

Tips On Choosing A Used Caravan

So you'll be "in the know" & avoid unscrupulous caravan dealers!

by Daniele Davide (ex-Samuels Dancer):

AFTER SPENDING THE LAST TWO YEARS on mission fields in the East, the Lord had us return to Europe & called us to give the last warning by going to smaller towns that haven't yet been reached. The Lord provided a van which we used during the summer, but it wasn't really enough to enable us to stay on the road full-time with our 2 children in the winter.

FOR ONE MONTH I TOOK A JOB to get some funds to buy a caravan. The Lord provided a very good-priced 18-foot caravan (body & tongue) which is ideal for our family, as well as a good car to pull it, provided thru' my parents, GB'MI.

AFTER A LONG SEARCH thru' many used caravan markets, looking for God's best, we learned some things on judging the value of old caravans so we wouldn't get deceived by some dishonest dealers. We thought it might be helpful to share what we learned with those of you who may be planning to buy a used caravan but don't know very well your dealer, & he knows you are no expert in caravans!

AFTER PRAYER AS YOU PROCEED IN YOUR SEARCH, I would suggest to avoid very old caravans, like 15-20 years old, even if they look fairly good, as you'll probably find out later what's wrong with them.

AN IMPORTANT THING TO CHECK FOR IS WATER INFILTRATION. Most caravans, unless they've been kept under a roof, are subject to some degree of water infiltration. This doesn't mean that the water comes inside the living space,

but that little by little, year after year, small quantities of water seep inside the wood frame of roof, walls & floors, & this wood then becomes rotten & spongy, endangering even the very safety of your caravan. (Amen!—Dad.)

HERE'S HOW TO CHECK FOR WATER INFILTRATION:

Step inside the caravan & see how the floor reacts. It should be rigid & solid all over to every corner. Next, start patting with your knuckles & pressing with your hands all 4 inside corners of the caravan, starting at the floor all along up to the roof, checking every inch of these corners, not forgetting under beds, closet or anything covering these areas, as it is there that most water infiltrations collect, & you'll notice them, as the rotten wood will give in under your finger pressure. (Careful!)

NEXT CHECK THE ROOF. All caravans have a top vent or 2 on the roof which open outward, so to check if the roof is good just open the vent & grab the roof with your hands, trying to shake it. If the wooden inside boards are good it should almost be able to hold up your body weight with no bending. But be sure to stop pulling right away if you feel it giving in, or you might have to pay for the extra damage you've done—hal!

A MINOR BIT OF WATER INFILTRATION CAN BE FIXED, but it can be a rather expensive operation, so try to get the dealer to come down on the price. If the water infiltration is great, I wouldn't even consider buying it. There is a special caravan glue that you can coat the outside junctions of all the walls & roof, easily obtainable at most caravan shops.

BUT BEWARE OF CRACKS ON THE OUTSIDE, especially on the roof or front of the caravan because even if the infiltration doesn't show yet, the water may just be sitting inside the wall & it will show very soon.

ANOTHER MAJOR POINT TO CHECK FOR IS DEEP RUST on the chassis under the caravan. Modern caravans have zinc-plated chassis which don't rust, but if yours doesn't you can still protect it from rust by simply painting it with tar paint or just oil it with a brush. But if the rust is too deep, the damage is already done & your caravan chassis is not safe anymore.

WE ALSO HAD OUR DEALER CHECK THE BRAKES before handing it to us & agreed also with him that if we would find any abnormality about the caravan within the next few days he would fix it properly for us for free.

YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT A CARAVAN BY ITS REGISTRATION PAPERS— the date of make & how many previous owners it's had, as the caravan is valued very little if it's had more than 2 owners. If you do these suggested things it might also discourage your dealer from telling you a dishonest price thinking he can get away with it, as he'll soon see you know something about used caravans.

THE FINAL STEP BEFORE PURCHASE IS TO ASK THE LORD TO CONFIRM IT as being His choice. P.S. The price of a caravan will also depend on how many accessories it has, such as awnings, fridges, heaters etc. which do cost a lot. God bless & give you a good caravan! Love, Daniele Davide.

Survival Tips!

How to Catch & Cook Grasshoppers!

From Family Services: GRASSHOPPERS & LOCUSTS ARE A PERMISSIBLE SOURCE OF FOOD according to Leviticus 11:22. They are found to contain about 27% protein, 4% fat & are a very good source of calcium (40 mg. per 100 gr. of meat) & are also rich in iron. (Amen.—Dad.)

HOW TO CATCH & DRY 'EM

1. Unless there are great numbers of them, grasshoppers are easiest to catch at night using a light, or early in the morning. Put them in a bag or basket.
2. Bring them to a boil in a pot containing a small amount of water, cooking for about 5 minutes to kill them. Let the water cool.

3. Remove grasshoppers & spread them out on a clean surface to dry in the sun. (This takes about 3-4 days.) A quicker drying method is to put them onto a fine wire screening & dry them over a low fire or in a low oven.
4. When dry, remove wings & legs & clean them for storage, or eat them immediately. Store in a well-closed container.

2 GREAT GRASSHOPPER RECIPES!

(A) Fried Grasshoppers
1. Remove legs & wings from fresh boiled grasshoppers (see previous section).
2. If using dried grasshoppers, reconstitute by boiling them for 5 minutes in a little water containing salt & pepper. Drain.
3. Fry prepared grasshoppers in a bit of oil until brown & done.
4. Serve immediately or store them for later use. They will keep for some weeks.

(B) Stewed grasshoppers
2 cups grasshoppers
2 tomatoes
1 onion
1 tablespoon oil
2 tablespoons whole wheat flour
salt & pepper to taste
1 cup water
1. Clean & wash grasshoppers.
2. Boil them in a little salted water for about 5 minutes.
3. Chop up onions & tomatoes.
4. Coat grasshoppers in flour.
5. In oil fry grasshoppers & chopped onion until light brown.
6. Add tomatoes, salt & pepper & saute lightly.

P.S. ACCORDING TO "NEWSWEEK", in May of 1985 the 13-year locusts emerged! In May of 1987 the largest brood of 17-year locusts emerged! Happy Survival! (Hope so!—Dad.)

HOW TO MAKE A SIMPLE OIL LAMP

From Miriam, Italy:
HERE'S A WAY TO LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS if you don't have electricity or candles. Fill an ordinary drinking glass 1/3 full of water, then pour on oil till the glass is 2/3 full (olive oil works best).

TAKE AN ORDINARY CORK FROM A WINE BOTTLE & cut a thin slice from it with a hole in the middle. Thru' the hole put an ordinary piece of cord which you have previously soaked well in oil. About 1 cm. of cord should come out the top of the cork slice & the rest of the cord should be completely submerged in the oil in the glass. —Lasts longer than most candles!

(Send in your survival tips now!—Also addresses for obtaining dried foods & other survival equipment & recommended books & pamphlets on survival! Do it now! Tomorrow may be too late!)



Big News From Our Little People!



From Liz, age 3; South Pacific:
Here I am with my friends who prayed with me to go to Heaven. I love you all! Love, Liz.

(Elizabeth, age 3, daughter of Phoebe & Christian; South Pacific.)



Taking a rest while going DTD—
Tired but not uninspired!

(Daniella Maria Joyfilled, age 2, of Vision; U.S.A.)



"I love being a Gypsy Girl for Jesus!"
—Jessica, age 3½; U.S.A.
(Parents: David & Nogah Psalms.)



When going Door to Door
And no one is home
Have no fear—
I'm the mailman here!—Love, Job.
(Age 5, son of Vision in U.S.A.)



Here is Psalms, age 3½, winning one of her first souls to the Lord! The first month she won 17 souls, and she loves to litness too! —Joseph & Joppa Laftalot; U.S.A.

From Abigail, age 6; South America:
I've got a real inspiring testimony! It's about an old 75-year-old man that I led to the Lord. A few months later we heard he had died. Now he's in Heaven! PRAISE GOD! P.S. And his son and daughter-in-law got saved too!

From Meadow, age 7; Canada:
Since we returned to Canada, we prayed for a van and the Lord gave us a van.
We prayed for a house on the beach and here we are.
We prayed for friends and they asked Jesus in.
I'm so happy and thankful!

Love, Meadow.
(daughter of Barny & Sarah Seth)

From Letizia, age 9, Italy:
Dearest Dad,

Greetings in Jesus' Precious Name! I want to tell you that one of the most beautiful Letters I read and really liked was "Prayer For The Children". It's beautiful and I want you to write some more of them. I was really glad that you brought the Lord's voice in my heart, telling me that He will be with us children forever, to give us His love, to let us understand that even if He spans us by making us sick, He loves us more, using the rod as the Bible says to train us well. He sees to it that we know there's Someone up there who LOVES us and we can ask for His help and everything we need, and as a good Father He gives everything. We just need to have faith. And now I say goodbye, I kiss and hug you. Love, Letizia.



I really like the countryside!

CALLING ALL KIDS!

Please send in all your testimonies, news and pictures about what you are doing for God & what you are learning!—Artwork & poems too! The Family News is your mag too! Looking for a Pen Pal?—Send a request, along with a photo of yourself & we'll help you find one!