

fact that there was no emphasis at all on FF'ing, and they were pretty much back at the stage where the Letter "Rags to Riches" came out.

AUSTRALIA: Faithy hadn't visited Australia, but I think the stats there tell the story pretty well. However, the lit is going up after our admonition to them about defending the faith there in Australia. Overall, Faithy's opinion of the area was that it carried a very American spirit, probably because of the lack of emphasis on FF'ing the local people. -by Rachel.

A Plea from South America!

Dear Rachel, 5 Nov. 77

We would like to explain the way we feel about what is going on here in our country in South America. My husband and I have been here for almost a year-and-a-half, T. and L. for one year. Since being here we have all been colony shepherds, district shepherds and litnessers on the streets. We have been mostly on the bottom so we believe we feel the way the sheep here feel. Since we have been here we have been dissatisfied, but we are not an isolated case, so we want to explain why.

When we came here we saw that things were not being run according to the MO Letters—the New R was not being put into effect. There were many missing links in the chain of cooperation and these that were filled were just "yes men" who took orders from the AB level and pushed stats. As one leader told another: "Look at these stats, we have the best stats in all of South America. We must be right." This is because stats were really pushed,

or should I say that the disciples were pushed for stats. T. and L. were district shepherds and were being pressured to push the sheep too much, but they refused to push unusually high quotas and stepped down. I was told that I had to make my quota before I could teach my 4½-year-old school. (I have three children, two of school age, and for the first eight months here we were unable to give them school.)

The disciples were always being dictated to in this way. They were not given the freedom nor taught how to hear from God and to follow as He led for the small things in their individual lives. They were only given their quotas and told to get them out—quotas which were not voted on. Those who are still on the team have not grown much at all, and others that were top shiners have left altogether.

We were greatly relieved at our superior officer's departure and were truly inspired by the fresh breath of new leadership with a greater vision of personal initiative. Our new leader divided our city into colonies and put more people in positions of leadership, then started to train them personally with weekly meetings, truly trying to inspire loyalty rather than just pushing the sheep for stats. In our own personal lives, we started hearing from the Lord again and felt we were being allowed to follow our own convictions. The sheep here were starting to grow spiritually and to do things from their hearts because they wanted to. The colony and district shepherds were starting to do good jobs.

Everyone was truly liberated; then

happening in the U.S.! I hear that the Minister and the Archbishop and their staffs are "pioneering" it. The colonies and disciples were told this about two months ago. The "FF Explosion" came out about four months ago. Many of the brethren are very anxious to start FF'ing but feel stifled because they can't.

I see the need for caution, but I think that if we wait much longer we may have a worse problem of a discontented, stifled and dissatisfied bunch of disciples. The brethren want to obey the Letters and you did say "start tonight". My main concern is the fact that some brethren are really becoming dissatisfied, and it's amplified by the next problem:

The New R series was published about 2½ years ago, but an automatic policy of appointments by leadership above the colony level has become the rule instead of the exception. The leader's choice is then presented to the Colony Council for approval. Also personnel changes are made and planned on by leadership and presented to the Colonies for their "rubber stamp" approval. The last time I was presented with a choice which colony I wanted to go to was 2½ years ago, immediately following the New R.

The Northwest U.S. has been operating under a leadership shortage for about nine months. We've either had no District Shepherd or no Regional Shepherd and now no Bishop. My feelings are that initiative wasn't inspired by leadership in the brethren to take their responsibilities to heart concerning

the New R, so that the potential leadership at hand is unused, irresponsible and the Colonies are not receiving the proper oversight as a result.

Normally, my nature is just to keep going the same way things are going and not cause a very big stir. But if these situations are not changed or clarified so we can see the reasons why, then I really believe some brethren will really become down-hearted. God help us to be Fighters!! (I might add that I've been no shining example of faith, obedience and initiative, but am as guilty as anyone having been a Colony and District Shepherd.)

In loving service to the King,
Joshua Morningstar.

(ED.—Tks. Joshua for speaking up!
—GBY! Hope you like the new changes!)

From Southern Europe:

4 Jan. 78

Dear Rachel & Timothy,
Greetings in Jesus Name! I really love and pray for you all. I'm really thankful I had the blessing of working around you at Poggio! After leaving Poggio almost four months ago, we've just been normal disciples in regular colonies.

It's really shocking how low a living standard most colonies maintain, and the daily vision just seems to be to survive just litnessing to make money to live.—Not really progressing with any direction. Most don't do very much FF'ing, or if they are, not using very much

came the crisis in Colombia and a phone call from higher up stating that they were mad about our stats being low. From what we understand, they told our leader that he was being too easy on the sheep and that he could be replaced by someone who would be harder. Immediately after this, he got hard and was calling on the phone to all the colonies handing down quotas and saying the sheep could not come home unless they got their quotas. The only explanation given was that it was an emergency for Colombia and they needed the money now. This same pushy spirit had always happened to our old leaders, too, after a visit or call from higher up. Our new leader later said that he will not force production but wants to inspire it. But we are afraid that if he does not produce lit stats that he will be replaced by someone who will!

We understand that the leaders must lean on the sheep to get them out. This is not what we are against. We are talking about the hard-driving dictatorial attitude where the sheep only get out the lit and make money as a job and not from their hearts, who don't know how to hear from the Lord, make decisions, speak up or burn free. We agree with what Mordecai said in his report to MO, Paragraph 12: "Many overseers are like shepherds so preoccupied with the wool and meat from their sheep that they don't value the life or health of the sheep—whether it's the brethren or the GP public." We believe this has been the situation in the past. We don't want to see the sheep un-

der such bondage again. That is one reason for this letter.

There is another situation that still exists here that we are concerned about—the shuffling around of personnel and stats for reports. This is what one District Shepherd wrote on his report: "I dislike having to juggle around people each month to do reports for colonies that do not exist. It is wrong in my opinion to report on a work that doesn't exist—especially when in the case of re-classification, a functioning colony must "donate" a new disciple for statistics purposes to keep a non-existing colony in "good standing". I was informed that we do it to keep the computer from getting confused. Well, if that's the case, we must have a pretty feeble-minded computer!"

These are our sentiments. We love and pray for you all!—T., L., B.

(MO—Heartbreaking!—Tragic! Why didn't we hear sooner? "Failure to report a crime is a crime"—MO, "Colony Rules" No. 657:56. God help us and rid us of the tyrants and hirelings!)

From the Northwest U.S.A.:

Dear MO, 4 Oct. 77

God bless you. I love you so much and am thankful for your channel with the Lord! This letter is in regard to a situation in the U.S. It has been causing some question in the past months, but in the past few weeks I've seen it come to a head in this colony.

The situation I'm speaking of concerns FF'ing and The New Revolution. First FF'ing: FF'ing is not

wisdom.

Most of the local leadership is in such a rut, still living two years ago. The disciple standard seems to be very low also. Everyone seems to be in the old C.O.G. hippie days. The colonies aren't homes. Generally they're just communal housing stuffed with as many people as they can fit, and a few edge-wise. The immediate overseers usually just kind of smooth things over and make it a district and comfort you with a grin and tell you "it's cheap housing".

And if you speak up and say something about problem situations, then you're "murmuring" and "not trusting the Lord". And then you do start murmuring 'cause you realise that honestly you can't speak up and say anything and realistically, the only way you're going to have a gripe resolved is when the Lord shows it to MO and he writes a Letter about it.

But to me what is most frightening and appalling is the unconcerned attitude of most overseers. They've got their little set-up, they've got their little district or region or bishopric or AB. And that's all that seems to interest them, as long as the stats are high. And they don't seem to be all that concerned for the spiritual and physical care of their flock, so long as the lit stats are high and nobody rocks the boat.

I have a couple ideas of things I think would help: 1) I believe it should be absolutely forbidden for more than twelve people to live in a house—not just call it a district or a region and then you don't have to call it what it is—a Blob!

2) More FF'ing—and that should be helping support us. The fish should be able to help and if not maybe some of us should get jobs and help support FF'ing until the fish do and raise our standard and at the same time reach some of these people that are influential and that can really help change the world!

3) I really believe the leadership should have much less to say and that the colonies should become smaller and more family-like, and not such a bureaucratic organisation. I think we'd be much better off just getting our directions from the Letters and people like the ABs just constantly making the rounds, at least someone that's halfway together and keeping things on the right track. Maybe this is going too far, I don't know. I'm very sorry to have to bother you all, but I just want you to know what I believe. Love in Jesus' Name, Sanctify.

(MO—Well, Sanctify, now you know! It's letters like yours that caused the "RNR" Shakeup! We're not only rockin' the boat!—We're throwin' 'em out!)

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WANTED: Secretary for World Services Mailing Ministry! Must have: 1) Talent in letter writing. 2) Good knowledge of MO Letters and/or ability to use Index skillfully. 3) Genuine love and concern for the sheep and their welfare. Please send testimony, photo & resumé of previous experience & training to: Bambini di Dio, CP 786, 50100 Firenze, Italia. attn: Keren. (A single sister without children would be preferable, but not mandatory.)