

An Angel! The Miracle Van! & The New House!

—From the Arabic LIT-PIC Newsletter!

WE WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY to share with you some of the many "great things that the Lord hath done" for us over the past few months! About 6 months ago Lydia met an elderly gentleman named N. while she was hitch-hiking. He seemed very sweet & lonely, & God laid a special burden on her heart for him.

AT THE TIME WE HAD REACHED ROCK BOTTOM. We were 6 adults, including 2 pregnant mothers, & 4 children. It was winter-time & rainy & we were living in an old farmhouse with a leaky roof & we had come to the end of our rope. God was putting the pressure on, so we all got together for a day of desperate prayer & fasting & decided then that we were going to stick it out no matter what, & that our main job was putting the Words into Arabic, & we were holding God to His Word to supply our needs.

THAT DAY N. CALLED to say hello & asked if he could take Lydia out to lunch the next day. Little did we know what the Lord people are saying! Who knows...?

AFTER A SIMPLE LUNCH, N. looked at Lydia & said, "From what you've told me I can see that you are doing a good work & that you don't have much money. One time in my life I was very very poor & I've never forgotten what it was like. I'd like to help you." And he handed her a thick brown envelope,

which Lydia put into her bag. Then he brought her home. WHEN SHE CAME IN SHE WAS TREMBLING & said, "N. just gave me a package to help us & I don't know how much or what's in it, but it must be a lot! God had done the miracle! He had just given us \$1,300! Wow! It was more than we could bear! We all broke & wept & thanked God for His faithfulness. We thought, "How can we ever thank God enough!"—But it was not over! In fact, it was only the beginning!

SINCE THEN, N. HAS BEEN SO FAITHFUL TO CARE FOR OUR NEEDS & help us on a number of occasions when we were the most desperate, & he always wishes to remain anonymous. He's so much like "the man who played God" in "My Love Is a Legend" that we often wonder if it isn't him! Besides being an elderly philanthropist who always wants to remain anonymous, he's also almost totally deaf & has learned to read lips to understand what people are saying! Who knows...?

BY THE WAY, WHEN LYDIA FIRST MET N. SHE WAS 6 MONTHS PREGNANT & he was so concerned for her & the baby that he arranged for the hospital & doctor fees to make sure she had a good safe delivery. During this time also he kept saying, "After you've had the baby I'll take you to a special place where I like to go where there is an international crowd. I hope you'll like it."

SO AFTER THE BABY WAS BORN & old enough to be looked after for the evening, Lydia went out with N. The place he had told her about turned out

to be the Casino! Well, Lydia didn't know exactly what to do, as she had never been to such a place before and N. gave her some chips to play with & encouraged her to try to play roulette.

WELL, SHE JUST STARTED WINNING & COULDN'T LOSE! She'd prayed & asked the Lord what to do & she got that she should bet on 7's & multiples of 7's, & believe it or not she wound up winning \$3,000! "My mother even used a slot machine once to get us enough money for our dinner!" (No. 27:40.) Hal (HALLELUJAH!—Dad.)

AGAIN, IT WAS SUCH AN ANSWER TO PRAYER because just the day before we had a meeting to discuss about "Americans Abroad" & we decided that because of the Arabic pubs work we should stay put but to buy a small van & tent so we could have some means to flee should we need to. We even decided to use our flee fund to buy them. Then boom! God just gave us the money!

THE NEXT DAY ASHER FOUND AN OLD PAPER & answered an ad for a VW camper, & the man came down \$1,000 on the price, & the money we had won was just enough for the van & a large tent! PGI But believe it or not, the story is not over yet! This month N. paid our rent for a new house for one full year! And for the first time he came over & visited us all & met the whole family. He has come such a long way & has changed so much since love has come into his life, & we know that God must have great blessings in store for him for all the blessings he has given to us. (Gen. 12:3.) Please pray for him!

(They've pub'd 11 Mags & over 120 Letters in Arabic. For samples write: CPO 220, Athens, Greece & pls. enclose donation!)

Portugal's Politics Pre-empted!

The fateful death of Portugal's PM blocks rightist coalition! The implications!

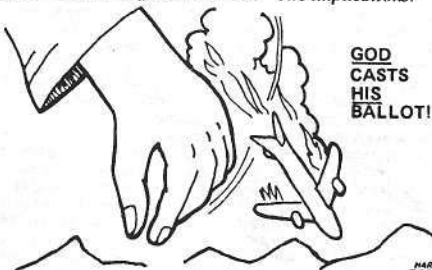
From Ebed & Estrella: THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK FOR PORTUGAL seems to have drastically changed over the past few weeks due to the shocking death (airplane crash) of the ex-Prime Minister on the eve of the Presidential elections here on the 4th of Dec.

SA CARNEIRO WAS A DYNAMO OF ENERGY, steering the country into closer collaboration with the U.S. & Portugal's NATO allies. Everything seemed to be going his way, including the probable election of a new President, Soares Carneiro (no relative) who believed very much the way he did, politically-speaking.

THEY WERE PLANNING TO CHANGE THE PORTUGUESE CONSTITUTION radically & pave the way for a much more pro-Western streamlined democracy. However on the very eve of the probable victory & fruition of this dream, Sa died along with his mistress, Minister of Defense & his wife, leader of his gov't. party (house speaker), & the two pilots in a small twin-engine Cessna aircraft, one minute into flight from the Lisboa airport heading towards Porto for a last-minute political rally to support his Presidential candidate, Soares Carneiro, in that city.

HAD THESE TWO MEN TAKEN OVER THE REINS OF PORTUGAL'S GOVERNMENT, it could have very likely spelled some changes for the Family here. One thing that was most probably in the offing was that literature distribution would have been banned in the streets, as this would have been most likely aimed at the leftists but would have hit the Family hard too, as we've continued to enjoy this freedom for some time now.

ALSO COMING WOULD'VE BEEN A GENERAL TIGHTENING UP on visas, border cross-



ings etc., as well as almost 100% submission to U.S. defense measures. Just before the election, HENRY KISSINGER MADE A SPECIAL "HOLIDAY" STOP OVER HERE for 5 days in which he met with every high-ranking official in the country's gov't. & asked for support on 4 major issues: 1. More wide-ranged & comprehensive use of the Lajes (U.S.) Air Force Base in the Azores. 2. Enlargement of the German base in Sines (150 km. south of Lisboa). 3. The "greenlight" for a permanent U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier base in the deepwater oil port at Sines. 4. The permission to deploy nuclear weapons on Portuguese soil.

THE GOV'T'S VICE PM & MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WENT ON TV & said that Portugal ought to help the U.S. in these requests & in any way to help protect worldwide democracy etc. etc. So things were headed towards Portugal's getting heavily armed & therefore very much involved in the next war, which she could not have possibly survived, but by the grace of God.

HOWEVER, PERHAPS GOD HAD MERCY ON HIS SHEEP HERE, who are many, by hope-fully stopping, at least for the

foreseeable future, this big U.S. NATO drive to use the country so flagrantly for their own purposes (defense?).

SO FOR THE PRESENT WE WILL HAVE PRES. EANES WHO KNOWS US & HAS BEEN FRIENDLY towards us in the past & has been over the past year the only block between a more far-right gov't. here. (ILH!) SA CARNEIRO, SINCE HE WAS ELECTED & was yielding more & more to right-wing influences within his party (or rather alliance of 3 parties) was also trying to reinstitute the secret police (which Eanes blocked in Parliament), which institution had been banned for the last 6 years.

TO SOME EXTENT THE FAMILY HAD BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS staying out of jail at that time because of that particular institution. So PTL! We're probably a lot better off with dear Eanes, considering the rather extreme alternative that was looming on the horizon.

WE HOPE TO USE THE TIME THE LORD HAS GIVEN US here in Portugal to continue to get out the Message as widely & freely as possible. TTL!—"Give us our sons & we'll give you our city!" Hallelujah! Love, Ebed & Estrella. (IL Eanes & PFIH!D.)

Shipping Your Car?

Tips & Lessons Learned on how to do it!

From Carlos & Rosa; S. America: WE JUST SHIPPED OUR CAR TO ARGENTINA, & the lessons we learned from experience could prove helpful to others.

1. AVOID SHIPPING FROM A COUNTRY THAT HAS REDUCED TRADE with the country you're shipping to because the ship will very likely sail half-empty & will have to drum up business between several ports along the way in order to make a profit. This will result in inordinate delays. In our case, the boat arrived 28 days later than the estimated day of arrival first given us by the shipping company's agency in Greece. In any case, be advised to take this estimate as exactly that, an estimate, & plan accordingly.

2. INSURANCE COMPANIES IN GREECE REFUSED TO INSURE OUR CAR for the trip, claiming that there was "a 90% chance that it will be broken in to & stripped of all valuables". By faith & supported by a lot of prayer, we shipped it with its brand new radio & speakers & a trunk loaded full of camping gear, children's books & toys, & sundry personal effects. Everything arrived intact, TTL.

3. WASH & SIMONIZE (WAX) YOUR CAR BEFORE SHIPPING. On most liners, cars are not placed in the hull, as no other cargo could be safely placed on top of it. So it travels on deck. Altho' any responsible carrier will protect it with both a plastic & a canvas cover, a few weeks at sea will still take its toll. Ours arrived with rusting door edges, which we feel a professional simonize job or other similar protection applied just before shipping, would have prevented.

4. BEFRIEND THE SHIP'S

FIRST MATE & as many of the deckhands as possible, & give tips to the latter before sailing. They are important in that the first mate will have custody of your car keys throughout the voyage & the crew will take care of covering the car up & keeping it from being hit by other objects as they load & unload at intermediate stops.

5. IF YOU CAN LEGALLY SWING IT, HAVE THE SHIPPING COMPANY INDICATE THAT YOUR CAR WAS NOT SHIPPED UNACCOMPANIED. In Argentina at least, any motor vehicle even for purposes of tourism arriving by sea unaccompanied must pay to the Argentine Customs the equivalent of 12% of the cost of the freight paid. If you provisioned your freight, then you theoretically pay nothing.

6. GETTING THRU' CUSTOMS: Patience & endurance are necessary to execute all the steps needed to get your car unloaded & thru' customs once it arrives in Argentina. Very few cars arrive here by sea (almost all cars are locally made; tourists from overseas normally do not bring cars; tourists from neighboring countries drive over), so the customs authorities at the Buenos Aires port are simply not used to the formalities for bringing in a car for tourism & can keep one going around for three days filling in forms & getting documents authenticated just because they are not completely sure of the procedure. But in the end it all worked out for good, as we met a high customs official who has invited us to his home to meet his family.

7. BEFORE LEAVING MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AN UNEXPIRED INT'L. DRIVER'S LIC.

ENSE in addition to all your car ownership papers. A membership card from your country's automobile club entitles you to one free month's membership at the very efficient club here. They sent a service truck right up to the ship to help us start the car, which had been at sea for 56 days, at no charge. At their central stations all over the city they have reduced-rate repair service for members. They also run motels, inns, campgrounds & service stations all over the country.

8. IT MAY PROVE VERY WISE TO INSTALL NEW TIRES & BATTERIES before coming here. Tires are currently running at \$130 each, & batteries \$80.

9. IF EVERYTHING IS IN ORDER, YOU'RE GIVEN A PERMIT to go freely about until the day the entry stamp on your passport expires, usually 3 mos. after arrival. If you wish to stay 3 more months the customs office must be informed 10 days in advance so that the permit may be extended. If at the end of the second period you have not left or are applying for residence, you will be asked to pay 90% of the car's value assessed by local customs, which assess according to the very high local prices for cars. (In my case, DV, it seems that it will be comparatively simple to secure residence, as I'll have two things working in my favor: Argentina's new policy of openly appealing for skilled white males to settle here, & the fact that by that time I may be the owner on record of some rural property, our refuge). If you're granted residence, the car may remain upon payment of a nominal amount which is currently \$220, but you may not sell the car not parts thereof to any resident Argentinian unless he pays full duty on it. Love, Carlos & Rosa. ■

Car Safety Tips For Children!

From Adar; Europe:

I RECENTLY ORDERED A LITTLE BROCHURE, "Travel With Baby", which was recommended in an old FN. I was surprised to find that the majority of the little booklet consisted of safety tips. Since so many of our families are now on the road, I thought it might be worthwhile to go thru' the booklet & pick out the most valuable tips.

INTRODUCTION: The car can be reasonably safe, if you make sure to take all the proper safety precautions first. Remember, little children can't protect themselves. So if you don't do it, nobody will.

CHILDREN ARE NOT MINATURE ADULTS. They have larger heavier heads & shorter legs in proportion to their bodies than adults. In a crash, this imbalance forces their bodies to whip forward & become propelled little missiles often going right thru' the front windshield.

MANY PEOPLE FEEL THAT A BABY HELD IN THE LAP IS THE SAFEST way to travel. In the event of a crash, the adult will be totally unable to hold on to the child. If the adult is unbelted he is likely to be thrown right against the baby & the dash. At 20 miles per hour, a 25 lb. child turns into a hurtling weight of over 500 pounds—not a simple matter to hold in place with one extended arm.

SO IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO CARRY YOUR CHILD IN A RESTRAINT (car-safety seat) from infancy while travelling. The child will readily adjust to using a belt when the restraint is outgrown.

INFANT RESTRAINTS: Little babies require a special kind just for them. It is usually tub-shaped to comfortably cradle the child in a semi-reclined position. It should be made of an energy-



(Catalogue picture)

absorbing material & have a thickly padded lining to protect the head.

TODDLER RESTRAINTS: Some systems convert to accommodate both infants & older children up to about 4 years (as indicated on the label). These will hold an energetic child with a strong specially-designed harness. Seat belts alone are inadequate for young children. A belt can slip from the hips where it belongs up to the soft tummy where it could cause injuries.

TIPS FOR BUYING CAR SEATS: Shopping for a baby car seat can be very confusing. Dozens of models at different prices can be found. No safety restraint will prevent injuries in every accident situation. But those car seats that indicate they have passed testing will provide the best protection. Compare only those models that have been dynamically crash tested. Consider a 2-in-1 unit that can be used from birth to 4 years. Study the instruction booklet to see how convenient the car seat will be for everyday use. Be sure to use it every time the child rides in an automobile. Set a good example

& buckle yourself in before starting the car. You will save lives!

TIPS FOR PREGNANT MOMIES: Medical authorities suggest the following measures to increase safety & afford maximum protection in the event of an auto mishap: 1. Drive as little as possible during your last months to minimize your chance of having an accident. 2. As a passenger, ask to sit in the back & fasten your seat belt securely. (The back seat is generally a safer place to be in case of an accident.) 3. Keep your seat belt low, below the "anticipated arrival", & use the shoulder harness whenever possible. 4. Be sure to advise your

doctor after even the slightest collision. TRAVEL TIPS: 1. Make sure you're calm before driving & avoid hasty traffic. (For us, the most important first step is, of course, to pray!) 2. Always be sure you have plenty of fuel before you leave home. 3. Fasten children snugly into their restraint systems. Use your own seat belt & shoulder harness. 4. Doors should be locked at all times, & windows lowered no more than halfway. 5. Children should not touch the controls of the car—ever! 6. Noise must be kept to a minimum. 7. Children should never be left alone in a car. 8. Packages shouldn't be left loose in the car. They are easily propelled in an accident. 9. If you must discipline your child, pull off the road & stop the car.

THERE ARE MORE TIPS on entertaining & keeping children comfortable during trips too. If you wish to order the booklet for yourself, the address is: Cosco/Peterson, Subsidiary of Kidde, Inc., KIDDE, 2525 State Street, Columbus, In. 47201, U.S.A. It is free. ■