

Learning To Be A Parent!

TOILET TRAINING

From Timothy & Rachelle; Holland:

DALETHA, OUR OLDER GIRL, IS ALMOST TWO. For the past six months we have tried every method imaginable to potty train her, with-out success, until this weekend. — Every method except one! — We'd forgotten to pray!

WE PRAYED WITH DALETHA, claiming Psalm 84:11b: "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly". Two days later she called out "Tee-tee! Tee-tee!" We put her straight onto the potty & she did it immediately!

WITHIN ONE DAY she really got

Note from Justus Aahrest:

Dad's Reply to the Press!

Dearest Dad,

ON YOUR REPLY TO THE PRESS: I just listened to it in my room! And I want to tell you right now that I say, "Amen!" It is so right on & completely, totally the truth! — 100%!

I'M SO THANKFUL THAT YOU'VE WRITTEN IT! And I'm so thankful to Him for making you a man, His man, who fights for the truth & the right! — Who dares to take on the media, the governments, the forces

the hang of it & hasn't yet missed the mark once! Hallelujah! Love, Tim & Rachelle.

USING THE DITO LETTERS

From Hadasah; Puerto Rico:

MY SON IS 14 MONTHS OLD & when I recently re-read the Davidito Letter for 14 months old I found there are many things that Dito learned & did that my son is missing out on because I just didn't remember to do them. So now I started a little system to help me:

I FIRST READ ALL THE DAVIDITO LETTERS UP TO 14 MOS. & listed all the things that he did that I would like to try with my own son throughout the day, as well as important pointers from Sara on specific training methods etc.

THEN I ORGANISED THOSE ACTIVITIES INTO A SCHEDULE — morning, afternoon & evening. Now I just have to glance over my scheduled activities & boom, there

are plenty of ideas before me to do & he ends up having a very full day. This works so much better than relying on my memory of the Letters. **THEN WHEN HE'S 15 MONTHS OLD,** I'll list all the things in that Letter & eliminate some of the past activities he has outgrown. I'm also now re-reading all the "Learning Thru" Play" Letters & FNs, as well as recommended books such as "Raising a Brighter Child", "Baby Learning Thru" Baby Play" etc. to add ideas too.

WHEN I'M THRU', OUR ACTIVITY SCHEDULE WILL BE SO FULL that I will have to divide it into 2 or 3 days, which is even better! I can really see a difference in my son since I started using this method. He's not bored & cranky anymore! — Hadasah.

(What have you learned about teaching & training our kids? Maybe your solution will be the answer to someone else's question! Send it in today!)

Knew Disciples!

"He knew her... and she bare a child!" (Gen. 4:1.)

FRANCE

GIRL — Jeanne, to Michael & Joy Freedom; Paris — 17/3. (Jeanne went to be with the Lord 3 days later, 21/3 — a ill angel returned to Heaven.)

GIRL — Elisabeth, to Andre & Irene; 1/3. **GIRL** — Rebecca, to Jeremiah & Crystal — 2/3.

MIDEAST, ASIA, AFRICA

GIRL — Leila, 2nd to Robin & Hope; Mideast — 15/7/78.

BOY — Naim Joseph, 3rd to Eli & Naomi Quikote; Mideast — 30/11/78.

BOY — Andrea Sava, 1st to Ezekiel Logger & Bathsheba; E. Europe — 5/3.



Seek, Secundus & family in Spain, including David (Spanish). Photo by Christopher.

Double Blessing!

From Esther; Puerto Rico:

REUBEN & REUEL WERE BORN PREMATURE, at 7 1/2 months pregnant, but weighed more than a set of full-term twins at the same clinic! I got the verse: "For it is not the will of your Father that one of these little ones perish." (Mt. 18:14.) Both had pneumonia & needed incubation. The Lord showed me I could pray for the Holy Spirit Mother to comfort, nurse & nurture them in my absence & they recovered tremen-

WHEN I DISCOVERED I WOULD HAVE TWINS, only a week before they were born, I received the verse "blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Lk. 1:42) & they surely have been blessed & are a blessing! We have nothing to fear, but all can be overcome just by holding on to His precious promises!

BY THE WAY, WHEN THE TWINS WERE 4 MONTHS OLD, we discovered they were from a precious brother named Erastus Smiles whom I made love with only once & he almost came before entering. We barely made it, but we did just in

How a Mother of Six Does It!

From Seek Farmer; Spain:

RECENTLY I RECEIVED A LETTER from a sister in the Family alone with four children. She asked me for suggestions on how we make it work, living by faith with six children. At first, I was going to share with her about how we live now but then realised that for her situation it would be much more helpful if I would write my testimony of how I worked with my first four children the four years before I actually joined the Family, when I knew the Family as an outside Catechist member.

I FIRST MET THE FAMILY WHEN I WAS ALMOST 9 MONTHS PREGNANT with Jason, my first baby, now 7 years old. Right away I was convinced that they had something I wanted. I had been raised in church all my life & was convinced that somewhere, somehow there had to be somebody living what they preached.

I WANTED TO JOIN RIGHT AWAY but I was married to a young businessman who, altho' sympathetic to the Family, had no conviction to join. After Jason was born, I visited as much as possible & tried in every way to live like they were, even tho' I wasn't there with them.

PEOPLE FROM THE FAMILY WOULD COME TO VISIT, sometimes staying overnight & spent a lot of time really sharing with both of us. We started to give 10% of our income to the Family, as we had always given our income even before we met the Family.

WHEN JASON WAS A BABY, I remember how I had a review system of 500 Bible verses. I divided it up so that I reviewed them each week. I would put Jason to sleep as I reviewed my verses for the day out loud to him. Honestly, the most difficult time for me was when I had only one child! I think I would rather have six! He certainly demanded all my attention & I remember sometimes being so frustrated with the housework & the baby too.

THEN ALONG CAME SHERAH & I thought I'd have a mental breakdown the first week home alone with both of them, trying to recuperate & keep the house too. I was a very careful housekeeper & it both-



Seek, Secundus & family in Spain, including David (Spanish). Photo by Christopher.

ered me so much to have to see some things begin to slide.

ONE DAY I REMEMBER BOTH OF THEM CRYING at the same time, each in a different bed. I was just in tears not knowing what to do. I just began to cry out to the Lord, really praying & weeping. When I finished praying, I hadn't even noticed, but they were both asleep! I felt then how much love & mercy the Lord has for mothers.

DESPERATE PRAYER: THIS IS THE ONE THING THAT HAS MADE THE DIFFERENCE for me. Without it I would not be in the Family now or would have given up long ago. I honestly don't see how any mother or father or anyone can live by faith without learning to really pray desperately, claiming God's promises & standing on the Word.

AFTER PRAYER, I THINK SOMETHING THAT REALLY MAKES THE DIFFERENCE is what kind of father your husband is. I've heard people say they think that Secundus is a very rare & unusual case, as he handles the responsibility of the children & house equally with me, as we are both here a good part of the day. But I feel this shouldn't be the exception!

MY HUSBAND WHEN LIVING IN THE SYSTEM was just the same about practical matters. He had a job, but when he was at home, or on weekends, the children & housework were for both of us to do until the job was finished. If a husband is at home & has no other responsibility, he can learn right along with the mother how to accept the different

things that must be done, the way he does it.

THE OTHER IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP GOING. As long as we keep fighting, we are certainly winning. I believe there is a way to make every situation work, or by prayer & God's Word, to change it so that it will work. The quotes from "Raul's Knife" (Letter no. 546) have always helped me so much: "When you pray, things will happen, things will be different."

JUST BEFORE JOINING THE FAMILY FULL-TIME, I HAD 3 CHILDREN, ages 3, 2 & 1, & was quite far along with my fourth. I was keeping house — this means everything: cooking, cleaning, laundry. I also had one room set up for a school for the kids, as some of the teachers from the Family school came to visit me regularly & kept me informed. In addition, we had weekly overnight visitors from the Family & meals needed to be prepared for a large group, rooms made ready & laundry.

MOTHERS HAVE TO BE FIGHTERS, real front-line fighters! — First thing in the morning 'til late at night. By the time the kids are in bed you may be exhausted mentally, physically & spiritually, & you probably will be if you are doing the job right. But I think the most tired & unimpaired I am is when I only do the job with half a heart. When I really give all for my family & the Lord or a sheep, there is a certain joy & satisfaction that inspires you & really makes you know that it is certainly worth it all. As you pour out, He will pour in! Hallelujah!

I WANT TO SAY TOO THAT FOR MOTHERS IT IS SO IMPORTANT HOW YOU EAT, as to how you feel. When you have to start the day immediately with the children, breakfast is so important. I have so many less problems with gaining weight now that I only eat natural foods. They are so much more satisfying. When you eat regular meals & don't snack, I think your body is much more satisfied too. I hardly ever think of having a snack. We just eat very good meals.

IT'S SUCH A TESTIMONY FOR PEOPLE TO COMMENT on how young you look & that your body is still shaped nice even after having

FAMILY NEWS - BY YOU!

Barking For The IRF!

8 May 1979

1. I GOT THIS DREAM early in the morning, yesterday morning, that was the 8th, May 8th, 1979. I mean, there was nothing to the dream. It was the funniest little picture!

2. I WAS LOOKING THRU' THE FN — you know those cute little sketches that Zeb does every now & then, & there was a picture of this funny little dog, looked like a wire-haired terrier, little dog.

3. HE WAS BARKING, "IRF! IRF! IRF!" He hal! Well, you know, they used to always have the dogs in the comic strips always going "Arf! Arf! Arf!" So why shouldn't our little dog go "IRF! IRF! IRF!" And underneath was written:

"HE'S BARKING FOR THE IRF!" He hal! Isn't that funny? "IRF! IRF! IRF!" Then they had



HE'S BARKING FOR THE IRF!

their little blurb, you know, the one they usually have there about "If you want your friends to get it" &

so on. They had put their little drawing up above with a little caption:

5. "HE'S BARKING FOR THE IRF!" All around the dog's head — it wasn't in those bubbles or balloons or anything, just showed him barking. The word was in big capitals, exclamation: "IRF! IRF! IRF!" Isn't that funny?

6. I NEVER ONCE BEFORE EVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT being even a pronounceable word or sound, much less a dog barking it! But I thought it was as queer & as funny as anything could be. It shows you how... (Marie: The IRF-ers!) Yeah!

7. THE IRF-ERS: THEY'RE WOOFING! (Marie: Don't be a surfer! — Be an IRF'er this summer!) Yeah! They're woofing for Jesus! "IRF! IRF! IRF!" God bless 'em! Well, it was not my idea! I had a dream, it must have been the Lord! Hallelujah! TTL! "IRF! IRF! IRF!" — He's barking for the IRF-ers! — Dad!

Love From The IRF'ers!

From Mephis & Jaspe; Texas, USA:

Dear Sara D.,

WE'VE BEEN GETTING MOST OF THE NEW LETTERS & I'll tell you they are real bottle breakers & we're trying to put them to work in our lives daily. After all that Dad has had to go thru' to help us & all the others he has helped by telling us the truth & freeing us from the deceit of the system lies, & what this has cost him, having to practically hide away & flee all the time so he can remain free to keep giving us God's Word, I really want to tell him how much I love & appreciate all that he has done for me.

LAST NIGHT WE SAW "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS" on TV & one part that really touched me was when they were crossing the Red Sea & as they were coming out

a rock so all could see him & have faith to come all the way across. Altho' we can't all see Dad, we can see his sample to give us faith to carry on. TYJ! PGI Love, M&J.

From Israel Waters; Hawaii, U.S.A.: Dear Mo & Marie,

I JUST WANTED TO WRITE YOU TO THANK YOU so much for all you've done in my life. I've been a member of the Family since 1973. I'm doing the IRF now, which I feel has really helped me to grow in the Lord & to know I don't have any one to blame now if I feel the Lord. I work part-time on a farm & with this financial burden out of the way, I've been able to slow down greatly & enjoy listening & witnessing for the Lord. Keep fighting & winning those Letters which are such an im-

From Phil & Talitha; Calif., U.S.A.:

Dear Dad,

WLYSMI WE GOT THIS LITTLE POEM just now as we were thinking about you & how much we love you, your sample & your words: Does every love song have to end? Does it reach the top & then descend? Will the music grow or will it fade? It's only been one short decade.

No, your song plays on & on, But where the brass once played so strong, Now more loving tunes from wind & string, And children's voices are heard to sing.

The song is free & not so loud Not so boastful, not so proud. The tune, it flies & soars so high, Your love song, Dad, will never die. And tho' we are so far away We hear your voice both night & day, So sweet, so firm, so full of love, Keep coming, Dad, you are our love.

several children, & that year they were looking so healthy. It is such an opportunity to give the Lord the glory. Most people say that I look ten years younger than I am. The Lord gave me the verse: "Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's" (Ps. 103:5).

WHEN I WAS PREGNANT WITH THE FOURTH, the early mornings, napping & bedtime were some very important times for me with the children & alone with the Lord. I felt it such a privilege to be able to wake up each morning with my children & not have to go to a job & hustle them off to a nursery. It was a time to really go slow & love them up, maybe sing a few little songs about the Lord & share a few things that were on my heart.

I ALWAYS MARKED SECTIONS OF NEW MO LETTERS with a (*) to remind me of the parts that I wanted to share with the children. Of course, then I had to get busy finding something to occupy the children while I fixed breakfast. Afterwards there were the dishes & the house to clean.

CLEANING HOUSE REGULARLY REALLY HELPED so much. One thing I discovered was that if you make sure everything is in its place at night just before you go to bed that it helps immensely. You can even plan breakfast then. About 15 minutes of cleaning before bedtime really made everything run a lot smoother the next day.

SUMMER, THE YOUNGEST, ALWAYS TOOK TWO NAPS, so immediately when she was asleep I stopped everything & did devotions & memory work & school with the two older children. Then in the afternoon when the older children slept & sometimes the youngest would too, I got some time alone with the Lord. This was something I really looked forward to each day. It wasn't always a lot of time, but I had to learn to make every minute count.

I ACTUALLY MEMORISED MORE MO QUOTES BEFORE I JOINED THE FAMILY alone with the kids than I have the four years I've been in the Family since. I really needed the Word then because I would feel so lonely sometimes.

I FOUND IT VERY USEFUL TO USE THE KIDS' NAPTME as much

as possible to strengthen the memory, because my husband really wanted it to be ready when he got home & I understood this. Sometimes I would plan a meal that could be completely made ahead of time.

EVEN THE WAY WE LIVED THEN WAS A REAL TESTIMONY to others. We lived in apartments & all the mothers were always amazed at how well we handled the house & the children. Some even had the gall to ask me to help with their too! They wanted theirs to get what I was giving mine, but didn't want to put out the effort for it themselves. I would always say, "Well I don't have time to take care of your children too, but I would be glad to teach you how to do it."

I THINK THE BEST TIME OF THE DAY FOR THE CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL TRAINING is at bedtime. I found that the children would listen much, much more attentively when in bed for the night than they would in devotions during the day. This is when I would read them the Bible & MO Letters. I would sing to them & when I was really burdened about something, I would pray out loud, kneeling by their bed. I think it really touched their hearts to see me pray sometimes & taught them a lot about how much I believed in prayer.

ON WEEKENDS, MY HUSBAND WOULD KEEP THE CHILDREN so that I could go witnessing or listening with someone from the Family. I would also try to get the older children out listening. One time I remember there was no one to go with me, so I went alone to a shopping center with all three, & I was pregnant. I had one in a buggy & the other two walking on each side holding on to the buggy. One would lead go of the buggy to pass out MO Letters for a while, & then I would have him hold on to the buggy again while the other would distribute.

I THOUGHT I HAD EVERYTHING DOWN PAT, with my little system of how everything could work. Even when talking with the Family about joining, they would say I was already doing everything myself already. But I got desperate in prayer because I felt the children were hearing sermons but not able to live the sample. Every day when the children napped, I would pray desperately that the Lord

would make a leader for us in the Family. I told my husband that the children & I were going to live for the Lord, just by faith. A few days later a Home called & there was a place for us, PTL!

THERE I WAS IN THE FAMILY, "ALONE" WITH 3 CHILDREN & the fourth born 3 weeks later! I prayed desperately for a father for the children, thinking that probably the Lord would have my husband join too. But 3 months later I met & fell in love with Secundus! That was another big bomb!

THINKING BACK, I WANT TO SAY WHAT A BLESSING IT IS to have brothers & sisters in the Family who are willing to help families with children. You can always make every situation work, but it can even work better & you can bear so much more fruit with even just a little help.

MOST OF WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR LIVES IS A RESULT OF THE CHILDREN, most of the people we meet, minister to & win are because of the children. The children are our samples that tell the sermons. If I were a single person, I would really want to get on board where the action is & get going for God helping families raise the children for the Lord. Sometimes we piddle around in puddles with our little this or that when we could be swimming in oceans by obeying the Lord & taking advantage of "the advantages of having children!"

P.S. FROM SECUNDUS: As a large family, we've learned that to get organized or get some practical solutions, it only happens when we put the spiritual first. We've seen so many times how for every situation, the Lord has a definite answer & victory that usually only comes after desperate prayer & asking the Lord to show us His will or supply our need.

ONE BIG VICTORY WAS GETTING A REGULAR FORM OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT! In Stockholm we desperately prayed that somehow the Lord would raise up some kings or friends to help support us regularly so we wouldn't every day have to be out on the streets or DTD just for survival. Always every day having to get out to get money for the food for the next meal for this many kids at times really was hard & would hinder us