

The Blessings of Suffering!

The Lord didn't spare me from it, but kept me thru' it, drawing me closer to Him!

From Patience (& Adam); Austria:

THE LORD HAS SEEN FIT TO LET ME SUFFER AN OPERATION lately & I wanted to share some things He showed me that perhaps might be an encouragement to others going thru' similar or other hardship experiences.

I HAD BEEN FEELING PAIN IN MY LOWER ABDOMEN off & on & a bleeding had been going on over a week which I thought was an early miscarriage since I'd been overdue 3 weeks & had had other signs of pregnancy. But one evening a sudden hard pain in the lower abdomen hit me & I fainted but recovered later after being prayed over & went to sleep for the night feeling better. But when in the morning after eating I felt the pain again, we decided to go to the hospital for a check-up.

THE DOCTOR COULD NOT GIVE A CLEAR DIAGNOSIS but did not want me to go home but to stay at the hospital. I finally decided to do so. This in itself was a real humbler for me since I never in my life have had to stay in a hospital & I felt quite lost not knowing what was wrong with me & having a hard time finding out because of the language barrier. (I speak fluent Swedish & English but little German.) The Lord comforted me with the verse: "If ye be without chastisement then are ye bastards & not sons" (Heb. 12:8).

I WAS PRAYING & TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT I HAD DONE WRONG. Everything had seemed to be going so well—we were in the midst of being busy for the Lord & then this happened. I was reminded of some things where I certainly ought to

do better as there always are, but it was nothing that really hit me where I knew here is where my sin is, but I asked the Lord to forgive me for whatever it was. When I asked the Lord why, the only answer it pleased Him to give was: "His ways are past finding out".

THE DOCTORS WERE SUSPECTING EITHER EARLY MISCARRIAGE with ensuing infection or an extra-uterine conception (conception in the Fallopian tubes). The pregnancy test had been positive when I came, but low, indicating that the baby was not doing too well. I prayed that the Lord would have His way & if it was something wrong with the baby that He would either take it home or heal it.

THE NEXT DAY I HAD A VISION OF A LITTLE GIRL WITH WINGS, like the one in Eman's Comic "Heavenly Tech". But this time she was not coming but waving good-bye happily flying to the Heavenly City. And the next pregnancy test they took showed negative. (I was happy for this later after the operation because then I knew that her spirit was already with Jesus & what was operated on was only dead flesh.)

WE ALL PRAYED THE LORD WOULD HEAL ME & were all "sure" that it was a normal early miscarriage & didn't think I would get operated on. Well, we found out that the Lord wouldn't spare me from it, but keep me thru' it. PTL! Let me emphasize that during the whole time the Lord was in complete control & it was He that was inevitably leading me thru' this experience.

I HAD PREPARED MY HEART FOR THE OPERATION by reading the Word &

praying so that my fears were turned into perfect peace (Isa. 26:3 & Ps. 37:5), that He had the doctors in His hand. After the operation when I woke up with a feeling of terrible pain in my abdomen, Adam was there. He had received the quote: "The bird whose pinion was once broken, by the grace of God will fly even higher" (Letter No. 313C:10). I also got the verse "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground & die it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit" (Jn. 12:24) & "Every branch that beareth fruit he purgeth that it may bring forth more fruit" (John 15:4).

HOWEVER STRANGE IT MAY SEEM, IT WAS ALL IN THE LORD'S LOVE & in spite of everything the whole experience turned out to be one of the most beautiful I've had. Suffering can bring you so close to the Lord. (And it didn't last long as already after 3-4 days I was doing considerably better & after a week I was able to return home, even tho' I still needed rest, PTL!)

MANY TIMES I WAS REMINDED OF THE WAY GRANDMOTHER HAD TO SUFFER—5 years in a sickbed before the Lord finally was thru' with her & rose her up & made her such a mighty witness. Also I got her poem, "I was longing to serve the Master".

THE LORD HAS TO KEEP OUR HEARTS BROKEN & sometimes uses pretty strong measures to do it. TTL that He chastises us. I had strayed away from the first & most important commandment of loving Him first. Also, before the operation I had mostly been concerned about myself, but afterwards my

eyes were more opened to the needs of those around me. I became easily touched & cried for joy to see a concerned doctor or nurse taking care of a very ill person.—Like God's mercy on an unbelieving people.

I UNDERSTOOD LATER HOW MUCH MERCY THE LORD HAD HAD ON ME thru' it all when I came to know the different doctors & nurses, that the particular doctor who had been working on my case, a head doctor, was one of the sweetest, most concerned & competent doctors who took a personal interest in my case, taking the time to explain why & what he had to do.

HE SAID THE OPERATION WAS NECESSARY to avoid the possibility of serious internal bleeding when the body would try to expel the fetus itself. I also found out that this extra-uterine conception was due to the Fallopian tubes being uneven because of former infection, so it pays for girls to stay warm & healthy & clean.

IT WAS SO HEARTBREAKING TO SEE SOME OF THE OTHER DOCTORS who were so busy & cold, just rushing by & not taking time or any personal interest in the patients, or nurses that didn't care, or perhaps didn't have the time.

ONE POOR LADY WAS REALLY SUFFERING after her operation & felt so low & lonely & asked the nurse to please stay a while & hold her hand, but she just laughingly took it & then rushed off right away again. The Lord spoke to my heart to go over there instead of the nurse. It was 3 days after the operation & I had only been out of bed a couple of times.

SO IT WAS WITH STAGGERING STEPS that I managed to make my way across the room to her bed & sit down & hold

her hand. It really touched her heart since she knew it took an effort on my part to do so. I sat there for a while talking to her before returning to bed & she never forgot it, so that before going home I was able to pray with her to receive the Lord. "We comfort others with the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Co. 1:4).

I WAS ABLE TO COMFORT ANOTHER SHEEPY LADY before her operation with the same verses that had been a comfort to me & she also asked Jesus to come into her heart! After her operation she said that she had been thinking of me, how I had said I would be praying for her. Even tho' I was a complete stranger to her, I had been closer to her in a hard situation than even her relatives, because I brought her the Lord. (That is one thing I experienced when I was going thru' the worst part; in a situation like that everything else loses value but 2 things: the Lord & the Family.)

LIKE DAD EXPLAINS IN "I WAS SICK", I had been so proud of the fact that I had always been so well, no sicknesses & all births completely natural & without complications (TTL!) & I could not really imagine myself in the situation of those suffering in hospitals or as invalids etc. But now I could really understand. I was truly, even tho' not voluntarily, "becoming one" with them as I was suffering in the same situation.

YET THEY SOON KNEW I WAS DIFFERENT, that I had something (the Lord) that they didn't have to lean on. I became known as the patient who always smiled. Everybody commented: "Even if it hurts she always smiles" & when I left I had become so loved that almost everyone of the older ladies took

my hand firmly & said, "Promise to write me & I'll write back" & I could see a tear in their eye when I left. It was so beautiful! I ALSO LATER WROTE TO THE 2 DOCTORS who had been concerned about me, to thank them & to please continue being so concerned about their patients, that then the Lord would bless them, & the children made cards for the whole department with pictures of them & Bible verses.

THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE IS PERHAPS A GLIMPSE OF TIMES AHEAD when some of us might be suffering, but because we have Jesus, it will only bring us closer to Him & that it is nothing to worry about, because the more His grace will be present. "He will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able" (1 Co. 10:13) & "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?...Nothing shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ro. 8:38-39).

P.S. I WANTED TO ADD THAT OF COURSE YOUR ULTIMATE TRUST MUST BE ONLY IN THE LORD in the doctors or nurses. You really have to be in prayer as I found out one night. A night nurse gave me a pain killer pill which I accepted hoping to be able to sleep better than the previous nights, but it had a horrible effect on me: My pulse started beating & I got some fever & was sweating. I really had to pray & rebuke the Enemy & didn't dare to go to sleep until the effect was gone, hours later. (Similar I suppose to the experience Dad had with sleeping pills in Letter 353:358—"I'd just pray & ask the Lord to keep me & protect me from the medicine as much as from the doctors, as well as the disease, because they're all pretty dangerous".)—Patience.

"I Am The Lord That Healeth Thee!"

The Arm of Faith!

From Alain & Morningstar; Midwest:

THE LORD DID A MIRACLE with our son Michael, 2 years. The rear wheel of a van, which was going backward, passed over his arm. All the people around were pretty shocked, but daddy Alain who was nearly right away prayed for him claiming, "I will not put upon thee the afflictions of Egypt" & "He keepeth all his bones, not one of them is broken" (Ps. 34:20).

ON THE WAY TO THE DOCTOR, Michael was pretty nervous, but calmed down after hearing verses on faith vs. fear. X-rays showed that, miraculously, nothing was broken & everything was just superficial! TTL! For the occasion Michael memorized James 5:15. It was one of his first tests of faith!—& the Lord didn't fail!

Prayer Heals Lifelong Illness!

From Ray; U.S.A.: I HAVE BEEN PREACHING & TRYING TO LIVE THE MESSAGE for 8 years since first meeting the Family in '72. But I have been sick all my life with a nervous disorder which has kept me from most normal school & fellowship functions & kept me alone & afraid most of the time, for fear I'd have an attack & be exposed.

THEN I RECEIVED VOL. 3 WITH THE "COMMUNION" LETTER in it. I went to visit a friend & had a wine & pancake

breakfast communion, asked Jesus to please heal me & fell asleep for about 10 minutes & woke up healed! PTL!

SOMETHING WAS ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY DIFFERENT, changed inside & I knew Jesus healed me after all these years! Yippee!! Dad's Letters & His love saved my life & I just want to tell you that soon I'll serve Him full-time & help others too! Love, Ray.

Lesson Learned: Seek the Lord First!

From James & Linda:

WHEN THE CHILDREN IN THE HOME WE WERE WORKING WITH CAME DOWN WITH TONSILLITIS, we felt it best to separate ourselves from each other until they were all healed as tonsillitis can be very dangerous in small children. Nevertheless, one day our little 1½-year-old boy became very inactive, drowsy & began to get a bit of a fever. The 1st day I thought it was due to his teething, but his temperature turned into a high fever of 39.5 & he developed a huge bump under his left ear which he couldn't stand for me to touch. I knew that what he had was tonsillitis as these were the very same symptoms as the others had had.

AT THIS POINT, I WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING taking him to a hospital, because the doctor had told the other family that if they had not brought their children in when they did it could have gotten dangerous. But James was very encouraging & full of faith & believed that the Lord could heal him. After

all, he reminded me, this is nothing compared to what He is going to do for us in the End-time. SO WE DESPERATELY PRAYED & CLAIMED SCRIPTURES & the Lord told us: "Call on me & I will answer thee & show thee great & mighty things which thou knowest not for I have given thee great & precious promises."

SURE ENOUGH, WITHIN ½ HOUR AFTER PRAYER, his fever subsided & the next morning there were no signs of illness at all. The Lord completely healed him! PTL!

WE NEEDED THIS LESSON, as sometimes it's so easy just to turn to the system for help without seeking the Lord. We know this was one of the many small lessons the Lord is using now to prepare us for times ahead!

Getting Better All the Time!

From Jonah, age 6; Canada:

THE DOCTORS KEEP TELLING MY DADDY, "You will die soon." Thank you for your prayers because he gets better all the time. With Jesus all things are possible! I love you! Love in Jesus, Jones.



Barney Seth, paralysed from the waist down—still faithfully trusting & going for God! Photo by Sarah.

Camping News & Tips!

Family of 10 Flees the City!

From Keilah & Shiza Son; U.S.:

"THE CRASH IS HERE" REALLY GOT US GOING!—In fact, we've gone!—And are now camped out 7 miles up a mountain overlooking a beautiful lake & living in a nice 24-ft. trailer which the Lord miraculously provided!

THE LORD ANSWERED OUR PRAYERS & TOUCHED A NEW DISCIPLE'S HEART to give us the money needed to buy the trailer. We had planned on borrowing the money from Shiza's father but when we called him he said he had been laid up for 2 weeks & was in worse financial shape than we were!

WELL, WE THOUGHT THEN IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, but it takes an impossible situation for God to do a miracle, Amen? A new brother offered to give us some of the money he had gotten from selling his old house trailer! I couldn't believe my ears & Shiza wept for joy as he humbly & cheerfully gave us the money!

THREE WEEKS LATER WE HAD MOVED OUT of our 3-bedroom house & into our new trailer after selling & forsaking everything we didn't really need. (In fact, we still are, as we have to keep our weight down!) We are on our way to a small town away from the fallout zone where we can set up camp with our trailer & a 9x15-ft. tent—& of course our 8 kids! Boy do they love it out here in God's country!

ONE WORD OF WARNING to others is to read the campsite rules carefully!—Our oldest boy went off the trail to explore &



Here's our tribe of 11—(L.-R.) Christopher-8½ holding Andrea-2, Delight-7 holding Andrew-2, Isaac-6 holding Joshua-8 mo., & Christina-4 & Benjamin-3 on the end—But it's not the end!—No. 9 due in August!

came back with a serious case of poison oak which was a lesson to us all to stay in prayer & to be cautious in new surroundings. It's really beautiful tho', & we take our station wagon into town every other day to fitness & pick up groceries. The Lord supplied a big wash tub to do laundry up here & hang it on a clothes line rather than drive all the way to town.—Less expensive too!

WE'VE BEEN SHARING THE VISION WITH OTHER CAMPERS here that the War has begun & that it's safer to move away from the big cities. Just last night we had another earthquake! The Lord really wants to give people all the warnings He can. I pray some will obey!

WE'RE REALLY THANKFUL for this chance to get away from the settled down house spirit. The last time we camped out was when we only had 3 children. Now the Lord has given us 8, from 8 months to 8 years, with no. 9 coming in August! PTL! I guess we're just making up for all the others that aren't having them (that's what I tell some

people). When they ask, "Why do you have so many?" I often say, "Well, which one was a mistake?"—That usually gets 'em thinking!

WELL, WE ALL FIT INTO THE TRAILER, believe it or not!—2 of the boys on 1 upper bunk, 2 girls on the other upper (that's 4), the 3 little ones on the one dinette double bed (that's 3), Shiza & I on the double bed at the other end & baby Joshua across from us on the single bed. It's worth it all! Sometimes we even have a little time to make love in the morning. Of course that's with about 2 or 3 little ones looking on or climbing on!—Ha!

OUR TENT HAS BEEN A BLESSING as the older ones like to sleep in it sometimes. It's also an extra playroom when it's cold or rainy. We also now have a single brother with us who can give Bible stories before bed. TTL, as it's so hard for us to meet all the kids' needs without some extra help. The older ones love to help the younger but they need freetime too & space