

# Our Little "Corn of Wheat"!

The death of one of the Lord's little children brings much fruit!—Lessons & victories!  
(Dad: I asked the Lord why & He said: "He is not dead but lyeth!" Hal! See Lk. 24:5-7. GBY! ILY!)

From Job & Charran; Europe:  
Dearest Dad & Maria,

GBY! WLY SO MUCH! You mean more & more to us all the time & the precious words the Lord gives us thru' you are ever more meaningful & needed. We wanted to tell you of some things the Lord is doing in our lives. It has been difficult, & yet somehow we feel it is a blessing in disguise & that "out of what seems like defeat come some of Thy greatest victories". Praise the Lord!

JOB & DINA, OUR 3RD DAUGHTER, BECAME ILL with a high fever. Dina recovered in several days, but Job's condition became very serious & was finally diagnosed as meningitis. Job's hospitalization was quite a fight of faith for us & a huge test, especially as I was due to give birth to our 6th child in 3 weeks.

THE LORD WAS SO MERCIFUL & KIND TO US & led Lee to keep us all in her Home. The brethren there all wanted so much to help us, even at great sacrifice of their personal plans. In fact, all the Homes in the city have helped us so much, either with the children or with donations by which we could continue to support our family, God bless them!

IT'S JUST SO WONDERFUL TO HAVE A FAMILY like this, not only to help with the physical but also to be such a spiritual & emotional support. I don't think I could have made it thru' this without them.

DURING HIS 1-MONTH STAY IN THE HOSPITAL, I GAVE BIRTH TO OUR 6TH CHILD & first son. Justin David was born on August 11th after a very quick birth. Lee was with me. He was our first born in a hospital, so I

was so thankful to have someone with me in Job's absence. The baby was so beautiful, & I was elated to have a son. It really meant a lot to me.

HOWEVER, THE NEXT MORNING THE DOCTOR DETECTED A SLIGHT HEART MURMUR. He hoped it was only a transitional problem & nothing serious. The next day the nurses reported to him that he was a little pale & less responsive than normal in terms of crying etc. The doctor came & spoke to me again that the baby's condition was worse & that the murmur was louder. He knew something serious was wrong & that the baby would need to go to the children's hospital.

IT WAS A TERRIBLY PAINFUL TIME FOR ME, especially as I was away from Job & the Family. I could only keep in touch by phone. It was also difficult to be in the hospital, as they didn't give me the baby very often. I wanted him so badly & there always seemed to be a reason why I didn't get to have him, even when the other mothers did. I was heartbroken at the time, but I now look at this as part of the Lord's mercy because it kept me from becoming even more attached to him than of course I already was just in carrying him, giving birth & having him with me a little.

THE DOCTOR WAS VERY KIND. He asked about our financial situation & I explained our work & he said he would do his best to arrange the baby's care for free (the delivery had been donated). The baby was then transported in an incubator to the other hospital.

TWO HOURS LATER THE DOCTOR PHONED that the baby's condition had already de-

teriorated in just that short time & that there was a serious heart defect. He kept apologizing to have to tell me on the phone, but he did so because of the time factor. He asked my permission to do a catheterization because they needed to see the exact anatomy of the heart & whether there was a possibility of correcting the problem surgically. However he said it was only a slight chance. The only other alternative was to allow the baby to die, which would happen quite soon he said.

I HAD ALREADY BEEN PRAYING DESPERATELY, really asking the Lord not to allow the baby to suffer. I asked the Lord to take him home, unless he could just be healed or helped to be completely healthy & whole without prolonged hospital stays. I felt a catheterization would be alright as it would show things one way or the other, as I'd asked the Lord.

THE DOCTOR ASKED ME TO COME to the children's hospital within 2 hours. I signed myself out of where I was so I could be free to go there, to visit with Job who was still in another hospital & also to be home with the Family which I needed so much.

LEE & A FISH WHO IS QUITE CLOSE TO THE FAMILY came & drove me to where the baby was. The doctor was so sad to inform us that there was nothing they could do. The problem was that the left ventricle was so underdeveloped as to be virtually missing. He said the baby would probably not live thru' the night but that he would not suffer in any way, just go to sleep. They would phone & tell me when he died.

I COULD HAVE STAYED &

SEEN HIM but I chose not to. Dad, I knew he was going to be with the Lord & seeing him more would only make it harder for me to give him up. I also did not want to see him looking ill, as he was becoming pale as the life was leaving his body. I knew I would have to let him go on & to go on ourselves for the Lord. I was already so attached & in love with him, & it is the hardest thing to forget his flesh-&blood presence. The Lord reminded me of the cows lowing after their calves in Samuel. It is so amazing how the Lord prepares us so totally for motherhood—our bodies, minds & spirits are so totally prepared to care for our baby that it is so shocking in every way to have to leave them. I felt so empty.

DEAREST DAD & MARIA, I HARDLY KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS ALL WE HAVE FELT & learned & are still learning thru' all this. It has been 3 weeks now since the baby's birth & it is easier now to speak of it. I want to say that in all of this the Lord has surrounded us with such mercy & tenderness. We are, of course, heartbroken, but we feel so much peace from the Lord that it is somehow part of His Plan & preparation for the future & that, altho' it is very painful, He has so surely allowed this in love. The verse came to me, "The wind bloweth where it listeth & thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh & whither it goeth" (John 3:8).

IT'S LIKE WE CANNOT SEE THE EXACT REASON why the Lord allowed all these things, but we could see the effect it was having in our life & in the lives of others. Also John 12:24—"our little 'corn of wheat'", our son, was somehow going to bring forth much fruit. Already the testimony of his departure has influenced so many lives.

AS YOU TOLD KEREN & VINCE ABOUT "SAYING THRU' THE TEARS, the Lord giveth & the Lord hath taken away", when we have shared this with those we have been in contact with, I'm sure they will never forget. In the world, people are so devastated by death that it often makes them not want to go on themselves. The Lord has poured out so much grace on us, it is really miraculous, & we are so thankful for His & the Family's help. Everyone has been so wonderful & it has made us all so much closer together. We hardly know how to say thank you to the Lord & to everyone.—Also to you whose Words from Jesus make our lives so rich & full. We are so very rich, even in our greatest losses we have so much left to give.

YOUR LETTER TO KEREN & VINCE WAS A WONDERFUL ENCOURAGEMENT to us, & many parts spoke much to our hearts, altho' we don't have the same ministry. One thing that came to Job about the baby was that perhaps the Lord felt that at this time & in the future we already had so much to take care of & that it was somehow the Lord's mercy to take the baby from us, altho' we do not understand exactly why or how.

PERHAPS ALSO I WAS PERSONALLY DEMANDING TO HAVE HIM, in my heart, as you suggested to Keren. I wanted a son so much. We are almost positive he is from a Fish. The way the whole thing happened, I believe I know the moment, & although I asked the Lord to let it be a son only if it was His Will, I wanted it so badly that perhaps He gave me my beloved little son only to take him back & therefore accomplish something far better in our lives. Please tell us if the Lord shows

you something about this. WE WERE AT SUCH A DECISION POINT ALREADY in our lives, seeking the Lord for His direction in our lives at this time, especially in light of "Americans Abroad". By letting Job become so ill, the Lord stopped us in our tracks & has thus given us far more time to pray & rest than we have had for years. We felt this too could be part of His plan & also to possibly supply some helpers so we can work more effectively, both with our children & in our outreach. We have been exhausted for a long time & felt perhaps the Lord would give us some helpers but just not knowing exactly what to do or how to accomplish the Lord's work in a better way.

WLY SO MUCH & WANT TO BE CLOSE to you in every way. We want to be close to the Lord & in the center of His will, to be really obedient & yet we feel we fail so much. We need you & we need every word you have to share with us.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US that the Lord will really have us in the most fruitful & needed place in His Kingdom & that we learn all we should from these trials & tests. We have not felt any condemnation in these things. We have felt the Lord's reproof in different areas but always with such gentleness & love.

PLEASE KEEP JOB IN YOUR PRAYERS TOO, because altho' he is home now & no longer has the illness he is still very weak & sensitive. He will have to be careful about things & will not be able to resume normal activity for a while still.

P.S. ALL 3 DIFFERENT HOSPITAL EXPENSES were donated! It is a real miracle & so merciful of the Lord! P.P.S. THIS IS OUR ANNIVERSARY of 11 years in the Family! PTL! We love you so much—Charran (& Job).

## Packing To Save Money!

What to Take! The Suitcase Itself! How To Pack! Laundry! —& More!

SUGGESTIONS FROM  
Chapter 25 of  
"EUROPE ON \$15 A DAY"  
by Arthur Frommer.

IT MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THE CONTENTS OF A SUITCASE CAN AFFECT YOUR TRAVEL COSTS, but they do vitally. People who carry heavy luggage & a complete wardrobe to Europe or anywhere will end up spending a great deal of money unnecessarily.

A LIGHT SUITCASE MEANS FREEDOM. To emerge from a train or a plane in a new country with bundles & boxes in every hand means porters, taxicabs & that the 1st hotel you pass must be the hotel in which you'll stay. To jaunt along with a light suitcase is to avoid all these costs & allows you to use buses instead of cabs, & to make your hotel choice slowly & carefully. With all the increase in mobility & decrease in fatigue that a light load entails, you can simply walk out of overly expensive hotels to seek more economical lodgings.

DON'T SNEER AT THIS FREEDOM. A traveller whose arms are bursting from their sockets with weight is a prisoner. It costs him precious dollars & tiring effort simply to get from train to hotel, & move around. Remember that however heavy your suitcase may have been as you left the U.S., it'll be twice as heavy as you go along.

### CLOTHING—WHAT TO TAKE

WHEN PACKING TRY TO TAKE ONLY THE SKIMPHEST SET OF CLOTHING that your courage will allow. We recom-

mend relying heavily on drip-dries, quick-dries or other hearty heavy-wearing clothing.

WHAT IS QUICK OR DRIP-DRY?—A catch-all phrase for any number of the new "wonder fabrics" which require no ironing. Look for labels reading nylon, dacron, orlon, polyester, arnel, banlon, lycra, spandex, quiana, or my own favourite, tervier (slightly more expensive but sensuously silky & wears like iron).

CONCENTRATE ON CLOTHING MADE OF CREASE-RESISTANT MATERIALS & in simple easy-to-care-for designs. Avoid pleats & ruffles unless they are the permanent kind with no ironing needed, & leave at home those lovely light wispy dresses that need constant care & attention to look fresh. Plan your wardrobe so that the clothes you take can be mixed & matched into a number of different combinations. By adding scarves & jewelry, again in different combinations, the possibilities can be further multiplied.

### THE SUITCASE ITSELF

YOU'LL WANT TO BUY THE LIGHTEST SUITCASE AVAILABLE.—Either a plastic suitcase or even better, one made of fabric. Cloth luggage is fairly durable, comes in handsome designs of varying sizes & is feather-light. Women particularly take note! Equally important, they are the cheapest on the market & yet offer the greatest amount of space.

CONSIDER ALSO SERIOUSLY THE NEW "CARRY-ON" LUGGAGE; smaller cases with handy zippered compartments which slip under an airplane seat. If you can cram all your things into this small case, you'll save lots of time upon arrival.

MOST LUGGAGE STORES SELL SMALL WHEELS that can be affixed with a strap to the bottom of your suitcase, making it mobile. Suitcases are also available with permanent ball-bearings on the bottom & a snap-on guarding strap on one side, which are supposed to "glide".

### HOW TO PACK

WHENEVER POSSIBLE, CARRY LIQUIDS IN FLEXIBLE LIGHTWEIGHT PLASTIC BOTTLES. This done, place all "spillables" in a zippered or well-sealed plastic bag to avoid accidents in case of leakage. If you must take along a glass container, such as a perfume bottle, avoid spillage by sealing the cap of the bottle with a layer of candle wax.

WHATEVER IS ROLLABLE, ROLL INTO SCROLL-LIKE SHAPES—underwear, slips, bras etc.—All things that don't have to be wrinkle-free can be placed along the side of your suitcase easily or in the most unusual cracks & crevasses, which you'll discover plenty of while packing.

FOR ITEMS THAT DO WRINKLE, a layer of tissue paper or a more durable sheet of plastic, the kind that comes from the dry cleaners, placed above & below the garment & one in the folded crease, will prove to be a surprising wrinkle preventer.

PLACE THE GARMENTS INTO YOUR SUITCASE IN THE SHAPE THAT THEY SHOULD BE in with buttons loosely buttoned, top & bottom, except for men's jackets. These garments should be placed in alternate piling with the top of one piece of clothing used over the bottom of the other.

FINALLY, CONSERVE SPACE & don't let anything go to waste. A handbag should be jammed with small articles, shoes jammed with socks etc. One packing method which I've never found satisfactory is the use of plastic bags to compartmentalize the contents of your suitcase. But some lady travellers swear by this system, the theory being that you should have a different plastic bag for each category.

### ODDS & ENDS

LAUNDRY: Since you will probably be doing your own laundry, you must take at least one plastic bag with zipper for carrying wet clothes or wash clothes from town to town. Also recommended is Woolite or some other cold water soap. To repeat a point along this line that cannot be over-stressed:

INVEST HEAVILY IN DRIP-DRY SHIRTS & UNDERWEAR—the type that can be washed in lukewarm water & hung up overnight to dry. Eliminate the clothes that require fancy cleaning & pressing. Unless you do, you'll spend enormous sums for cleaning & laundry, be continually inconvenienced & end up in the worst nightmare of all, lugging around a suitcase full of useless dirty clothes.

HERE'S HOW TO DRIP-DRY: You'll get best results with clothes that are really dripping wet, the theory being that the weight of the water "irons" the clothes. But even if you can't enjoy the luxury of heavily wet & dripping clothes, you can still do well if you remember: 1) Separate the material so the back does not cling to the front. 2) "Hand-iron" the material—smooth the garment out or puff it out from underneath in those areas where it might wrinkle or bunch up. Always button the top buttons & put collars down in the customary shape. Take a few extra seconds to perform these simple tasks & you'll nearly always enjoy better-than-average results. TO DRIP-DRY IN A HOTEL ROOM THAT LACKS A PRIVATE BATH or in a hotel that has no laundry room, start by blotting up the excess moisture with a towel &/or spread newspapers or plastic sheeting below to catch the dripping.

### TIPS FROM READERS

AN ORGANISED PURSE: "After several trips abroad, I finally solved the disorganized everything-in-my-purse routine. Since I had just had a baby I acquired a diaper bag, & on a recent trip used a black patent version of my 'purse'. Its advantages are numerous. It's large & roomy, has a durable plastic lining, all sorts of compartments for diapers & formula that I used for passports, tickets, maps etc. It fits easily on planes. It's not weighed as a carry-on because it's my purse, it opens easily & you can get to everything. The bag is designed for busy mothers & on a trip, travellers are busy. Everything fits into some compartment. I never lost a thing & was organized the entire trip. The bag cost about \$11, not a huge investment."

AVOIDING SPILLS: "I'd like to suggest putting liquids in plastic bottles filled nearly 3/4 full, then squeeze the bottle gently putting the top on tighter so there's still a dent in the bottle as you let go. This prevents spilling nearly 100%. I am a stewardess & can vouch for many miles in pressurized airplanes which usually invite leaks. We learned this in stewardess training & it's invaluable."

I ALWAYS CARRY FOLD-UP SLIPPERS in my purse so that I can slip them on while riding on a plane or on long bus or train trips."

SNACKS: "It's a must for people travelling thru' hotter countries to take a plastic snap-on cover for soda bottles. They are also helpful on long train trips & good for wine bottles. Another item we brought from home was one of those multi-purpose pocket knives, the kind with blades, openers, scissors & even a spoon & fork. It's small & handy for the many times we bought our lunch ingredients at a delicatessen & then needed to cut cheese or meat. We found a small travel kit of mug & an immersion heater invaluable for that odd cup of coffee or tea. We would heat the water in the mug, brew the tea or coffee, pour it into a yogurt container & then boil more water for the second cup."

LAUNDRY: "If you're travelling light & you have to do your

washing every night, throw your laundry into the bathtub & let it soak right along with you while you are bathing. Then all it takes is a quick submerging in the lavatory at the pre-soaking has hastened the job along."

FORGET BATHROBE & SLIPPERS! "In travelling light we have yet to find a use of our bathrobe & slippers. When one needs to go out into the hall for any reason, we find our coats & shoes just as easy to use as our night clothes & sometimes preferable. Robes & slippers simply take up valuable space & add more weight to the suitcase. Instead of slippers we both carry heavy woolen socks which can & often need to be worn in bed as some countries tend to conserve on heat."

BAGGIES: "Please please let the world in on Baggies, both sizes. For about \$5.99 one has disposable cosmetic cases, wet clothing carriers, sweater bags, jewelry cases, soap dishes, make-up sponges, food containers for picnics or whatever (or for leftover food from restaurants), beerbops & a great item in which to wrap odds & ends which are to be mailed home. Take the cardboard roll out of the Baggies, compress them & Bingo!—Instant travelling!"

DRIP-DRY WITH NO DRIP: "If you want to drip-dry clothing in a hotel room that lacks a private bath without soaking the floor, pack in your suitcase a square sturdy plastic. Mine was about 64 in. square & folded flat to almost nothing. It was sold originally as a tablecloth, I think. I spread it underneath my clothesline, folded the sides over to form a sort of pool & found that no water could escape. I also took along a sponge to mop up the first deluge."

RATHER THAN CARRY A BAR OF SOAP in a plastic dish on trips I find it much more convenient to carry just a tube of shaving creme, which I find covers all my needs. Perhaps some of you readers will be delighted as I was to find that shaving creme works just as well as soap & by providing for my bathing as well as shaving needs, this one tube eliminates the need to carry soap dish & the bulky aerosol shaving creme can."