

fact that we did not know how to avoid FF blues.

One thing we can both boldly mention is that since we are here, we have discovered the happiness of sharing one another for the sake of others, and it has brought us so much closer to each other as well as to the rest of the Family. We are now more in love, with more freedom and understanding than we have ever been, with a greater appreciation of the blessing of having a special lover to share joys and sorrows with. Also, until we came here, though we had done a lot of marriage counselling, we never fully understood the "Law of Love", or let's say, never fully applied it. Couples in the colonies are still something private, behind a closed door, and we have discovered the joy of opening the door to others within and without the Family to share with them the love we have received. It has been such a blessing to be able to see the sample and the fruit to help us understand how to apply the Letters.

In conclusion, we feel so privileged to have been able to come here to this very special place, because though many are trying in many places, you can feel "that a prophet has been here" and it helped us to see things so much clearer, working and living with the people you were living with, and that have been trained by the King himself.

We hope this little report helps you to understand what is happening in this particular area we were in—though we are sure things have been progressing a lot in the last six months we have now been gone!

We want to thank you again for all your love and concern for all of us, and for the wonderful sample of simplicity, freedom, and real love you have left here. We pray for your soon return and that God will work everything out for you to come back in His perfect time. Everyone here misses you! We love and need you so much!

Love, Paul & Marianne.

GERMANY

Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for your love and concern for each one of us here, and in the whole world. We all are so happy and want to do all we can to help. I personally thank the Lord continually for the blessing of being here (in Tenerife) and in this ministry.

My time in Germany and Switzerland (the Germanic Ministry) was largely a training time for me, as you know, to learn many lessons and have experiences which I had missed. I was almost the whole two years as a regular colony member, living in different field colonies, on the road for three months, then in the Stuttgart colony briefly, then in Cologne for six months where I did full-time witnessing, then to Zurich where the AB's (Gallio and Taberah) lived, working on the disco, mail ministry, secretarial work, provisioning and witnessing, then back to full-time witnessing in Frankfurt for three months, then in Cologne for provisioning and witnessing for six months, then in Hamburg for full-time provisioning until I got a phone call about coming here!

The Lord was working in my life all the time to teach me so many things, so I think some things happened to me as lessons from Him, not necessarily because they are the usual thing to happen.

Spiritual Atmosphere: In almost all of the colonies I was in, all the kids were really happy and having a real good time serving the Lord, especially when doing a lot of witnessing to visitors coming and having parties or disco, or going out to clubs. One colony, Cologne, the first time I was in it, in '75-'76, was a little dry and lonely but I think it was because we had so few visitors or activities outside of witnessing. (I was also real lonely for John during this time.) We had three world witnessing shiners in the colony and so we had a lot of excitement distributing, and I learned to witness with them. We also went to a lot of schools to sing and distribute, but I think we lacked the happiness that comes from deeply feeding other people. Another thing the kids all really like, aside from witnessing in our discos or our own parties, is faith trips, which we had in most of the colonies I was in. It is a chance to try your own faith, and spend more hours witnessing to the people you meet if you want to, and most everyone loves this, even though it is physically hard sometimes.

The colonies that had the best spiritual atmosphere were where the shepherds cared personally for each person and their needs (physical and spiritual) right there in the colony. Sometimes the overseers, living in the colony, would be more

concerned about the other colonies they were responsible for. When I was with Gallio and Taberah in their colony, they took each person in the colony into their "family" and it was a real atmosphere of love and understanding, where you felt you could find counsel and understanding for your problems, as well as a lot of daily inspiration at meals and otherwise, with lots of disciples joining and lots happening.

When you compare these colonies with the ones here, there is much more love and honesty here. I feel that the work in Germany was a lot more by the "rules" and that this discouraged real sharing of hearts sometimes. Looking at the lit stats a lot of times kept a personal sharing to a minimum. Until I came here, I was almost always very lonely for companionship, but also this was God's dealings in my life and not my shepherd's fault. I think what lacked at times was the shepherds learning to be mothers and fathers, knowing the heart of each of their family, instead of just wanting to inspire the kids to produce more on the stats. I think the Davidito letters, with the intimate insight into your house and staff, will really help with this.

Living Conditions: In the colonies, the house or apartment itself was good in every one I lived in (with the exception of Norderstedt witnessing colony in Hamburg, which I hear we no longer have). They were as nice as the houses here. But the furnishings were old and not up to par with the houses themselves. In one colony I was in with Bishops Levi and Senaah in Frankfurt, we

provisioned furnishings and the Lord gave us beautiful carpet, paint, even rollers and brushes, all completely free. But the installation and upkeep usually takes a lot of time, and we did not usually take very much time working on the upkeep of the houses, putting time into this, although to do this work while someone sings or reads a letter could be a valuable inspiration and provide a facelift to the colonies. Also some people are more gifted in decorating than others. Hebron, of Hebron and Tirzah, is very gifted in this and made the Zurich disco into a Swiss chalet. (Maybe people like him could travel and redecorate colonies!) Bremen in north Germany was also beautiful, because of the way Barak and Katrina decorated it, living there one year and doing a little each week. Cologne, for example, is a 3-bedroom apartment with facilities almost as nice as the apt. here, but with furnishings that are old and tattered. But with a little provisioning and work, it could be beautiful.

The food in Germany was always nourishing and we never lacked having enough to eat. Here, table manners and etiquette are stressed more, thank the Lord, and the presentation of the food is better, but the Lord always gave us plenty to eat. Here again we all need to learn to do more with what the Lord gives us.

Lit Distribution: The first nine months I was in Germany, this was a big push, from August '75 to May '76. You get very high donations in Germany, and even double in Switzerland. In Germany, it's quite cold and I had to come in

every hour for ten minutes or so to warm up. I really enjoyed the witnessing (and still do!). Almost everyone I knew was really happy witnessing, once they learned a few sentences of the language and could communicate a bit.

The only thing that really bothered me about it was when you had to neglect friends and contacts who were asking to see you, in order to go on a witnessing push, not for the stats, but in order to have money to pay bills. I felt it was necessary to feed the provisioning contacts and not just get their help, but the leader I was with at the time was looking at the bills and did not have a vision for this, and had me break appointments to go witnessing, which I did not agree with. However, I was not in a leadership position and so I did not know the overall picture. But I felt they depended too much on witnessing for finances, neglecting other means of support which could also feed people at the same time.

Leadership: As in the situation mentioned above, some of the younger leaders were not too used to listening to suggestions from the ranks. Maybe because I was a "demoted leader", people sometimes were not sure if they should listen to my counsel. Also, I was really learning to take a humble seat and make suggestions in the right spirit, and still am.

In the situation I mentioned above, a lot of the problem was my own failure to present the situation in the right spirit, and when I wrote Barak and Shem, the situation I was personally involved in was worked out.

Here in Tenerife, I feel the leadership is on a much more personal and loving basis, because you share one another's hearts, pray and read and fellowship and witness together. So when a problem comes, you can take even more "dealings" because there is so much love.

Perhaps it is a reflection of the spirit of Germany itself that the leadership structure is somewhat regimented, with not too much opportunity to offer suggestions or exercise your own faith. Here the principle of hearing from the Lord yourself and having a strong link to get directions from Him is really stressed, with, of course, seeking confirmation and counsel. But there you have to follow the "rules" and the set-up plan more. Many of the leaders there showed me so much love and really were used by the Lord to help me so much, like Barak and Gallio and Taberah, especially, and Jonah Whale. The kids were happy where I was, and excited to be in the Family and serving the Lord.

Following the Letters: On FF'ing, the only colony where we went to clubs regularly was in Zurich in the summer of '76. We went two or three times a week for about a month before I left. We never went to bed with anyone, but were learning what it was like to go out. The next year I went to clubs about three times. I tried FF'ing myself with three people I met witnessing, but I never made love with them, just went out a little with them and tried to help them witness and get in the Word, after they got saved and filled.

The main FF'ing was done by the people in Pubs or with Barak or

Shem and their staffs, from what I understood. I know Barak and Katrina went out a lot and he gave her to help people a lot. I don't think anyone helped him and I know he spent a lot of nights crying in his room.

I needed help, too, but was afraid to push too much for it, although one brother and I spent time together for about a month, and he fell in love with me, and we masturbated each other, and no one was against it because it seemed to bear good fruit in our lives (this is the boy I thought about marrying). Aside from this I did ask for help a couple of other times, but I think I did have a reputation for being "after sex". So I think it is sad that people do not help each other there. I think their faith to help others outside the Family is weakened because the brethren themselves often need help, and are wary of helping others for the wrong motive, so you do not have the faith and freedom that is pictured in the Letters.

One more thing that affects the obedience to the FF Letters is that mostly the kids are taught to follow counsel, rather than hearing directly from the Lord. In Letters like "Faith", "Follow God" and a multitude of others, we are taught to pray and ask God for wisdom, but hearing from God through the leaders is emphasised more than seeking answers from the Lord personally yourself. (Godly counsel is actually one of the seven ways to know God's will.) Therefore, when the situation comes of sleeping with someone, a decision where you have to hear from the Lord without coun-