

Angels Unawares!

You could meet one anywhere! Look & Listen!

From Isaac Numbers; Asia:
I'VE HAD SEVERAL ENCOUNTERS WITH SOMEONE we believe to be a "guardian angel" for us. About 5 years ago we first met him when out lit-
nessing. We were hungry & wanted a snack when this elderly man with a big bulbous red nose came up, introduced himself as Gino & begged us to let him buy us a lunch!

WE HAD JUST BEEN READING THE LETTER "ARRIVEDERCI ROMA" the day before & had been curious to hear more about the song. Suddenly while in the restaurant "Gino" started singing it loudly, stopping to explain to us what it was about!



WE ASKED HIM WHAT HE DID & he vaguely explained that he did lots of travelling & had several sons who also travelled. With that he smiled, winked & left us! By the way, Gino liked the ol' vino we could tell—he wasn't very "angelic" looking!

THE NEXT TIME I MET GINO was on a train trip hundreds of miles across the Australian "outback". It was a 2-day trip & I had little money & couldn't afford to buy the train meals. All of a sudden down the aisle came an elderly man, singing, chatting up the old ladies & kissing them on the hand.

MY FIRST THOUGHT WAS

"WHO'S THIS OLD DRUNK?" Then I thought, "Well, at least he's happy!" With many empty seats to choose from, he sat opposite me, then ordered a big lunch while my stomach growled away. When his meal arrived he took one look at it & said, "I'm not hungry. Here—you eat it, you need it more than me."



HE THEN LIFTED UP HIS DARK SUNGLASSES & I RECOGNISED WHO IT WAS! But before I could say anything to him, he winked, stood up & went into the next carriage & I never saw him again the whole trip!

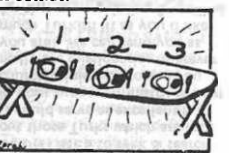
I'VE SEEN HIM TWICE SINCE, both times when I've been doing important business matters for the Work. He would smile apparently pleased that things were going well. It seems he's been my "bodyguard" on these occasions.

THE LAST TIME I SAW GINO WAS HERE IN ASIA in a hotel lobby. He was suddenly there with a big pile of luggage, a funny hat & was fumbling thru' a bag full of odds & ends. He sat down next to me & I wondered what this guy wanted!! He took off his hat & smiled & then I realised who he was. When I looked up again he & his pile of luggage were gone! He sure has some convincing disguises! TTL for His "ministering spirits"! It's a comfort to know they're fighting for us, often "unawares".

ONCE WHILE I WAS HITCHHIKING IN AUSTRALIA with a new disciple, we found ourselves stranded at night between towns in the middle of nowhere, when suddenly it began to rain heavily. We could see only a few faint house lights far in the distance. It really looked like one of those "impossible" situations.

WE PRAYED FOR THE LORD TO SEND AN ANGEL to help us & shortly after this a car skidded to a halt & the driver gruffly ordered us to "get in before you catch pneumonia". He was going to take us to his place, but first of all he said he had to go to the store to buy some Miracle (a local brand of margarine). He said this about 3 or 4 times, like a senile old man would, but we couldn't help but feel goosebumps each time he said the word miracle.

WE ARRIVED AT LAST TO WHAT SEEMED LIKE A LARGE GARAGE, the inside cluttered with everything imaginable. There on his makeshift kitchen bench were 3 cooked pieces of meat, 3 pieces of toast & 3 places set! He didn't talk much & the food was delicious considering the locale. There was only 1 small cot in the room & we began to wonder where we'd sleep when he led us outside.



AS WE TURNED THE CORNER OF THE GARAGE THERE WAS A BRAND-NEW CARAVAN with 2 beds inside freshly made up, plus 2 chairs, 2 water glasses, 2 towels etc. After a comfortable night's



sleep, our host took us to the highway & waited nearby till we'd gotten a ride, a good smooth ride that took us right to our destination several hundred miles away! PTL!

ANOTHER TIME AFTER WORKING TILL THE WEE HOURS OF THE NIGHT to get some mail ready to go, myself & another brother & sister, Matthew & Zerah, set out for the Post Office. All public transport had stopped by this hour & so we went to the back lane & began to push start our old pick-up truck uphill, to little avail.

& asked where we were going. They said they were sorry but they were going a different way & couldn't give us a lift to the bus stop. Then the man with us got furious that our friend wouldn't help us & proceeded to call us a taxi, paid for it to take us to the nightspot & back afterwards (a very long distance!) & to top it off he gave us a donation!

THIS COMPLETE STRANGER KNEW NOTHING ABOUT US! The Lord really used him, tho', to save the day! TYJ! And what's more, a few days later we visited him & found him to be a very hungry soul for God's love! He was on vacation & promised to help us if we ever decided to visit his country!

IT WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE of what Dad said about the Lord moving others to help you if you're doing your best to be a witness for Him in whatever way possible! Hallelujah!

WE PRAYED, "LORD, SEND AN ANGEL TO HELP US START THIS THING!" We'd no sooner uttered the last syllable than we heard a loud thud behind us in the dark alley. —Someone had landed on the tin roof of the garage at the end of the lane.

WE COULD MAKE OUT THE FIGURE OF A YOUNG MAN dressed all in black clothes with black-rimmed glasses (he really looked silly!) who then jumped down off the roof & started running straight towards us! We weren't sure what was going to happen next but he began giving orders—to Matthew to jump into the truck & put it in 2nd gear, & to Zerah & me to start pushing. Running full tilt toward us & the truck, never breaking stride, he touched the corner of the fender & the truck instantly started—al tho' we'd barely moved it!



WHEN WE WENT TO THANK HIM, HE'D ALREADY RUN UP THE LENGTH OF THE ALLEY & disappeared into the night. Collecting our wits, we realised that we'd prayed for an angel to help us & the Lord sent one! TYJ! These incidents inspire me when I recall them. "Only fear the Lord, & serve Him in truth with all your hearts, for consider what great things He hath done for you!" (I Sam. 12:24.) Amen! PTL! Love, Isaac Numbers.

Little Miracles!

Help From a Total Stranger!

From Gabriel & Galilee; Caribbean:

THE LORD PROVIDED A ONE-NIGHT SINGING JOB for us on the other side of the Island, but we didn't have money to take a taxi. So there we were struggling along with all our instruments & equipment.

AT A GATEWAY WE MET A MAN who said he was a musician & told us we were going to ruin our amplifier by pulling it along the gravel road like that. We said we realised that but we had to get to the bus stop & couldn't afford a taxi.

JUST THEN SOMEONE WE KNEW PULLED UP IN A CAR

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The Miracle Nightgown!

From Job & Charan; N. Europe:
AFTER CHARRAN & OUR 4 OLDEST CHILDREN SANG AT AN OLD FOLKS HOME & led all 55 people in prayer to receive Jesus, the people who were having a party drew numbers to receive little prizes. Many of them gave the prizes they had won to the children.

WE WERE GIVEN SEVERAL VERY USEFUL THINGS but the miracle was that 3-year-old Lara needed a nightie & one of the prizes was a beautiful warm flannel nightie that fits her perfectly!—And yet these were prizes being given to old people! TYJ for how He always supplies!

Faced with an impossible situation?—Expect a miracle! And send it in to inspire all!

Parents Speak Out!

More Responses to M&M's Childcare Questionnaire!

From Isaiah & Liv Light; Scandinavia:

MARRIAGE IS NOT BUILT IN ONE DAY. It can be pretty hard sometimes, especially for young couples who have many children quickly. But as long as you know it's of God, you know God is teaching you valuable lessons such as compassion, understanding, patience etc. Better to build your house slowly but firmly, having patience for it to be finished, rather than trying to build it hastily & quickly with no good foundation."

From Ariam & Patience, Sweden (now in Australia):

ONE MAIN REASON WHY WE WANTED TO TAKE SPECIAL TIME WITH THE KIDS was because they are getting older & we felt they were starting to take too much impression from the Swedish system & the kids around us with their bad manners, & we felt they needed to go out pioneering & seeing God work as well as experience & reach new peoples & cultures.

WE KNEW IT WAS PARTLY OUR FAULT because we let them be out playing too much without an adult with them, & the children in these big apartment areas are running wild while both parents are working, more interested in making a career & money than in caring for their children.

SO IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO LET THE CHILDREN OUT TO PLAY ALONE without their coming back crying or hurt or with bad impressions & habits. It has really been disastrous for Sweden since they abandoned God in their education & lately also have forsaken a lot of righteous rules. The main one that has now become law but was in practice be-

fore, was that of never spanking, slapping or even raising your voice to a child! Even in schools there is a new reform to be advocated where the students are informed of their rights towards (or against) their parents.

THERE ARE A FEW PRIVATE SCHOOLS but the one we contacted was full for years ahead, so it might be a good idea for parents of children who will be starting school in a couple of years to book for their schooling now. In the countryside I think the schools are much less violent.

ANOTHER INTERESTING THING ABOUT SWEDEN & what our parents can expect: "We are spoiled here in Sweden with material blessings. But according to UNESCO, the UN child organisation, Swedish children are the unhappiest children in the world. If all Homes at the same time could pray for the Swedish children so they can meet the Lord & find some love, that would sure be a blessing."

THE HIGHEST RATE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT IS IN THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES where it is very easy to obtain & "everyone" receives children's allowance, national, foreigner or whoever, just for having & bringing up children. (In most of the countries up here the mortality rate is higher than the birth rate, due to all the contraceptives & bad living habits, which is why the government "pays" you for having children.)

From Japheth & Martha; Scandinavia:

THE FAMILY CARE CLASSES ON TEACHING CHILDREN HAVE DEFINITELY BEEN A

FANTASTIC HELP! They are so simple & easy to understand, especially the ones like "Rock in the Road", "The Pastor's Pillow" etc. are fantastic. The children love them & never get tired of them, either listening to the story or looking at the flannelgraph about the "Rock in the Road" which I show while playing the radio play from the MWM show.

I THINK THAT FLANNELGRAPHS ARE ONE OF THE BEST AIDS in teaching children, especially the younger ones, ages 2-5, as they can both see & hear it at the same time. I read the other flannelgraph stories I have onto tape which then enables me to freely put on the pictures & don't have to concentrate on reading at the same time, which often can be very difficult as the children very easily lose interest if there isn't a continuity in the story. On tape I also use my own homemade sound effects. They love to listen to their parents' voice. Also, the new Kids Komix are a super blessing. They are so simple & feeding that even the smallest ones can get something out of it.

From Jonathan & Sharon; N. Europe:

WE FIND THE DITO LETTERS VERY USEFUL, both practically & in giving us insight into Dad's household. But as far as putting them completely into practice, we feel far from being able to. When we had only one child Sharon did many of the things with Becky that Sara did with Dito, but as soon as number 2 came along, then 3 & now preparing for number 4, the individual attention per child really decreases, to almost none.

BUT THE OLDEST CHILD IS NOW PRETTY WELL ADJUSTED, feels loved etc., plus knows a lot of Word & is a teacher for number 2, Joy, who real-



Big sister Becky, now 4 years old, helps teach her little sister!

ly copies Becky in almost everything she does. So it was really good that Becky as child no. 1 was able to get so much attention & training & Word.

ONE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT WE STARTED READING LETTERS & BIBLE WITH THE CHILDREN from their first week on & so much of what we read when they were small has later come out in their witness or in sharing together etc. So they are really little tape recorders when they are small & they hear every word, every conversation & every argument that goes on around them! I hope everyone realises this & takes the time to read & share the Word with their babies as if they were walking talking children, because al tho' they don't respond, the Truth is going in & will later come out.

Deborah & Micah, VSs in N. Europe & parents of 4 children:

I THINK THE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR ME & FOR MANY OTHER MOTHERS of several children is simply the organising of your time, how to get everything done, to cope with the work load so that everything else has its proper place & you don't wind up a nervous wreck.

ONE THING THAT HAS HELPED ME TO SURVIVE, so to speak, thru' the past few years with a little one just about every year & as many as 3 at a time in diapers at least part of the time: I have made it a rule to take a break or a rest or a nap with study & quiet time faithfully every day in the middle of the day while the children are napping. I can go pretty well from morning till when they go down for a nap, but then I need time with the Lord & the Word for strength & inspiration for the rest of the day. It's too late if I wait until evening when they're in bed for the night. By then

I'm dead tired & the day is over.

ANOTHER RELIEF HAS BEEN TO REALISE MY PRIORITIES with the children's schooling. Many parents like myself were always in the past under so much pressure that we didn't have time to give the children enough "school", resulting in a guilty conscience. The Dito Letters have really helped me in that & now I have total peace about majoring on the Word & teaching them firstly the things that only we can teach them. (Amen! Agreed! That's wonderful!—Sara D.)—To be little disciples, little pioneers & love the Word & lost souls must of all. If then there is time for anything else I major on reading etc., but I feel less condemnation now, having the priorities straight, & I find they do learn to read some, TYJ! We always try to have at least one good daily devotions with song, memory, Bible, Mo Letter, flannelgraphs etc. & it forms good habits.

THE DITO LETTERS OF



Micah, Deborah, Hendrik-7 mo., Katrina-4y, Valentina-3 & Stephen