

Growing Up In The Lord

Battles & Victories & Precious Lessons Learned!

From Shuly, age 16; Central America: (She's an angel! D.)

Dear Mo,
HOW ARE YOU? I HOPE, VERY WELL. Many things have happened to me this year. (See Shuly's prayer request in Mag 32, page 175.) Many things matter to me now that didn't before, & other things don't that used to!

EVER SINCE THE FF LETTERS CAME OUT (I was 11), I was petrified people would start to attack & pounce on me as soon as I grew older. I was petrified of my 18th birthday. It must sound funny to you, but it was a fearsome green monster to me. I had seen quite a few examples of "lust", not "love" like in your letters, so that just about rooted my fear.

FOR 5 LONG YEARS I HAD THE TRIAL THAT I'D HAVE TO START "SHARING" as soon as I was old enough, & the Devil painted me pictures of horrible hairy guys making a line at the door. (Some of the brothers hadn't been exactly wise in their comments) & so it grew. (Talk about crossing bridges before coming to them!)

ANYWAY, AFTER GETTING VERY SICK & suffering a lot at the hospital, I told the Lord to take away any space in my life that wasn't completely His. Then immediately the "sharing" issue popped up. The Devil said, "He's going to ask you to screw the next brother who comes in." But I stomped on the Devil & tried to get a clear line.

THEN INCREDULOUSLY I SENSED THAT THE LORD WAS CHUCKLING, & I got this picture while praying: If a child is dead scared of diving, then a loving father would never force or push, & the child wouldn't



dive until it wanted to. This same parallel was for me. If other people call the child a scaredy-cat, so what? It doesn't matter what other people say, because only God can judge, & everything is between Him & me.

MANY PEOPLE KNOW ME AS ULTRA-DYNAMIC, & this disease is very restrictive. I can't walk. My anemia is quite bad too, & the sun is absolutely prohibited except at dawn & twilight.

THE LORD TAUGHT ME THAT NOT ALL IS ACTION, & that school, however nice, was not for me anymore. I go fewer places, & review more. I spend more time now with my brothers & sisters. When the pain doesn't let me do things, I watch & learn from life as it unfolds quietly—the amusing things the cat does, the progress of the plant on my bedside table. God is great & magnifies Himself in the little things.

GOD IS TEACHING ME PASSION. I saw a guy without a leg the other day. Before, I would have thought, "Poor guy," now having an inkling of what he must have gone thru, I smiled & tried to cheer him up.

THE LORD KNOWS I'VE DEDICATED EVERYTHING TO HIM & I think He's trying to grow me up quickly. At 16, just

beginning life, to have to be watchful always about my health, not being able to run around here & there seems awful, but these days I've learned that life is made up of tiny quiet things & that just to get to know people well is a universe in itself. You lose a lot zooming all over the place. It seems like you do a lot, but really what thing have you gained as a person?

I THINK THE LORD HAS GIVEN ME THIS DISEASE TO CURB ME A LITTLE & to make me chat more with Him about everything I do. Once the Lord told me that I'd be thankful for this one day. I believe this disease is a demonic attack (lupus means wolf), but the Lord is using it to shine me up. When the Lord has finished this "exam", He'll "collect the papers", check them & when I've got my "grades," that test (disease) will be over (healed)! They had x-rays taken of my fingers & there are no bone lesions, thank God!

THE LORD GAVE ME A FIGHTING SONG for this disease. I was expecting something like "Onward Christian Soldiers", but guess which one I got?—The tiny little kids' song, "The big bad wolf can't get me 'cause Jesus is the Shepherd with the great big stick!" Sometimes the Lord gives me such simple things that go so perfectly to the point that I feel quite foolish in expecting something big!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR ME! It's really quite an honour to think that God—I mean the Creator of the Universal—cares so much about each one of us. I remember so well that blessings come in disguise (some disguise!). I guess you could call it "a sheep in wolf's clothing"! Hal. Lots & lots of love, Shuly. P.S. Do you think other teenage girls are going thru the trials I was about sharing? It would be interesting to know!

The Blessings of Older Children!

From Seek & Secundus:

WE HAVEN'T HEARD MANY TESTIMONIES from other families about how fast their kids are maturing, but would be very interested to hear more. Our oldest three are Jason-9, Sherah-8 & Summer-6, & they are such a big help with every part of our daily jobs & ministries. They do a very big part of housework & childcare which leaves us free to do a lot of other things that they can't do.

SO, MOMS & DADS, WHEN YOUR CHILDREN GET TO THAT AGE, life is sooooo much easier! Even having each new baby is more & more of a pleasure. We've all had so much more time to enjoy baby Michael, for me much more than any of the others, as the older children now help so much to lighten our load.

THE KIDS DO THE LITNESS, SINGING, CHILDCARE, MAIL MINISTRY & HOUSEWORK, & the best part is that they are willing workers & go the extra mile, PTL! We are learning to all work together as a real team serving the Lord, rather than just a Mommy & Daddy & little children. If the kids didn't carry their load so well, we honestly wouldn't be able to keep going for the Lord!

JASON, SHERAH & SUMMER HAVE QUITE A LITTLE LOVE TRIANGLE GOING & have been teaching us a lot about sharing & being unselfish. One night I knew Sherah was looking forward to being with Jason, but he was with Summer. I asked Sherah about it & she said that Summer was a little discouraged & Jason was trying to cheer her up before he came to bed with her.

THE KIDS ARE ALL SO INTERESTED IN THE OPPOSITE SEX & love to give & receive af-



Jason-9, Sherah-8, Summer-6, Stephen-4, Jamie-3 & Patricia-2, six oldest of Seek & Secundus!

fection. Little Jamie-3 really falls in love with older sisters & spends a lot of time writing love letters to them. Jason was so in love with one sister while we were in Finland & really went thru' trials when he knew a particular older brother was sleeping with her.

WE REALISE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A LOT EASIER ON HIM if the brother & he had had a closer relationship & if we had realised how serious these relationships are for the children. We really don't encourage or discourage the children about sex, but we like to talk to them about what they are experiencing. It really isn't a joke for them, but comes very naturally & matter-of-factly, & they don't hesitate to share with us without even a flush.

SOMETIMES THEY SURPRISE & CONVICT US to be more loving. We don't want to write about what we think children should be doing, as we don't really know & even have questions ourselves. We don't know how much flesh brothers & sisters can share when they are older? But we wanted to share our experiences & are interested in the experiences of others in the Family. Love, Seek & Secundus.

Thank You Lord for Older Children!

By Ahlai Gospel; S. America: Thankyou Lord for older children But how the years have flown!

The tots I loved up yesterday Are now almost full grown!

I see them do so many things That before were done by mother They bathe & dress & help the rest Sweet sister, loving brother!

Thankyou Lord for older children Such a blessing to Your work! Past the age of toddler trials And helping without shirk!

Thankyou Lord for older children Yesterday upon my breast & looking down I prayed that He Would help us do our best—

To teach & train & pray for them And keep them in the Word, But most of all to love them up So they will love the Lord.

Thankyou for these older children Lord, They're 5 and 6 and more!

Well on their way to accomplishing What you have got in store!

I must obey & then just trust When my faith goes to test To rest assured in that planted Word

When they must leave the nest— To be Your last bold messengers No brighter have ever shone Or with greater power, Than that final hour before you call us Home!

Thank You Lord for our older children Bless them each & every one! And I know we'll cry

When you look them in the eye To reward their "job well done"! —By Ahlai Gospel, mother of S. & S. Amer.

Survival & Camping Tips!

From your Monthly Reports!

"FOR THOSE IN BRITAIN WE RECOMMEND A COPY OF 'PROTECT & SURVIVE', a government publication available for 50 pence. It tells you how to make your home & family safe under nuclear attack, available from some booksellers. Here's a quote: 'The radioactive dust falling where the wind blows will bring the most widespread dangers of all. No part of the U.K. can be considered safe.' This is a conservative gov't. document! Lord help us to flee!"—Jacob & Rachel Scott.

"WE HAVE FOUND OUT FROM DIFFERENT S. AMERICAN EMBASSIES that it is wiser not to take a car & caravan with you but to buy one there. The Brasil Embassy said it's against the law to bring a car & caravan into Brasil. The Embassies for Argentina & Venezuela said that you could take a car & caravan but that at the border when entering you would have to pay 200% of its value. They said that a car alone would cost no less than \$5,000 tax when entering, which they give back when leaving the country."—Ezekiel & Angela Bourbon Europe.

"IF YOU FORGET TO SOAK BEANS OVERNIGHT, you can simmer them 5 minutes, turn off the heat & leave them tightly covered for 2 hours. The end result is the same as soaking overnight. This is from the book 'Recipes for a Small Planet'."—Jubal & Cherith: South America.

"TRAVELLING THRU' MEXICO we are just leaving a beautiful paradise called Puerto Vallar-



ta & want to recommend it to other brethren. There's a good trailer park there. It's on the sea, tropical climate, friendly local Mexicans to reach as well as 10's of 1000's of international tourists that come here to vacation."—Gladel & Mercy.

"WE HAVE LEARNED 2 GOOD REMEDIES FOR DIARRHEA: Plain white rice & black tea."—Bruce & Yvette: Caribbean.



On a camping-witnessing trip to the interior of the country—Kanan Benjamin with Josue-1½, Regina-3½ & Daniel-5. The children are holding cashew fruit & nut from a tree at the camping spot. The fruit is very sweet & often used for juice, & the nut has to be roasted before eating. Photo by Daddy Ado in Central America.

"FOR THOSE IN THE U.S.: Pawn shops & military stores carry a lot of survival items etc. for a much cheaper price than those found in ordinary retail shops. Also the Pro-Vita Corp. sells cheaper (I think) dehydrated foods than Sam Andy. For example a No. 10 can of beef flavored textured vegetable protein costs \$4.80. Orders over \$250 get a 10% discount which is returned to you after you've

paid in full. For a \$3 fee you can become a 'distributor' (probably a gimmick) & pay 'cost' for items instead of the 'suggested retail price'. Their address: PRO-VITA Corp., 1060 N. Armando Street, Anaheim, Calif. 92806."—Sunny Day: U.S.A.

"I FOUND THE CHEAPEST WAY TO FLY TO THE CARIBBEAN from London. Usual airlines cost £500 to Jamaica. If you go by Laker to Miami first from London, then get a flight from Miami to the Caribbean, it's only about £160!"—Matthew Artist (now in Caribbean).

SUNBURN REMEDY: "We recently learned about using the aloe plant to heal skin. The leaves are thick, & you just slice them & coat the skin with the inside. It doesn't hurt & helps to heal burns & other skin problems quickly. We also learned another tip from the manager of the campground about mosquito bites. You can use white vinegar to help relieve itching. It's just temporary, but if you let the kids apply it themselves, it does provide some relief as well as keep them from scratching the bites & possibly causing infection."—Nathan & Daystar: USA. (An ancient Bible herb!—Dad.)

"FOR CAMPERS, TRAILERS & ALL SORTS OF EQUIPMENT, England has it. The bottom has recently fallen out of the car market & people are waking up to the Crash as they are liquidating their luxury items, campers etc. for cheap. It's a buyers' market!"—Phineas & Rebecca: B.I. V.S.

"POINTERS FOR REFUGES: We found cats to be wonderful protection against snakes, rats, mice, moles, gophers, harmful insects & bothersome birds on our refuge. They're clean, terrific hunters & beautiful to watch. Just don't overfeed them. Two have proven better than one for us. We feed them a little cat



Hezekiah-15 working on a refuge farm in Europe. Photo by his Mom Mary.

food & a little milk in the morning & they have to catch their own meat. They usually have to be at least 5 months old or so before they can be expected to start performing, & it doesn't hurt to feed a pregnant cat a little meat to insure her & her kittens are healthy." (Amen! D.)—Keros & Jedidah: U.S.A.

"WE CAME ACROSS PLANS ON HOW TO BUILD A SMALL WIND-POWERED GENERATOR. It consists of only 2 car batteries, a car generator, some various pieces of wood & sheet metal, some wire, nuts & bolts. With only a small wind it will supply more than enough electricity for a trailer or small house & also stores electricity for when there's no wind. It's called 'Homemade 6-Volt Wind Electric Plants' by H.F. McColly & Fosterbuck. It could be very useful for an independent refuge."—Shadrach & Bethesda: USA. (Can you send an address?)

"WE BOUGHT A CAR CIGARETTE LIGHTER & tape recorder adapter for it & wired it to the 12 v. light in the trailer, & now we can play tapes on 12 v. We found the 12v. light cheaper to use than propane, provided you have a good battery &

recharge it at regular intervals (3-4 hours). Propane mantles have proved costly as they break almost every time we move."—Aaron & Serena: Canada. (Just B sure Ur tape's 12V!)

"WHEN TRAVELLING IN FRANCE BY TRAIN in brother & sister teams, get a 'carte couple' entitling one of the 2 to a 50% reduction. You don't even have to be married!"—Abishai.

"WE FOUND THAT BY PARKING OUR CARAVAN on the east side of campgrounds next to good shade provided by trees on the west side, the sun warms up the caravan in the morning but by the time the hot afternoon sun hits we are under total shade cover."—Abishai.

"THERE IS A GROUP OF WOMEN WHO SELL 'MENSTRUAL SPONGES'. They might be very practical for survival. They are made of natural sponge & can be washed & used



Zacharias prepares their camper in preparation for hitting the road with wife Gabi & daughter Melissa with no. 2 due soon! Photo by Micha.