

A Step of Faith To Launch Out!

DESPITE LARGE DEBTS, A FAMILY SETS DEADLINE FOR EXODUS--& MEETS IT!

From Rebecca Wood; S.E. Asia;

WE WANT TO WRITE & SHARE OUR TESTIMONY about how our God hath delivered, doth deliver, & will yet deliver. TYU! After visiting our parents in the States for a furlough, we found ourselves still there 2 years later, working & trying to raise our fare back to a foreign field.

MUCH TO OUR HORROR, we discovered that we not only had no money saved, but we were \$1,000 in debt! We were getting so sucked into the System that soon we would not have been able to leave even if we wanted to because of our financial obligations.

THIS REALISATION WAS THE PUSH WE NEEDED TO CLIMB OUT ONTO A LIMB & SAW IT OFF.

If the Devil can't stop you from being Christians, he'll certainly try to stop you from being revolutionary Christians, & this is what was happening to us!

SO, JARED PUT IN 2 MONTHS' NOTICE AT WORK, & we set the date to leave. The first exciting repurcussion of our decision to move was not quite what we expected. The day after deciding to move back to the field, we received 2 new bills in the mail. They had made a mistake in our rent, & we now owed them \$700. Also, we received a bill for \$300 on an old loan we thought was taken care of.

ISN'T THAT FUNNY? Now we were \$2,000 in debt, but we were excited because we knew the Devil was mad & was trying to scare us into changing our minds. It takes an impossible situation for God to do a miracle, & we knew that only God could deliver us.

SO, WE CONTINUED TO STEP OUT BY FAITH & began preparations to move. At this



Making new friends on the field: 7-year-old Sarah(right) of Jared & Rebecca Wood, & Crystal(5) of Eli & Love Hi. (Photo by Jared)



Children of Jared & Rebecca singing in a nearby Pentecostal church: (1-r)Angela(2), Christopher(4), Anaik(5) & Sarah. (Photo by Robert Camacho)

time Jared's 19-year-old brother, who had been visiting us, decided to join the Family & leave with us. So we not only had our 5 children, but we also had a brand new babe!

BUT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, & Elijah was a blessing from God to help us with the children & all the packing. GBH! Slowly but surely the miracles began to take place. But the blessings did not precede our obedience. It was not until the week before we left that we had any money in our pockets.

WE SOLD OUR CAR, got back our deposits on our rent & utilities & received our income tax return just before we left. TYU! Also, the brethren in our area all pitched in to help us & even gave us some very

generous donations! GBT!

SO GOD WAS TESTING US RIGHT UP TO THE LAST MINUTE, but He didn't fail! We're now here in S. E. Asia pioneering a new Home. We just want to encourage you large families in the U.S. that God is not limited by many or by few. He still takes care of His own! Why don't you take the step of faith & launch out? If we can do it, you can, because you can do all things thru Christ which strengtheneth you, especially to obey Dad & flee America!

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE ANY DONATIONS. We are presently pioneering, & we are now 8 adults & 8 children, & two of these are newborns. GBY! WLY! (Amen! GBY! "I can do all things thru Christ!" PTL!)

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Are You Coming Down South?

LABOUR LEADERS NEEDED FOR A SEMI-CLOSED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY!

From Matthew Askins; South America;

IF YOU ARE STILL TRYING TO DECIDE WHERE IN SOUTH AMERICA you want to go, we Homes here have a suggestion. Because this country is in a closed situation you'll have to refer to FN #28, pages 94 or 96 to know where we are; on the chart we're the next to the last country on the list.

BECAUSE WE'RE IN A CLOSED COUNTRY, you will need pioneer faith & courage, & some home support to come here. We foreigners can teach languages, especially English, but the Latins have a harder time. As pay scales are low & living expenses are fairly high, life is harder than in the Northern Hemisphere, but most Americans & Europeans are welcome here if you can maintain a good system front, & visas generally present no problems.

THIS COUNTRY WILL SURPRISE YOU WITH ITS HIGH STANDARD of education & culture--definitely superior to the U.S. But they've been humbled, saddened & embittered or broken by various economic & political problems of recent years. The new youth, the teenagers, however, are looking for some personal joy & freedom & are turning more to western music & clothes & life-styles to find it.

BECAUSE THE ESTABLISHED TRADITIONAL CHURCH IS SO DEAD & cold, much of the youth have been looking for some spiritual fulfillment in eastern religions, various spiritual books, the Mormons, or either become atheists or simply believe in God "their way".

THERE ARE SO MANY SWEET, sweet people here, including a lot of the older generation, that we feel a little heart-broken because we can not reach them all. Our main outreach is personal witnessing, & the harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few. We have many souls, fish, sheep, friends & some potential disciples, but we need more witnesses & labour leaders.

WE HAVE BEEN WITNESSING MORE LATELY, & the article in the same FN(#28) on page 30 is very applicable to our situation. Although you can witness some here, with prayer & care, it cannot be looked to as a means of support. This is a small country, & everybody seems to know everybody, & things don't usually go unnoticed here.

EVEN FF-ING CANNOT USUALLY BE DONE BY INVADING THE VERY FEW NICE HOTEL LOBBIES or bars here--you would be well-known too quick. But we do

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We're On Our Way!

A MIRACULOUS JOURNEY THRU THE TUNNEL!

From Shobek & Shama Mailman; Latin America;

WE WANT TO WRITE ABOUT ALL THE MIRACLES THE LORD DID for us to finally get us out of the U.S., & we hope this will help anyone else who may be trying to leave.

ABOUT THE TIME "AMERICANS ABROAD" CAME OUT we were able to get mobile after getting a real nice '75 van for only \$1000, which was a miracle & testimony in itself. We made a few interior changes, putting in a bed for sleeping, & then went to a nearby campground to see first-hand all the camping Letters come to life.

THOSE FIRST FEW WEEKS WERE A TRIAL-6 ERROR PERIOD, & we learned a lot. We were so thankful to be mobile instead of living in a house with all the expenses. **WE WENT TO ANOTHER CITY**

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WE WERE THERE FOR ABOUT 6 MONTHS. We wanted to prepare to go south, but we weren't making much progress. We hadn't been able to get a trailer during this time or save funds, & it was getting cold, so we were really praying for a miracle. We didn't know what the Lord had in store or what He wanted us to do.

THEN, OUT WITNESSING WE MET SHAUL & ABIAH & TEAM which was a real inspiration & blessing--we got to stay with them in a trailer park for a couple of months using a trailer borrowed from Huldah who wasn't using it at the time. GBH! And during this time the kids were able to sing together, & they just loved it & were a real testimony. TTL!

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Making Our "Exodus" Together!

A MIRACULOUS NEW START IN THE SOUTH, WITH GOD CONSTANTLY ADDING TO THEIR NUMBERS!

From John Caravan; Brasil;

Dearest Dad, Maria &

Precious Family,

WORDS HAVE JUST NEVER BEEN ABLE TO TOTALLY EXPRESS how much we love you & how thankful we are for what you've done for us. To be a part of this greatest of all love stories is the biggest blessing & joy, & it's out of this world! There's nothing better, nothing even closer--& we'd like to share some of the joy & blessing we've received since first hearing the Letter "Americans Abroad" almost one year ago.

REBECCA & I HAD JUST WATCHED THE LORD MIRACULOUSLY PROVIDE OUR LITTLE FAMILY of 4 with a beautiful Mercedes van, fully built inside, at half the price it was really worth, which we were going to use in going to India to work as travelling MM Minstrels. It was a great testimony to many sheep we had been ministering to, besides a tremendous blessing to us. We thought it would just be a few more months & then "India here we come", but only 2 days later we received "Americans Abroad".

IT WAS A BOMB THAT SENT US INTO DESPERATE PRAYER, & as always the Lord spoke loud & clear: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, & to hearken than the fat of rams." (I Sam 15:22) Even though we already had clearance to India, it was still in the dangerous northern hemisphere. (Altho' so, it is in a safer area than most & an unlikely target & far enough South to be less likely to suffer fallout--South of the Tropic of Cancer. However you made the right choice, as it is very difficult for Americans to stay there & easier for British--D.)

WE LOOKED AGAIN TO THE LORD for a confirmation & He gave us the Letter "Exodus" which became a real

parallel to all the Lord showed us to do, the first step of which was to return to the States to spoil Egypt. I have to admit that it was at first very hard for me as I'd never had a burden for South America & would have rather gone just about anywhere else, but in obedience to what the Lord had shown us we began by faith to hit the streets of Europe for one more month to prepare to move, sell our van & raise the little extra we needed to begin our journey south.

BEFORE THAT MONTH WAS OVER I HAD SUCH A BURNING DESIRE FOR SOUTH AMERICA that I couldn't contain, sharing our new vision with everyone we met. PG! We knew that the Lord was already blessing our obedience!

UPON OUR RETURN TO THE STATES, the Lord showed us to "go to the land of the



John Caravan with children Katrina(7) & Michael(5 1/2) singing away on the streets of Brasil.

earthquakes & shake 'em up one more time." Being in California already we felt certain it was San Francisco, & sure enough we'd caused no small stir by the time we had to flee.

WITHIN OUR FIRST MONTH THERE, Rebecca's brother, Paul, came down from Canada to visit us, & after 5 days of witnessing to him out in a beautiful campground, he finally opened his heart & received the Lord. He returned to Canada only to find that his old life & friends were nothing in comparison to his new life of love in Jesus; so after 6 weeks he joined us in full-time service, bringing along his trumpet & a strong desire for South America--a real timely blessing!

SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE LORD OPENED WIDE A DOOR TO INVAD E A PARTICULAR CHURCH DENOMINATION where we min-

Shaul's sample of love & giving encouraged us so much. They encouraged us to step out by faith & go south with what we had. Those 2 months were a real renewal spiritually for us. TTL!

AFTER 2 MONTHS SHAUL & ABIAH WENT ON THEIR WAY, & we too had to leave the trailer park, as the trailer we had been using got sold. So we were in the van again, & the Lord showed us to start travelling around Texas in the van & try to raise the support we needed to go south.

THE DAY WE LEFT STARTED A CHAIN REACTION OF MIRACLES to say the least. We had no gas & little money, so we stopped to provision gas. The first person we asked gave us \$25, & we were to find out a month & a half later that this same man & family were going to help support us.

IN THE NEXT MONTH WE WERE ABLE TO PROVISION ALL OUR FOOD, gas, printing, clothes, vitamins, hotel rooms when it was cold, etc. It just blew our minds. We went from store to store and place to place, & we were meeting a lot of people this way who were so eager to help after we witnessed to them.

AFTER THE LETTER "GET HOME SUPPORT", we were really getting desperate, as we weren't getting support thru just witnessing, & the Lord showed us to start going door to door. Lord help us; He had to give us a good kick to get us started--but what a victory when we did!

WE WENT AS A FAMILY WITH ALL THE KIDS & our guitar. We'd go up to the door & ask if they'd like to hear a song, & the kids would usually sing John 3:16 in Spanish & English. Then we'd tell them who we were & what we were doing, & most people were eager to help. To those who invited us in, we were able to sing more songs &

witness more. It was a real miracle as we're amateurs when it comes to singing & guitar playing.

THE SIMPLE CHILDREN'S SONGS JUST OPENED UP HEARTS, & we'd get many addresses each day of people who wanted us to keep in touch or help us on the field. We were really sold on DTDing. Try it, you'll like it!

WE THEN WENT TO ANOTHER CITY IN TEXAS, & after being there a month going DTD etc., the Lord was definitely showing us we needed to get going south--but we still had quite a few needs & still wanted to get a trailer first, especially since we were due to have baby #4 in a couple of months.

BUT WE ASKED THE LORD that if He wanted us to go, He just had to provide these needs--& boom, they started coming in thru provisioning & meeting people--just about every major need but a trailer. We tried every means to get a trailer, but the doors just didn't open.

SO ONE MORNING AFTER PRAYING ABOUT IT, we decided to go ahead & go. We could have been there forever & felt we needed to take the step of faith & go--even though we were by ourselves with just the van & tent & didn't know much Spanish.

SO WE MADE PLANS TO LEAVE WITHIN A COUPLE OF DAYS. Well, that evening we got a call from a couple named Zac & Esther who said they were selling their trailer, as they were planning to fly to South America & wouldn't need it, & they asked if we would like it. Well, what a miracle. TTL! GBH! So, we left as soon as we could to pick it up.

THEN, WHEN WE WERE HEADING TOWARD LAREDO the Enemy began to fight hard, & things were breaking. The hitch wasn't working right, the engine started acting up, & on our last stretch toward

Laredo our transmission started leaking, the front end started shaking, the universal joint started squeaking, etc.

HOWEVER, ARRIVING IN LAREDO WAS A REAL INSPIRATION, as we were able to meet Faith & Juan for the first time & see the videos. That was such an encouragement!

THE NEXT 3 WEEKS WE TRIED IN LAREDO TO GET THE ENGINE & TRANSMISSION OVERHAULED & to raise some funds, but to no avail. Then we felt it was just the Enemy fighting & that we should just go ahead & go. So we decided to leave on the next Tuesday, & the next day Adam & Carmel came up from Mexico to renew visas. They planned to go back on Tuesday also, so that confirmed it all.

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE DID ALL WE COULD TO GET READY, & the Lord blessed it. We provisioned plenty of oil & transmission fluid & parts for a tune-up & found a sweet Mexican man to replace the universal joint & fix our flat tire. And then we left with Adam & Carmel with just \$22 left.

WE WANTED TO SAY THAT GOING DOWN OUR ENGINE NEVER WORKED BETTER, using very little oil, even when going thru the mountains. The transmission stopped leaking & the hitched worked fine, & we were able to provision all our gas & get extra funds too. And we arrived at our destination with \$155. What a miracle!

WE'RE NOW TRYING TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE & get adjusted & find our place here in Mexico singing with the children, witnessing, DTDing etc. till we can go further south. TTL!

AND THANKS DAD & MARIA for your love & Letters. We couldn't live without them! We love you so so much! And we now have a new Mexican disciple, Antonio David, born 3 weeks after our arrival. (PTL! GBY for faith in action!)