

# Advantages of Camping Together!

Fellowship! Mutual Assistance! Variety! - Without Overcrowding!

From C., Southern Europe:

WE ARE 12 ADULTS & 13 CHILDREN, LIVING IN ONE SITE, sharing one kitchen & one dining area, as well as the same toilets & one shower facility. Every evening we all gather for dinner, & we do our weekly shopping & provisioning together. One of the couples serves as our Shepherds & Servants-of-All, & we regularly share our battles & victories with them.

WE MUST BE SOME SORT OF OLD-FASHIONED BLOB bursting at the seams in one overcrowded & uncomfortable dwelling, right? Some classical remnant from days gone by, a nostalgic trip into the Family's past when our colonies were more densely populated than Singapore? Wrong! Thank God!

WE'RE LIVING IN A TRAILER CAMP, our 3 trailers & 3 individual tents placed in a circle bound by trees & shrubbery & overlooking a blue sea that feeds a small crescent beach just a short walk away. We're loving every minute of it & the Lord has amply rewarded our faith in this latest turn of the Revolution.

OUR CAMPGROUND IS ONLY 32 KM. FROM AN IMPORTANT SOUTHERN EUROPEAN CAPITAL. Its owner, who also lives here in a house with his wife & 4 daughters, is quite visibly happy that we are here & shows it by giving us low-season rates during the high season, allowing us to hook up our communal washing machine to his own water source, placing a separate bathroom & shower at our exclusive disposal, giving us occasional gifts & inviting us all to his house for Saturday-night parties, during which our children have sung & done skits, thus getting the message of the



"Love makes our wheels go 'round'" Heidi-11, of Jeremy & Fiona, & Celeste-5 of Simon Peter, enjoy the Gospel Gypsy life!

Lord's love & salvation to this important local landowner, his family & his friends.

THE EASE & EFFICIENCY OF OUR DAILY LIFE could hardly be matched by the same number of people living in, say, the same urban block. What comes naturally here in our green setting would be cumbersome, unwieldy or impossible in a concrete jungle.

I'LL GIVE YOU A FEW EXAMPLES: One family of 5, with its car & trailer, pays only the equivalent of \$150 a month to live at the campgrounds, & for that price they have full, unlimited use of its utilities & facilities.

WE ARE WITHIN SIGHT & WITHIN A FEW STEPS FROM ALL OTHERS IN OUR CAMP, thus ensuring fellowship & mutual assistance when the need arises (& it does arise with 13 kids!). Altho' some of us have our own emergency-use portable toilets, we normally utilise the camp's own string of about a dozen indoor stalls with wash basins, & at shower time there are more than 10 waiting without delay. HOT WATER IS AVAILABLE

FOR DISHES all day long. The campground has a mini-market for all the basics (plus some very reasonably-priced cooked meals); there are 2 telephones with direct dialing practically all over the world; the nearest town is but a 12-minute walk away & offers every conceivable service, including relaxing & cheap seaside cafes & bus service to the capital every 45 minutes.

DIFFERENT TEAMS OF 2 TAKE TURNS EVERY EVENING AT THE KITCHEN, which sits under an outdoor tent a few feet from the long dining table that is normally set outside to take advantage of the late afternoon breeze & is protected from the sun by a huge lilac canopy recently presented to us by our landlord, GBH!

MEALS VARY ACCORDING TO WHAT'S AVAILABLE & PROVIDED, of course, & to the time available for cooking. But we have 3 or 4 imaginative cooks amongst us, so we're assured weekly of at least that many really finger-licking-good dinners. Even some of the legions, like myself, will attempt something up-beat once in a while with the help of our more gifted cooks.

DISHWASHING FOR 25 RECENTLY SHIFTED FROM BEING JUST AN ACCEPTED DUTY to a welcome thrill, thanks to the children. Last week, when a new cooking & dishwashing schedule went up, some of the children suggested (& got thru!) that the phrase "and sharing" be added to the solitary "dishwashing". So now every evening there is the possibility of more love being spread even more widely. And heading "Child Brides" our 2 youngest adults are partaking of the late

evening intimacy.

JUST LAST WEEK WE ALL PACKED UP & MOVED to our present location within the same 20-acre campground. It was a positive test of our mobility. In less than 30 minutes I prepared my trailer, hitched it & began moving it—the 1st time in my life I had attempted it, thanks also to the invaluable aid of an experienced brother.

IF YOU ARE A FAMILY WITH, FOR EXAMPLE, 2 SMALL CHILDREN & another one on the way, & you're eager to get mobile, rejoin nature, follow the Letters & get ready for what's surely coming, don't feel that a trailer is essential. We have just such a family here living in a "2-room" tent, victoriously serving the Lord & being a great blessing to us all, GBT!

OUR CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ONE ANOTHER & RELATIVE PRIVACY have lent themselves to real joyful evenings of fellowship, either reading the latest Letter, watching something important on our portable TV, or letting go at a Saturday night disco-under-a-tent, when even the babies dance. And within the last week a love-tent went up, the fruit of our youngest adult's effort to take his sexual education seriously.

HAVING NATURE AT OUR DOORSTEP gives the children unlimited space to play, while it

also teaches us to be ever more vigilant so as to prevent accidents. Being near a city allows us the chance to witness, fitness & provision. A good portion of our fruit & vegetables & a supply of lamb is usually provisioned, thus cutting our average weekly cost of dinner food & beverages to about \$5-6 per person.

WE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SOON HAVE TO "PACK 'M UP & MOVE 'M OUT" TO SOUTH AMERICA, & we have learned some invaluable lessons about camping which will come in handy down there where life-on-wheels is not as commonplace. Chiefly, we have come to appreciate even more the strength, comfort & protection that the Family gives, & how large numbers of us could conceivably camp together without sacrificing elbow room, feeling like sardines or blowing our security.

IN FACT, AS CAMPING IN S. AMERICA IS NOT AS ESTABLISHED AS IN EUROPE & AMERICA, it may be ill-advised to pitch camp on your own. Besides all the benefits of sharing & fellowship, you'd miss out on the possibility of establishing a floating Family community which only camping affords.

CAMPING OUT IN EUROPE, AS OPPOSED TO THE STATES, has been a better lesson on flexibility because the trailer camps

here do not cater to your every need on a silver platter. It's not exactly roughing it, but it better prepares you for no-frills camping, which is in our future. TYL!

ONE LAST OBSERVATION: An average campground will have over 100 people at one time. Besides the possible witnessing opportunities that this presents & which you could take up prayerfully depending on each situation, this also means that every so often one of those people, for personal reasons, may need to quickly sell his tent &/or trailer.

CAMPGROUND RECEPTION DESKS THUS BECOME IMPORTANT PLACES for anyone looking to sell or buy used tents or trailers. Let them know, even if you're not staying there, that you are looking for one. You can sometimes find real bargains. We recently did, for another couple that needed one.

I REALLY HOPE & PRAY THAT MORE OF OUR FAMILY ARE TAKING POSITIVE STEPS toward becoming mobile. Like any new radical step in life, the fear of the unknown sometimes defeats us. If we remember that the Lord's leading this way & that the Letters are showing the way, we will soon take that all-important first step. Try it! It'll change your life! It did mine! TYL! Love, C.

(Amen! GBT! Dad.)

## From Hateful To Grateful Father!

LOVE NEVER FAILS!

From Tekoa Country, U.S.A.:

URIAH & I HAVE RETURNED TO THE STATES to take care of some legal business be-

fore pioneering in another field, & my father whom I haven't seen in 7 years finally came to visit us!

IN THE PAST, MY DAD HAD REFUSED TO VISIT ME, in hopes that I would leave the Family & return home. He was 100% against us. So needless to say, we were really apprehensive & praying that his visit would turn into a victory.

PTLI—GOD & HIS LOVE TOTALLY CHANGED MY DAD'S HEART! He spent one week

with us & his only 3 grandchildren whom he'd never seen. He admitted he was wrong about us & now admires us & the way we live. He said he wished my family could be like us & said that he wants to help us in our work. HE HAS ALREADY BEEN A GREAT BLESSING in helping us with many needs & helping us pay back our debts & has pledged his help to us when we make our move to a foreign field. We hope this wonderful testimony encourages many of you! "Love never fails!!" Love, Tekoa Country.

## Coming To Australia?

Official gov't. requirements for residency & how to get it!

From Malachi Elias & Rachel Daniel, Australian nationals:

AFTER DAD'S LETTER "AMERICANS ABROAD" where he said Australia was difficult for Americans to obtain permanent residence (No. 905: 34-35), our Home researched the details from the Immigrations Dept. This report is intended as a guideline only. Exact details are available from Australian Embassies.

WE'RE NOT SUGGESTING THAT AUSTRALIA NEEDS MORE FAMILY IMMIGRANTS as pioneer fields like South America obviously need labourers far more & will probably be more fruitful in souls won. We write this for those trying to leave the Northern Hemisphere who aren't ready for pioneer fields & are more called to fitness & witness part-time, & to work, earn money & to support needy brethren in pioneer fields. Australia is probably the country most like America, & its refugees will probably be safe in the coming war, Lord willing! THE AUSTRALIAN DEPT. OF IMMIGRATIONS HAS AD- OPTED CERTAIN GUIDELINES controlling the entry of immigrants. They state that there is no prejudice as to colour, religion, country of birth, against any applicants. However, the selection criteria ensures that—

ONLY RESPECTABLE & FINANCIALLY SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS ARE LIKELY TO RECEIVE PERMANENT STATUS. They don't want an influx of those likely to need welfare or special medical care (i.e. no bums & hippies, & you'd better look like a systemite!). ELIGIBILITY FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IS DETERMINED BY A TEST in which

the applicant scores points for various skills, assets, health or circumstance. If you score more than a certain number of points, you are allowed permanent resident status, & if you don't score the required number of points you can't come.

THE TEST EXAMINES MATTERS SUCH AS: Trade skills or profession (vocational training), native language (the ability to speak & read English is desirable), financial assets which one is able to bring to Australia, health (you & your dependents having good health is desirable), & other issues. For example, the applicant may score points for having skill as a typist, nurse, specialist teacher, welder or carpenter. He may also score points for having relatives out here, having a driver's license & for not having a large number of children (sad to say!).

SOME ISSUES FIGURE VERY HIGHLY ON THIS POINTS SCALE. One is that it is most important for the prospective immigrant to have a job waiting for him in Australia (even pumping petrol will do if you have no other skills or trade). The prospective immigrant must undertake that he will not apply for unemployment benefits while in Australia (at least not for 3 years, until he is naturalised as an Australian citizen).

THE AUSTRALIAN OFFERING THE JOB IS REQUIRED TO GUARANTEE FINANCIAL SUPPORT for the immigrant. Obviously there must be a great deal of trust between the immigrant & sponsor, because the Australian sponsor risks finding himself in serious trouble should the immigrant misbehave! As well, the sponsor would be unable to sponsor any future Fam-

ily immigrants, so it is a very serious matter.

THIS METHOD OF OBTAINING PERMANENT RESIDENCE WORKS WELL IF THE IMMIGRANT HAS NO FUNDS of his own but has a trusted friend in Australia who will guarantee his support. The authorities will not accept that the sponsor "lives by faith". Our Yugoslav friends who run small businesses sponsor their relatives, guaranteeing them a job on arrival in Australia.

ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO HAVE SUFFICIENT CAPITAL TO START A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS in Australia & to support yourself from the profits. (Until you get naturalised, taxation & immigration officials will be watching you to see if you are running the successful business you claimed you would. Citizenship after 3 years is not granted automatically. They could send you home if you failed to make a profit.)

FAMILY MEMBERS COULD POOL FUNDS, or God may bless somebody with a large inheritance. Alternatively, Family members with wealthy parents or Fish or Kings, might persuade them to invest in Australia. Many worldly businessmen, especially Americans, are aware of the coming War & consider Australia to be the best place in the world to invest large sums of money. The Family immigrants could manage the business out here on behalf of their wealthy parents, Fish or Kings.

ONE CAN BUY A BUSINESS LIKE A BISTRO for about \$20-30,000. Running a bistro doesn't involve your having a great deal of skill as a chef, unlike a restaurant. There would be a lot of hard work, but it could be a good place for witnessing (singing, FF'ing).

ANOTHER ENTERPRISE

MORE SUITED TO THE COMING CRASH would be to purchase a farm & become a primary producer (i.e. set up a refuge). However, one needs a minimum of \$50,000 to purchase & develop a property to an income-producing condition.

SO, THE PERSON WITH NO MONEY, SKILLS OR WAITING JOB IS UNLIKELY TO BE GRANTED PERMANENT RESIDENCE, unless of course, they marry an Australian. What can one do? One could start to acquire skills which are assessed by performance rather than education, perhaps by taking a short-duration "hobby" course at a technical college. Examples include typist, welder, draftsman. (I built up an architectural drafting business with no qualifications as a draftsman.) Most trade skills (e.g. carpenter) are assessed by completion of a 4-year apprenticeship, & are thus not suitable.

ONE WOULD THEN HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE IN AUSTRALIA TO EMPLOY HIM. Few Family members have businesses, & no businessmen will employ someone they don't know. Perhaps Australian Family members should make a special effort to get more businessmen turned on to the Family (& Jesus!), so that they will want to sponsor immigrants.

ACQUIRING SUITABLE SKILLS IS DESIRABLE, as "living by faith" alone will not

get you into Australia permanently. You could work in your promised job awhile & gradually get into witnessing in a self-supporting fashion.

HOWEVER, WHEN YOU APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP 3 yrs. later, the authorities will want to know how you have supported yourself, so it is advisable to have proof of having held a part-time job, or having been self-employed in a small-scale business that paid taxes, even if you were spending a lot of your time witnessing.

FF'ERS COULD WORK FOR ESCORT AGENCIES, for example. We would hate to see anyone sliding into the system away from serving the Lord & witnessing. Citizenship is desirable, or else the poor immigrant will be counted as an alien, at a great disadvantage if rationing should be introduced.

NOTE: IT IS IMPOSSIBLE!! TO BE GRANTED PERMANENT RESIDENCE WHILST ONE IS IN AUSTRALIA ON A VISITOR'S VISA! By applying, you risk getting yourself deported whilst a tourist! You are granted permission to visit Australia only by undertaking that you will definitely go back.

ONE MUST MAKE APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE FROM YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY. You do score a few points for having previously visited Australia as a tourist. A wise thing to do

might be to come out here on a visitor's visa & use the time to try to line up a definite job offer, or several offers, even working for your prospective sponsor for a while in the hope of impressing them. Male or female FF'ers should spend their tourist time FF'ing business persons like mad! Pray hard for the Lord to lead you to the right ones!

BUT YOU WILL STILL HAVE TO RETURN TO YOUR NATIVE LAND & apply for permanent residence from there, with proof of a definite job offer accompanying your application & tipping the points assessment in your favour. An intention to invest capital in Australia, saying that you intend to later run your own business after you have worked awhile, would probably win the system's heart too.

"BE WISE AS SERPENTS & HARMLESS AS DOVES!" It is not impossible for Family members to get permanent residence in Australia. However they do need vision, drive, enthusiasm, initiative, prayer, "shick", & knowing that they are in God's Will! P.S. An interesting Biblical parallel is found in Acts: Paul's Roman citizenship sure got him out of a lot of scrapes, & gave him lots of freedoms, & it could even be one reason why God chose Paul. Love, Malachi & Rachel.

