69, 71).—Matthew Canada.

(Hallelujah! Shick to m! Dad.)