

Graduation of A Thankful Parent!

She received the Lord by receiving the Family!

From Marianne at WWW:
Dearest Dearest Dad & Maria,
ILY BOTH SO VERY MUCH!
THESE DAYS SEEM TO BE
VERY SPECIAL ONES full of
the heaviest moments & greatest
blessings with the Spirit really
moving! After the most beautiful
Sunday Fellowship we ever
had—by the best teacher!—this
Monday was a very very special
day for me—and all here. I feel I
have to tell you about it because
you were so very present & close
& comforting in every way.

FIRST, WE HAD PASSED
THE WORD AROUND ABOUT
THE "SIMON PETER DAY", sug-
gesting that everyone may want
to express their love & appreciation
for Simon in various ways,
that they may want to prepare
something. Then after those
two beautiful Letters about Simon—
"Prayer for Simon Peter"
& "The Simon Peter Day", which
really touched us & showed us
that we had not given enough
credit where credit is due, LHU,
—we then received "Appreciation"
a few hours before the party,
such a beautiful message & very
very needed lesson which you so
well put into practice, & we all
need to apply better! You so
well know how to encourage us
& underline the good, showing
appreciation & gratitude! It is
so true that it inspires one to
work harder, be more loyal, giving,
loving, sharing, as you are!

JUST BEFORE WE LEFT FOR
THE CAMP MY BROTHER
CALLED to announce my mother's
departure from this world.
She had been quite frail & sickly
in the past few years, after being
very strong & healthy all her life
—& no doubt the Lord was trying
to break thru to her.

SHE WAS QUITE A STUB-

BORN JEW, but I know in her
heart she was thrilled at the life
I live, knew we were different,
happy, radical, that we are living
a life of freedom & travel & ad-
venture she always longed for (le-
ven sexual freedom!), a life of
giving & loving others which she
admired tho' she would never ad-
mit that it was the Lord doing it
thru us! She was supposed to
visit us here but got sick with ul-
cers & her already weakened body
soon could not resist any more.

IT BROKE MY HEART BE-
CAUSE I KNOW SHE ALWAYS
LONGED FOR LOVE, real love.
But I don't think she knew the
real Lover who could make her
happy when she died—maybe she
did accept Him at the end, I don't
know. However, when I first
joined I claimed Acts 16:31 ab-
out believing in the name of the
Lord & "thou shalt be saved
& thy house", particularly for
her, & I always had the faith that
the Lord loved her in spite of her
stubbornness! (Amen! GBY!)
WELL, THE PARTY FOR SI-

MON WAS JUST BEAUTIFUL!
The Letters spoke loud & clear,



Marianne & her mother, Holland, 1980. Photo by Paul.

the "share the know" was a need-
ed & sobering eye-opener, & Si-
mon's testimony was really really
beautiful, humble & moving too!
He indeed is a "very fine son" &
an "outstanding man of God",
so sweet & precious! We all cried
—it was really moving! And every-
one could hardly believe it when
we passed one envelope with a
gift for everyone! GBY for your
wonderful sample of love & gen-
erosity! We all needed this even-
ing! (TYL & the Family! GBY!)

WELL, IT TOUCHED ME EV-
EN MORE WHEN WE GOT
HOME TO HEAR YOUR PHONE
MESSAGE, that you were so
thoughtful & concerned to call
& pass me this beautiful comfort-
ing Scripture about my mother.
I loved her a lot, & indeed she
has always been good to me, for-
gave me a lot, helped us, protect-
ed us even, & loved us in spite of
all! I could not believe she could
be damned. But there could not
have been a greater comfort to
me than to hear that you believed
that the Lord would give her a
good place because she was good
to us: (S)he "that receiveth you
receiveth Me" (Mt. 10:40). PTL!
Thank you so very much for all
your wonderful warm love
which tickles me all inside! You
are both so beautiful! I love you
& pray for you!—Marianne.
(ML:GBY! Sheh love! LVL2:1-0.)

From A Prodigal Daughter!

Response to "Prodigal Prodiges"—Lessons learned about roots of bitterness!

From Sunny: Central America:
Dearest Dad & Maria,
GBY! I LOVE YOU SO VERY
MUCH & really don't know what
would have happened to me if it
hadn't been for your WWs! I
just finished reading "Prodigal
Prodiges". Wow! It was such
a blessing to get that Letter! It
has changed & is changing my
life! I felt so convicted reading
it. Word by word, lesson by les-
son it almost stereotyped many
problems I've had in my 9½ years
with the Family.

I'M THE GIRL YOU MENTIONED
IN LETTER NO. 155:
58. ("I understand that one of
our girls who was recently deliv-
ered of diabetes & insulin appar-
ently had a recurrence, probably
because of improper diet, returned
to the insulin, & nearly died
of an overdose.") I always used
to justify myself that I was never
healed 'cause at the time I was
so sick I couldn't eat. But the
fact of the matter is I'd always
been rebellious (I've been taking
insulin now for over 20 years!)
about eating the right way.

NOW, SEEING MY
HEART, I SEE THE REAL
PROBLEM. Altho' at times I've
had the victory, I never really
got the victory over the afflic-
tion the Lord had given me. I
was bitter towards the Lord a-
bout it. How can Jesus heal some-
one who is bitter against Him? I
really did want to serve the
Lord, tho', & I know the Family
is the best way to do that!

SO I CONTINUED WITH
THE FAMILY & LATER MAR-
RIED. However, being rebellious
to the Lord in my heart I was
openly rebellious to my husband.
Can you imagine, all that time I
was working with the babies &
then the older children & even
running & helping to run schools?
It makes me sad to think of it,
how many little children must

have suffered from my rebellious
spiritual condition. TYJ for His
mercy!

BY THE RNR I HAD GROWN
TO LOVE MY HUSBAND, BUT
TOO LATE. When he began
sharing with the other sisters, he
fell in love with one, & I knew
I'd missed the boat. I really was
crazy with jealousy & couldn't
accept it that we could all three
live together, so I left him "to
make a new life for myself".
Now they have two or three chil-
dren.

ME7—I'M STILL RUNNING
FROM ONE COUNTRY TO
ANOTHER, from one family to
another, never finding the right
hole, never fully happy just to
serve & be a big zero just doing
what needs to be done to reach
the world with Jesus' love.

SO WHEN I READ ESTHER'S
STORY IT HIT HOME in so
many ways (I too have been sick
a lot over the last 3 years). I
really cried—and cried out to the
Lord, & He started showing me
so many roots of bitterness in
my own heart. And one was a-
gainst you, Dad, for the Letters
on taking more wives. I realised
I hadn't really believed it or ac-
cepted it. And for the same rea-
sons as Esther.

SO PLEASE, DAD, PLEASE
FORGIVE ME. I know we live
in a spiritual world, so I hope my
resentment towards you didn't
cause you to be sick or hindered
in any way. I'm praying for a
total repentance (no more
roots of bitterness). So one day
I hope to be able to tell you that
the Lord forgave me & healed
me, 'cause I have learned the les-
son & can be trusted with it
(healing).

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR
ALL YOUR WONDERFUL
WORDS, & especially for publish-
ing "Prodigal Prodiges". Please
know I love you & Maria too,

who now I can love more because
I see how I didn't before when I
didn't really believe in my heart
that it was ok to have two wives.
Once the Lord gave me a dream:
I was making love to you, Dad,
& you were a little weak, so Ma-
ria was guiding your penis into
me. It's true!—Without her we
could never have gotten the
words! May God forgive me,
& you & Maria too.

MAYBE YOU'LL NEVER
SEE THIS LETTER.—It doesn't
matter, because the Lord Jesus
knows & today something chang-
ed in my heart, inside of me,
when I wrote this to you. TYJ!
Please pray for me, another "pro-
digal daughter". Love forever,
Sunny. (GBY! ILY & PFFY! D.)

Christ's Bond-Servant
*Make me a captive, Lord,
And then I shall be free;
Force me to render up my
sword;
And I shall conquer or be.
I sink in life's alarms
When by myself I stand;
Imprison me within Thine arms,
And strong shall be my hand.
My heart is weak and poor
Until it Master find;
It has no spring of action sure—
It varies with the wind:
It cannot freely move
Till Thou has wrought its
chain;
Enslave it with Thy matchless
love,
And deathless it shall reign.
My will is not my own
Till Thou hast made it Thine;
If it would reach a monarch's
throne
It must its crown resign:
It only stands unbenet
Amid the clashing strife,
When on Thy bosom it has lent
And found in Thee its life.*
—George Matheson.

From A Concerned Father!

A plea for understanding a child's reasons & motives in his behaviour!

A letter from Gene, ML Photo-
man, to those in another Home
who care for his 6½-yr.-old son:
Dear One,

GBY! ILY! After my visit
there I got this horrible sick feel-
ing about a few things I had
done concerning B. Well, a
few days before we left, B had
given me a little wallet that I sup-
pose was his. You know how he
is, always giving me things.

I DIDN'T TAKE IT VERY
SERIOUSLY AT THE TIME,
but that is what I felt so bad
about, that these things to him
are important, & I just brushed
them off.

HE WAS REALLY TRYING
TO SHOW HIS LOVE & I really
almost treated it as a nuisance,
LHM! Anyway, I left the wallet
there, as I don't need it & it
would be in the way here. But
then I worried that he might find
it where I left it & then feel bad.
The same thing happened with
a large mural he painted for me.
I just felt terrible about it. I
do appreciate his gesture very
much & I think the only way
he'll believe that is if I keep those
items. So please tell him I'm sorry
& ask him to keep them for
me if he wants.

WELL, THIS BRINGS ME
TO ANOTHER THING that has
been a real burden to my heart.
From my being there & seeing
how things are & how they go
each day, it makes me feel a bit
worried for B & how he is do-
ing.—Mostly in how he is being
misunderstood & treated by the
adults there. Overall, I have little
or no complaints & feel that
B is an extremely fortunate
boy, especially for you to care
for him as a real mother.

BUT ONE THING BROKE
MY HEART & made me feel so
very sorry for him. That is that
he seems so often alone & mis-
understood.—Alone in the seise

that he didn't seem to have any-
one who would share & talk to
him on his level & understand
him. The same thing that I con-
fessed to you above that I did,
is what I witnessed others of you
doing also, not really seeing the
motives & reasons for which he
does things. Perhaps I don't see
the whole story, but only a por-
tion—but then the Lord often
uses those little portions that
outsiders see to open up things.

I NOTICED SEVERAL
TIMES B TRIED TO DO
SOMETHING NICE for someone
but it actually wasn't that much
of a help to that person, rather
almost a hindrance. But he was
almost yelled at & told in rather
rough terms to stop bothering
them & that it wasn't a help. His
good effort wasn't appreciated.
He was scolded in very unloving
terms & very little thought given
to his feelings.

HE IS JUST A LITTLE BOY,
& GROWING & LEARNING, &
he needs as much or more con-
sideration as each of us, as much
understanding, encouragement
& love shown as for our mistakes.
I know you all are very busy &
have many straining moments in
the day, but I think the Lord has
a greater peace & rest for us
that will allow us to have the ex-
tra patience needed to take the
time to gently lead & train the
little ones. That's our job.

IF HE IS TREATED AS A
NUISANCE & A PROBLEM,
he'll most likely become one.
B needs a lot of love & affec-
tion shown to him throughout
the day (don't we all), & firm
discipline for his errors & way-
wardness (in private, as much as
possible), & lots of explaining
& reasoning to help him under-
stand the things he does wrong,
with love & concern for him &
his feelings.

I NOTICED AT TIMES THAT

B WAS VERY DISRESPECT-
FUL OF YOU & others there &
often very rebellious. I tried to
understand why & thought per-
haps it was because he wasn't
being respected by those of you
there as far as his feelings & de-
sires etc. If I were treated like
he was at times with harsh words
& threats of discipline, I would
be most unhappy. I almost
cried once when I saw B sitting
on his bed one day all alone al-
most crying after someone had
yelled at him & told him off
that he never does anything but
make the other children cry when
he gets around them. Could you
stand to be told that?

B IS GROWING OLDER &
perhaps he is at the age where it
is more difficult for all of you to
understand him & his needs. May-
be it's a difficult age for him as
well! That night he helped us
pack the trunk he just was so lit
up & excited. He was so happy
just to be able to be a help.

AT FIRST HE WASN'T A
HELP AT ALL but made it more
difficult. But he so badly needed
to feel useful & helpful that I
couldn't help but let him con-
tinue. He just loved it & he loved
me for letting him. And it was
worth the extra hassle for me.
I know that in the past I haven't
been the best example of being
the most loving father. I am
learning too. I just felt burdened
& think that B will only get
worse in his attitudes if he is
continued to be treated in some
of the ways I witnessed.—And
that'll only make things harder
for you too.

PLEASE DON'T FEEL DIS-
COURAGED by this one thing.
I am not unhappy with how you
are doing with B. Please please
share with B that I love him
& want to hear from him. I love
you too & am very thankful for
you. Love, Gene.

"Good Sheps" Couple Apology!

"We both still had a lot of old 'Chain-Saul' ways that needed to be purged!"

Dearest Dad & Maria,
I HAVE READ OUR "GOOD
SHEPHERDS" FOR THE SEC-
OND TIME since receiving it,
& altho' it is "grivous" to bear
I am very thankful for these
"lashes of love". Everything
you said in it is true, & I am very
sorry for disappointing you so
much, as it really was a "golden
opportunity" to express to you
both how much I love you & ap-
preciate all that your words have
done for me these past years.

UNFORTUNATELY IT CAME
AT A TIME WHEN I HAD JUST
RETURNED FROM A YEAR
OF BACKSLIDING & COMPROMIS-
ING & as a result I was in a
very unstable spiritual state. I
see now tho' I should have taken
this opportunity as a Prodigal
Son returning to his Father to
ask for your forgiveness, which I
do now. Instead I was just
trying to act like everything was
ok instead of being honest with
you about what I had been thru.
I guess it's just the fear of man.
Lord help me!

AS YOU SAID, "YOUR KIDS
WILL SPEAK FOR YOU", & I
know it's one of my biggest fail-
ures to have not brought my son
up in the way he should go. I
know also my wife is a reflection
of me & when I am fighting &
feeling her faithfully with the
Word she is much stronger as a
result.

IT IS SO TRUE WHAT YOU
SAID ABOUT THE HOUSE OF
SAUL, & the Devil can still use
it as a wedge with former chain
leaders if they've not been re-
trained with care & patience.
Well, I can honestly say I want
to be completely purged from
these old ways & set free so I
can be a useful vessel to the Fam-
ily & His Work.

YOUR LETTERS ABOUT
JUSTUS A. & HO & ESTHER,
& now "Good Shepherds", have

been such a help to me to see
the things that have been hinder-
ing me, & I want these lessons
to go deep into my heart so that
by God's grace I will become a
new bottle like so many I see a-
round me & not just backslide
into oblivion like so many of
the rest of the Chain. Thank
you so much for your love & pa-
tience, Dad & Maria, & I just
pray that I am finally beginning
to get the point.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST
THINGS THE LORD HAS IM-
PRESSED UPON ME is the need
to spend more time in the Word,
memorising scriptures & drown-
ing myself in it, because I know
it was the neglect of it that caused
me to get off the track in the
first place. I know as I faithfully
put the Word first in my life it
will give me all the drive & con-
viction I need to be a much bet-
ter sample in all that I do.

I HAVE HEARD THAT HO
IS GOING TO BE DOING SOME
VIDEOS of the Family here for
you, so we are thankful for this
second chance to meet you via
Video, & I hope that you will
see the change in our lives!

THANK YOU AGAIN, DAD,
FOR THAT LETTER & for not
just leaving us on the scrap heap.
You said in "Backsliding" that
"he will do his best to prove that
he can make it & work harder at
it than anyone else," so this is
my challenge from the Letters,
& by the grace of God I'm going
to be that man! Thank you for
listening. I love you & need you
so much.—A grateful son, yours
forever.

Dear Dad & Maria,
GBY! "GOOD SHEPHERDS"
WAS VERY SOBERING FOR
ME, as I never realised before
how deeply that Video had up-
set you both. My first reaction
was real sadness that I had allow-

ed my spiritual state to be a
drain on you. I realise now,
even tho' I was feeling the way
I was, I should have gotten des-
perate with the Lord & reached
out to you by faith to try to
give you back a minute reflec-
tion of the love & inspiration you
have constantly been to me
throughout the years.

LHM, I WAS SO FULL OF
MYSELF & MY PROBLEMS
that all I was feeling was shame
&, as you sensed, fear that no
matter what I said or did you
would see right thru me anyway.
Your Letter really helped me
realise that self-consciousness &
fear of not being accepted are
nothing but tricks of the Devil
to make you look inward &
thereby cut off the outgoing
flow of God's Spirit. I've al-
ways had a problem with this.
But now that I understand it,
I really want to get a victory over
it.

I FELT LIKE ONE OF THE
FOOLISH VIRGINS arriving at
the Lord's house without any
oil. Everything you said about
me was so true & helped me to
see my weaknesses so I can really
try to overcome them.

SOON AFTER THE VIDEO
WE GOT TO SEE QUITE A LOT
OF PAUL & MARIANNE. They
were to us like a loving caring
balm on our scars & the elixir of
love worked wonders in our lives.
It was like being wooed back in-
to the centre of the Family after
a year of straying. Their sample
exposed my selfishness & inde-
pendence that had hardened my
heart & we both really broke,
& for the first time in years I was
able to let go of all my doubts,
fears & insecurity & let the life-
giving flow of the Spirit take over
again. Their encouragement &
inspiration challenged our hearts
to get back in the fight again,
TYL!