

A Stern Warning To Parents!

Lessons Learned Thru' the Graduation of Two of the Lord's Little Ones!

From Rachel, David & Anna;

Mexico: Dear Dad, Maria & Family,

GBAKY! We wanted to write & tell you of the Graduation of our two little girls, Mercy-3 & Deborah-2 who went to be with Jesus December 16th & 17th, 1980 due to an electrical fire in our trailer. Their Homegoing really broke our hearts & has taught us so many lessons we couldn't even begin to tell it all. But we want to send this to you so all may benefit from our mistakes.

KNOWING THAT WE'RE RESPONSIBLE for the children's deaths & that it could have been avoided has been such a fight for us, but we're just believing & claiming the poem that "things don't just happen to children of God; they're planned"—in spite of our mistakes.

DAVID & I ARE WORKING WITH A SISTER NAMED ANNA who just rejoined the Family with her four girls after 9 years of being in the System—Ruth-8, Lamb-6, Mercy-3 & Deborah-2. THE LORD HAD GIVEN US A VAN that we'd converted into a camper & planned on going to Mexico & really reach the world with God's Love. And so, needing more space for the rest of the Family,

WE BOUGHT A SMALL POP-UP CAMPER because it is so light for our van to pull, the lightest trailer made. (Our van was so heavy itself that it needed something light to pull.)

THEN WE LEFT FOR MEXICO where we were staying in a trailer park there. Some other brethren were there with their trailer too—Lance, Lydia, Daniel & their 3 children.

THAT NIGHT EVERYONE WENT TO SEE A MOVIE "Bili-

tis" & I watched the children in the pop-up. When everyone came back, as it was so late, we didn't really want to wake up the children & move them from trailer to trailer.

THAT WAS OUR FIRST MISTAKE: Letting all the children sleep alone, thinking it was ok as it was late etc. It was the first time we'd ever done that, & it's the last time we'll do it too! God help us!

IT WAS SO COLD WE PUT A HEATER IN THE POP-UP, using a small extension cord. That was our next mistake, as it was too many amp's for that small extension cord, which started the fire.

AFTER THE FIRE WE READ THE "WATCH YOUR WATTS" WARNING from Dad. We had just received the mailing a few days prior to the fire & were just reading the Letters. From that the Lord showed us the importance of getting together & reading the Mags from front to back. "If we only had!" It's so sad to learn these lessons the hard way, by experience, but the Lord knows.

THAT NIGHT ALL OF US HAD RECEIVED LITTLE CHECKS about leaving the children & even about the heater, but everyone of us blew it off. Lord help us! What a sad way to learn these things at the expense of the lives of others. The quote I got, Dad, was, "Accidents don't just happen" & to remember to pray without ceasing, especially when little lives are in our hands to protect.

AND SO AT 4 A.M. WE WERE AWAKENED BY THE CHILDREN'S CRYING, & we saw there was a fire in the trailer. I ran in to get the children out & David to try & put out the fire.

When I went in there was a small fire & mostly a lot of smoke, but right after getting 3 children out in just a matter of seconds it instantly caught the canvas part in flames. The canvas & plastic windows were really flammable.

THE CHILDREN WERE BURNED BADLY with 1st, 2nd & 3rd degree burns, also because they were covered with a sleeping bag made of polyester that caught fire instantly & burned them badly. We rushed them to the hospital where they were immediately given oxygen & doctors tried to clean out their lungs because they had breathed all that burning plastic which really damaged their lungs.

FOR TWO DAYS THEY WERE IN A GOVT. SOCIAL SECURITY HOSPITAL, but because we were Americans & because they didn't have the proper facilities, they were transferred to a children's hospital where they did all they could for the girls.

THE DOCTORS SAID HAD THEY LIVED THEY WOULD HAVE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS because of going thru' such a trauma, maybe never talking or walking, not to mention scars. They let us help care for them, giving them vitamins & putting Vitamin E on their burns! They even suggested flying them to Houston to a special burn hospital if they got any better.

ALL THE FAMILY GOT TOGETHER & PRAYED DESPERATELY that the Lord would raise them up & heal them. And a short time later little Deborah went Home. The next day Mercy had improved so much & started talking & opened her eyes etc. We were really encouraged that the Lord was going to raise her up & miraculously heal her. But then she began to whimper

& we saw how much pain she was in & asked the Lord that His will be done, not ours.

BECAUSE WE LOVED & WANTED HER SO MUCH we were willing to do anything so she could live, but then could see she didn't want to suffer all the pain & agony. And just minutes later Mercy too went Home. Praise the Lord! His ways are not our ways, & the Lord truly knows best.

OUT OF WHAT SEEMED LIKE DEFEAT CAME SOME OF GOD'S GREATEST VICTORIES, as we got to witness to a lot of people who were going thru' the same trials without the Lord, & we were able to comfort others with the same comfort that we are comforted with, PG!

THE LORD OPENED DOORS TO GO BACK TO THE HOSPITAL to witness, & the Lord gave us about 15 souls including a nurse who was watching the girls. And we went to an orphanage where the Lord gave us 30 souls too, TYJ!

THEY ARE AS THE ANGELS IN HEAVEN! Amen! WLY so much & can't thank you enough for your words of life that really give us life to fight on & keep on. Lord forgive us for all our mistakes & hopefully all can learn from them.

THE LORD IS SHOWING US SO MANY THINGS it's hard to tell you all of it. One of the things is that I've never experienced death or things like that & that God really used it to pre-

pare us for the future as "1000 shall fall by thy side & 10,000 at thy right hand but it shall not come nigh thee" (Ps. 91:7).

So in times to come we're going to see a lot of pain & death & we'll be their only hope. There's only life in Jesus!

THE REST OF THE CHILDREN & I ARE HEALING UP MIRACULOUSLY FAST with a few minor burns, nothing serious. Thank God we have our lives, as it could have cost all of our lives! Please Family!—Learn from our mistakes! Everything is serious in caring for God's children.

HERE'S A CHECKLIST of things the Lord has showed us to do to be more prepared:

1. Pray Without Ceasing! The Enemy walketh about seeking whom he may devour!
2. Obey All Checks! Don't regard anything as being too little or unimportant.
3. Be Prepared! Have safety drills in cases of fire. Teach children what they can do, using fire extinguisher, helping little children, covering their mouths etc.
4. Do Not Leave Children Alone! Even sleeping close may not be close enough.
5. Hospitals & Doctors: Know where they are located & if they will serve you. Find good doctors who may help you in time of need.
6. Re-read all the Trailer Letters! They are so important, & everything we need to know is in there. God help us!

THE LORD ALSO SHOWED US THAT SLEEPING BAGS MADE OF POLYESTER ARE BAD.—They can burst into flames instantly. Use wool blankets instead. Also kids' pajamas should be wool. Synthetics are more dangerous & flammable. POP-UP TENT TRAILERS CAN BE HAZARDOUS if you're using electricity. One of our outlets (the one that caught fire) was located by a seat cushion. In fact we could barely plug anything in without having to move the cushion, which also makes into a bed—this is what caused the fire.

IT CAN GET PRETTY COLD IN POP-UP TRAILERS, but I recommend piling on blankets instead of using dangerous electric heaters. In fact, I would recommend not using electricity at all in them, as they're so flammable.

ALSO, MAKE FRIENDS WITH NEIGHBOURS. One of our neighbours put out the fire for us. It would also be good to have other means of transportation nearby besides your own. It would be good if at least one person, if not more, studied up on first aid or took a free course. They usually give them at Civil Defense or Red Cross. It's all in the "Child Safety Checklist"! God help us to obey it!

(May God help us to be better stewards of the most precious gifts He's given us!—Our children!—Sad Dad!)

FROM DAD:

THE ABOVE IS A VERY SAD STORY OF IGNORANCE & NEGLIGENCE to warn us all to be more prayerful & diligent in the constant ever-vigilant care of our families & things!—But what a sad way to learn too late to save these, but not too late to save yours! TG ours go to be with the Lord.

BUT WHAT A LOSS TO US, THE FAMILY & GOD'S WORK to have their tiny ministry cut so short! But maybe this will be their ministry: To teach us all a severe lesson:

DON'T LET IT HAPPEN TO YOU!—We have nearly 4,000 more—plus more than 4,000 precious parents & adults as well!—Yet the labourers are few! Ours are truly busy & faithful labour-

ers for Him, so we really can't afford to lose any! Please treasure & protect yours as never before! —AS I'VE ALWAYS SAID, ACCIDENTS DON'T JUST HAPPEN—THEY ARE CAUSED BY OUR OWN NEGLECT & CARELESSNESS, or that of others! The best way to prevent them is to make it impossible for them to occur! Completely remove the conditions or items that could make them possible!—A fence at the top is better than a hospital at the bottom!—An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure! I SPENT SEVERAL CHAPTERS ON FIRES IN THE CAMPING SERIES—Did you study them? Electricity is fire! Watch your watts, wires & connections!—And KIDS!

Reaction To "Problem Cases!"

"It could've been written about me!" "I want to pledge you my absolute loyalty!"

From Justus Pound:

Dearest Dad, Maria & Peter, GBY! ILY! ADAR & I JUST FINISHED READING the advance copy of "Problem Cases"—the sad story of Justus Ashtree &—& wanted to write you our reactions.

WELL, I'VE NEVER FELT SO EXPOSED OR SO ASHAMED! The Letter could have been entitled "Justus P. the Problem!" Drinking & system music are not among my chief weaknesses nor at the root of the bitterness which has all but choked out my usefulness for the Lord.

BUT NEARLY EVERYTHING ELSE COULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT ME! I really hit bottom upon arriving here at the LIM, & I've been sitting there ever since. But now with this "short, sharp shock" I will by His grace be able to find that place of true repentance & begin climbing that mountain of His Service once more! I don't know why you've granted me the mercy of a place here, but I love you for it & I pray that I'll learn real lessons of faithfulness, loyalty, cheerfulness & self-sacrifice!

YOUR OWN COMMENTS, DAD, REALLY HIT ME ON THE HEAD—particularly about bitterness & selfishness. I really don't know where to start—where to stop! I've been so guilty of it all & except by His grace & your patience, paid all but the ultimate price Justus A. paid of going all the way back on the Lord & the Family & losing everything.

I CERTAINLY AM PUT TO SHAME BY SALLY'S EXAMPLE of the true martyr spirit. What a soldier. In similar situations I've been unable to make the same sacrifices regarding my children & realise now that that is one place where I really failed

to put Him & His Work above all, & what it has cost me in usefulness to Him & rewards, which go only to winners—the crowns I've lost!

WELL, I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY MORE OF YOUR PRECIOUS TIME or sadden you by bringing out all this shit about me that you already know, but I just wanted to say that I'm sorry & by His grace want to pick up the pieces & go on. Hopefully this will be one backslider who will benefit! GBY for your love & concern & faithfulness to us, even when we have been so unfaithful to you & Him, & such failures! Much love & ever greater admiration.—Justus P.

P.S. I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND THAT WE GAVE AWAY THE MONEY that you sent us off with. I was afraid of what I might do with it if we kept it for ourselves, altho' I felt sorry later that we hadn't just returned it to W.S.

From Adar: Dearest, dearest Dad, & Maria & Peter, ALTHO' IT'S LATE INTO THE NIGHT, I just have to write you my reaction to the new Letter "Problem Cases" which we received just tonight & which Justus & I just finished reading together. It convicted me so very very much, as the picture you painted, as well as the others of the Family there, fits my personal situation so very very well. IT MADE ME UNDERSTAND & SEE SO WELL WHY I AM HERE AT THIS TIME, & not anymore at WIM at the ministry I loved so much, & it makes me cry to think of the mercy you have shown me by letting me come here at the LIM to still work with the mail & the Words. I TOO HAVE BEEN VERY SELFISH, JEALOUS, AS WELL

AS COMPROMISING in my convictions, & I had lost my first love of Jesus, you & the Words. I can hardly find the words to express my heart's feelings at this time, but I know you understand, & I'm so glad that it's not too late yet!

DAD, WITH THIS NOTE I WANT TO PLEDGE YOU MY ABSOLUTE LOYALTY & LOVE by the grace of God, come what may, even if I would have to give up Justus & the kids. I love you, Dad, & need you so very much! I could never live without your love!

THE THOUGHT OF BEING SO FAR AWAY FROM YOU here (not just physically but most of all spiritually because of all my blow-its) has been such a burden. But I know forgiveness is only a prayer away.

WITH HIS HELP I WOULD LIKE TO PROVE MY LOVE FOR YOU by being faithful to the utmost here in His Service, or wherever He would call me to be, so I may draw closer to you once again! Please, please do forgive me for hurting you & causing you to become discouraged. Dad! Your patience with me has been so great, & I pray there's still time to do better! I WANT TO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR PUBLISHING & SENDING US THIS LETTER as a warning & admonition from the Lord & you not to fall into the same pitfalls! And God bless Sally! I pray I may be like her & have the same love for you & your Words, being willing to cheerfully & enthusiastically give up everything for the Lord & you & His Work, even those things dearest to me!

I KNOW THAT BEING HERE IS A TEST FROM THE LORD, & my most earnest prayer is that

I will make it thru' this class to go on once again, & hopefully for good, to greater usefulness to the Lord's & your service! I love you & Maria so very much & need your every word! Thank you for not giving up on me! xxxxx Much, much love, & with His help, forever & ever yours,

—Your Adar David's (Even tho' so unworthy, I pray I can keep my last name & live up to it much better in the future!) P.S. JUST WANTED TO ADD that this Letter "Problem Cases" came just at the right time, as Justus was at the very lowest I've ever seen him just before it arrived & almost ready to quit it all.

I'm so thankful for the Word, & I pray we'll both make it, becoming better vessels for the Master's use thru' all these things which have happened to us. Once again, thank you so much for your love (PTL! He's the One Who gives us the patience.—D.)

A NOTE ON THE "MEDUSA TOUCH":

Dearest Ones, (Sent by Our Research Dept. in London, Feb. 1981)

I thought you might be interested in the following description I obtained whilst at the British Library: **RE: MEDUSA & MONSTERS!**

Source: Encyclopædia Britannica Micropædia 15th Ed., 1974, Vol. IV, p.637.

"Gorgon: Homer spoke of a single Gorgon—a monster of the underworld. The later Greek poet Hesiod increased the number of Gorgons to three—Stheno (the Mighty), Euryale, (the Far Springer), and Medusa (the Queen) and made them the daughters of the sea-god Phoreys and of his sister Ceto. The Attic tradition regarded the Gorgon as a monster produced by Ge, the goddess Earth, to aid her sons against the gods.

In early classical art the Gorgons were portrayed as winged female creatures, their hair consisting of snakes; they were round-faced, flat-nosed, with tongues lolling out and with large projecting teeth. Medusa was the only one of the three who was mortal; hence Perseus was able to kill her by cutting off her head. From the blood that ran from her neck sprang CRYSAOR and PEGASUS, her two sons by POSEIDON. The head had the power of turning all who looked at it into stone. The hideously grotesque original type of the Gorgoneion, as the Gorgon's head was called, was used generally as a protection against the evil eye. Modern anthropologists that MEDUSA, whose virtue was really in her head, was perhaps originally a ritual mask!

(It would seem that the modern anthropologists have put the chicken before the egg again.)

As I walk through different parts of the British Museum, I am amazed at the large number of these idols and images from all different cultures. It seems somehow incredible that the craftsmen didn't have the insight to see what they were illustrating and that people today still do not understand their significance. It certainly makes me very thankful for the protection of the Lord and His Holy Spirit—I certainly don't want to pick up any hitch-hikers from them, thanks very much! There are few cultures whose 'gods' are in any way beautiful, and in the East particularly, they seem to be universally grotesque, yet it is to the East that so many young people go to seek enlightenment. If that light which be in you be darkness, how great is that darkness! The Author of Confusion is even now gathering his forces... from... eastern nations." It certainly makes one appreciate the Lord and the Family even more when brought face to face with such!

Much Love

—Our Research Dept. in London.