

Watch Out For Robbers!

Tips on Avoiding Thieves & Pickpockets!

From Oakes

BEY! LHM! And I wanted to share some of the lessons I've learned about thieves & pickpockets & how they operate - and how to avoid 'em! When I lived in Latin America I got a little firsthand view of their methods as well as hearing quite a bit from others of their experiences, so I pray this is a blessing & will save you from some of the same sad experiences!

Many thieves & pickpockets work in groups. And they do their "dirty work" in crowded lines, stores or restaurants. Once when we were standing in a bus line in Venezuela the bus arrived & was immediately besieged, everyone in line pressing forward to be the first to get on board. One boy at the entrance was struggling with some packages, blocking the door, while the crowd piled up behind him, very tightly packed. I looked down to see someone about to slip his hand into my pocket & when I turned around, someone else was trying to open the purse of the girl I was with. There was so much pushing & shoving - physical contact - that if we hadn't happened to see what was happening we probably never would have felt it. When the thieves saw that we had spotted them they left immediately. So **avoid crowds & crowded places** - while one thief distracts you the other could be taking you for all you've got!

Distracting your attention is one of a thief's favorite methods. Once in a post office I was picking up mail & had just put it in my briefcase & looked it. A boy walked by me, pointed to the ground & said, "You dropped something!" And there were \$2-3 on the ground. My first reaction was to pick it up, of course, but as I looked at it I felt my briefcase move slightly (I still had my hand upon it) and when I turned around I saw 2-3 other youths nonchalantly eyeing me & the briefcase & one had his hand "resting" very close to it! If I'd taken my hand off the briefcase (or put down a package I was carrying) to pick up the money, that probably would have been the last I would have seen of the briefcase! It could have been an expensive "find"!

Hang on to your possessions for dear life if someone asks you what time it is! Once in Peru I was eating lunch in a crowded restaurant & had my pouch on the table next to me, on the side away from the aisle (I should have had it on my lap). 3-4 youths walked into the restaurant & walked all the way to the back, as if they were looking for an empty table, and then started to walk out again. As they passed me the first one in line, slightly behind me & to my left, asked me for the time. He didn't seem to hear me when I answered so I turned more towards him (away from my pouch) & repeated it. He thanked me & left - and so did my pouch! While he was distracting me, standing in a position where I had to turn to face him, someone else made off with my pouch. It only had \$5 in it. I carried my large amount of money in my pouch, but I lost my passport as well as the mail keys, which were a hassle to replace & I had to change the lock to my P.O. box! The only time I actually lost anything to a thief!

I've heard that if someone comes up to Dad on the street & asks him for a light, he immediately says "Don't smoke", turns around & walks away, since this is a favorite method of stick-up men!

Also, (another lesson from Dad) when using a public toilet go into the stall & lock the door behind you. Robberies in the toilet are common, esp. in America.

When someone brushes against you on the street or bumps into you it might be good to stop immediately & check your pockets. Better safe than sorry! Spread your money around in different pockets or locations on you so that a thief can't get it all at once - and don't carry any more than you need to, of course!

Carry your briefcase, pouch or purse on the side of you away from the street. Peru, in particular, is famous for youths who come by on motorcycles & grab whatever they can from unobtrusive pedestrians. And if you should have to put your bag or purse down for any reason you should always have your hand firmly attached to it, or even have it clamped between your legs or ankles.

It's probably best to **avoid wearing expensive watches or jewelry** in poor areas of the city - or in poor cities! It's cheaper & safer to leave them at home. A few years ago a sister was wearing an expensive gold watch on the streets of Bogota. As she & the brother accompanying her were waiting at a bus stop, a man stopped to admire her watch, pulled out a pistol and calmly took off her watch & walked away with it!

T.E. Latins can be very sweet & friendly but thievery is a problem & something to watch out for! As a pale-skinned American or European you're a very tempting target for the thieves of poorer third-world countries. So when travelling through these countries

remember the Scriptural injunction to be "wise as serpents & harmless as doves" & to "pray without ceasing"! And as Dad said in "Dear Deb & Jeth", "Usually, just a little prayer and good common sense can prevent such things, even without a lesson on car thefts! He never forgets or neglects anything, and often protects us and our things even in our ignorance! But if we are willfully or woefully ignorant, careless, negligent & slothful stewards, then He will sometimes allow us to suffer for it by learning a bitter lesson as a result of it....!" (110:17,8) GRACEY! AMEN!

Much love,

Oakes

-- AMEN! GAY! TRS! "WATCH & PRAY!" -- D.

Lit Printing in Chile!

Encouraging possibilities of Printing the Lit & obtaining a Government Printing Permit!

From Elizabeth Longfellow

We wanted to answer your question, Dad, about the gov't printing permit here in Chile that you asked in Mag #43, p.29. As you can imagine, we've been getting a lot of first-hand experience here in Chile since "To Be or Not to Be" came out as to what you can or can't do as far as printing & litnessing! Thanks again for your good counsel & waking us all up to get back on the wall! The November lit & soul stats here have been very encouraging & the Christmas lit came just in time so we could print more after running out on the last projected! A printing of over 200,000 Christmas letters has just been completed & is now ready for distribution! Everyone is so excited, the lit's going great, the people are so receptive! Donations are also good, averaging about 5 pesos (12¢ US per piece)! Chile's pretty rich on a Latin American standard & can afford to pay for the lit!

Back to the Gov't printing permit! It's actually quite simple. You just need to fill out a little form at the "Intendencia" (like "City Hall"). On the form you write your name, address, the name of your publication, frequency of printing, director of publication. Then, on another page, you must explain the purpose of the publication. For our type of milky lit, all you need to do is write "Difusion de la Fe" ("Diffusion of the Faith"), then include 2 photocopies of the lit. It's a very standard procedure that usually takes no more than 15 minutes.

Some cautious printers are asking us to have the government stamp it's OK on the lit before they'll print it, but most don't even bother asking when they see that it's gospel lit. Like Jonathan said in his letter, most printers ask no questions, but for the few that do, it's very easy to get permission.

The information in our report about the lit law being enforced by imprisonment is true, but applies only to political lit, of course! Again "Know Your Meat" definitely applies here! There was a little tightening up by the gov't against lit in general because of political lit being printed up illegally & distributed DTD by leftists. But as long as we use wisdom & work & counsel together we should have no problem printing or distributing our inoffensive lit! We pray that you enjoyed the video we sent you, as we really wanted to express our feeling about the "To Be or Not to Be" Letter & want to let you know that the S.A. Controversy is over, by God's grace!

Your "Too Many Cooks" message was perfectly timed for us here in Chile! With 255 Family members here now (at last count!) & 165 of them bunched up in Santiago & 57 in Viña del Mar (only 2 hours away), we really needed to break up the blob! Boy, your letters sure have a way of sockin' it to us & getting things done! We held an emergency NACH (National ACM) with all the LAs & DAs in Chile to talk about decentralizing, pioneering, & the Reception Home, among other things. It was super inspiring & everyone is raring to "go"! We're including a Chile info sheet which we're sending out to all the Homes here, also to the BB's & brethren planning to come! This weekend we'll be making a special video on Chile for those who plan to come. This could be shown to the BB families in the States & Europe, to inspire them to come down, instruct them as to what to bring, etc. It's mainly going to consist of interviews with those who have recently arrived & can share their tips & testimonies. We

Getting Back On The Track!

God's loving dealings with a prodigal daughter bring new life for Him!

From Elisabeth Scriba: Central America:

HOW I LOVE YOU BOTH! - There is so much on my heart I want to share with you & to really be reunited with you once again in heart & spirit as I haven't been able to for years because of my bitterness & hardness against the Holy Ghost & what God's Spirit had tried to do in my life.

I GUESS IT BEGAN AS A CHILD as I was raised in an atmosphere of bitterness & spiritual hardness. My father was a carnal (the manager of a carnival) in the summer & a professional card dealer in the winter. From what I can gather, he probably died as a bum in the streets of Seattle, although I never saw him after age 5. My mother was very bitter as her mother died in bed with her when she was 13 (my grandmother had also lived a life of bitterness.) She (my mother) set on to marry an epileptic at age 15, had my half-brother at 17, & was then forced to give him up because she was declared an unfit mother in a nasty court trial. She married three more times, always seeking some happiness for herself, but never finding it & becoming more & more bitter as the years went by.

ALTHOUGH I RECEIVED JESUS WHEN I WAS 12, by the time I was a teenager I was about as hard, cynical & bitter as you can get. And it's only a miracle of God & your overpowering love that I was able to come to the Family at all.

RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING THE LORD BEGAN TO TRY & WORK ON MY HEART to remove this bitterness & hardness of spirit, but I resisted every step of the way. And the real blow (or so I thought because of my warped outlook) was when you, through God's Spirit, put me together with Abdon. I was really openly angry with the Lord & so totally rebellious (remember when you hit me with your cane at the "Get It Together" session!).

I WAS SO MAD & REALLY HARDENED MY HEART, and that was to be one of the many times that I left the Family, always for the same reason. But during those three months out of the Family, the Lord kept showing me how much He loved me, whereas because of my bitter outlook, I had been expecting Him to be out there waiting for me with a

big stick, practically ready to strike me dead the minute I walked out the door.

SO I CAME BACK & THE LORD GAVE ME A MEASURE OF VICTORY and, PG, He was able to use me somewhat for several years. But never as He had planned because that root was still there, & it always started growing again sooner or later. That's why, when I came to see you in the Ark in Oklahoma, I wasn't able to receive from the Lord's Spirit the wonderful things He wanted to give me, & I'm sure why you never invited me back. Bitterness just doesn't permit you to receive any of the Lord's blessings or to see things in their proper perspective.

THEN I SPENT SO MANY YEARS WITH JETHRO & we were really a sad pair, although the Lord did use us to do some good. Things got progressively worse as the years went by (Jethro & I were very close & I really loved him & still do. I pray someday the Lord will be able to break his heart & set him free from the terrible self-imposed bondage he is under.) I remember one time I was trying to comfort Jeth about something he was going through & he said, "Honey, don't you realize there's something wrong with me - that Dad will never trust me!" And I thought to myself, "Oh, oh - the same is true of me, & Jeth & I are both in the same boat." (J's prob: He didn't trust me or Letters!)

AS TIME PASSED, PARTICULARLY TOWARDS THE END OF OUR TIME IN EUROPE, we became real partners in crime, as Jeth always used material things to assuage his grief & help him forget he was resisting the Lord. I freely partook of it all since I was resisting the Lord, too. I'll never forget standing on the balcony of our apartment in Paris in 1975 & feeling like jumping off. I was so miserable. I had everything I had dreamed of in the World; nice apartment, plenty of clothes, the best food & wine Paris had to offer - all provided by Jeth, & I couldn't have been more miserable. The only time either one of us had even a measure of happiness was when we were working together in the office, & those were the times of a feeling of most peace & usefulness.

UPON ARRIVING IN PERU, THE LAST VESTIGE OF OUR BALLOON POPPED as the civil war began between Jeth, Deb, Isaiah & Joy. Bitterness just took hold everywhere,

pray this can be a real service to inspire & inform our brethren up north! PG! We're also praying about setting up a Reception Home as you suggested in the new Letter. Although Valparaíso was mentioned as the place to have it, we believe you would agree that Santiago is the actual center. Sometimes Valparaíso looks more important on the maps than it really is. It is the main port of Santiago, but Santiago is where the International Airport is & where all the brethren (so far) have arrived. Santiago is the major capital & transportation, commercial, & banking center as you emphasized several times in the Letter as being the ideal location for a Reception Home.

We want you to know that we completely share your burden for a Reception Home! Imagine! In the last 3 months alone here in Chile, we've almost doubled in Family members! From 130 members & 26 Homes in July to 255 members & 40 Homes at present! It's been truly miraculous how the Lord's helped us in absorbing all these people with relatively few problems! Thanks mostly to the cooperation of the brethren here who've been putting some up for a day, a week, or a month! Most everyone has been super-cooperative, OBVM! If anything, everyone's been pretty lenient & charging the new arrivals very little, or nothing! It's been a real united Family effort, but we do believe the time has come to set up something more permanent, like a Reception Home, that could handle the coming influx of brethren in a more organized fashion & get them out to where the need is before they get too settled down in the capital. Up till now, this has been pretty much the way it's been!

A new family arrives from the States or Europe who know very little Spanish. They get picked up at the airport & brought to a Home that has an extra room & offers them. They start spending their landing fund on food & helping out in the Home. They start to realize they can't continue to spend the money they brought, & immediately begin looking for housing while they still have enough to pay one month's rent & one month's deposit (usually in the neighborhood of \$1,000) & end up renting a house or apt. in Santiago. (or recently in Viña del Mar as well.)

So, to make a long story short, we definitely do need a Reception Home & we're looking into the possibilities right now. So far, 4 different couples are praying about becoming the RH Shepherds. When they told us this, we encouraged them to write to you, as you suggested, with information about themselves, the field, recommendations, etc. We'd love to work together with whomever is chosen as it would be a tremendous blessing to share the responsibilities with another couple. As more people come to Chile & as they spread out into the smaller cities, our job requires a lot more prayer, time, & effort. Our visiting area now includes Viña, Santiago, & Concepción, the central zone which doesn't require much travelling (the greatest distance is from Viña to Concepción which is only 10 hours by bus). But as the brethren spread out to the cities in the north & south, our visiting area will cover over 3,000 kms. from Arica in the north to Puerto Montt in the south. The ideal would be to base out of Santiago which is 2,050 kms from Arica (36 hrs. by bus) & 1,050 kms. from Puerto Montt (19 hrs. by bus)! But the distances are so great, we'd really need to have a good couple help us by running the RH. Do you know of any YBs headed our way? We also have several capable couples here who have offered their services.

We plan to leave our present Home in Viña del Mar on Dec. 15, then look for a RH in Santiago, which, DV, we'd have set up to receive brethren by January, 1982.

Well, I guess that's about all for now. We hope & pray we can be a help & strength to you both & serve our precious Family in the best way possible!

Love & Prayers Forever,

PTL! GAY! PG & UR FAMILY! - D. Jethie Longfellow