

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



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From Fay Grace; Asia:

Dear Dad & Maria, Usually we have found we live better out here on the field in Asia than we ever did in Europe, & we believe it's because we're where God wants us to be!

WE HAD AN INSPIRING LIT TLE THING HAPPEN last month. When the Letter about tithing total provisioning income including meals, gifts etc., came out several months ago, we immediately began tithing them, estimating their value. But after several months we suddenly realized that Mark had forgotten to include the food he receives at work for free!

WELL, IT AMOUNTED TO QUITE A CHUNK AT ONE TIME, but we knew the Lord would bless it if we paid it at the beginning of the month so we put it away for the purpose. Well, by the end of the month our income totalled 3 times what we usually receive! You just can't outgive God!

From Laz Comeforth; U.S.A.

Dear Dad & Maria, **AS WE HAVE RELATED IN A PREVIOUS LETTER**, Simon (Melody's former mate) decided to give us the 16-ft. Shasta trailer soon as we can.

& custom-made cabana (total value approx. \$2,000). He also gave us the car & all of his tools & a guitar for \$500 which we'll begin paying in payments as we can.



"Here we are in our 16-ft. Shasta trailer! WLY sooo much & pray for you continually!"—Laz, Melody & Little Andrew.

WE KNEW WE HAD TO PAY OUR TITHE ON THE TRAILER & cabana (\$200) but were undecided as to how to pay it. We considered paying it \$50 a month since we live by faith day-to-day & it looked like an impossible situation to be able to save up so much in one month besides the 10% from our other sources of income & all the other expenses which arise unexpectedly.

WHEN I BEGAN LITNESSING THIS MONTH the Lord just gave me the faith & conviction that we could do it. So I told the Lord we'd pay it all this month if He'd supply, even if it meant a sacrifice this Christmas.

SO I BEGAN GOING OUT LITNESSING SEVERAL HRS. EVERY DAY. Well, the Lord really blew our minds, to say the least! Each day I got out more lit with more donations. The last 3 days were really hot & I finally burned out from the sun & was home with a dizzy head for the next few days.

BUT WE WERE TICKLED PINK by what the Lord did! In those 40 litnessing hours I got out 1850 pieces of lit with \$535 in donations! That's the best litnessing I've done since I joined the Family! I know that's nothing when compared to the world litnessing shiners, but for us it was a great accomplishment!

WE HAD ASKED THE LORD FOR ONLY \$200 & HE HAD GIVEN US \$300 MORE! Then on Christmas Eve we received a \$90 love gift. We were amazed by how much the Lord was blessing us! But it didn't end there! The day after Christmas we received another \$102 in the mail! Not only that, we finally received a box containing Mags 28-31, the beautiful Calendars, the 4 heavenly MWM tapes & personal mail! We had been waiting for our mailings since leaving Mexico in Sept. You can imagine how hungry we were



Cedar, Ishmael & little Clare: "For Dad & Maria, we love you so!"

& so **thankful** to receive the precious words of our beloved shepherd & his faithful handmaiden. Reading "God First" left us with a strong conviction in our hearts & a good lesson learned thru' our own experience, PTL! Love, Laz Comeforth.

From Ishmael & Cedar; Greece:

Dearest Dad & Maria, **GBY! WE LOVE & NEED YOU SO**, our precious King & Queen. We pray continually for your health & happiness & are so thankful for your clear channel & living, loving words. We need you so much!

WE CAME HERE TO GREECE TO GIVE OUR CARAVAN TO MWM, & we're so thankful for the beautiful days we've spent here in the sunshine of His Love! We can't imagine a better way to invest our little mobile home & have been so impressed with the tender loving care we've received from all here, a reflection of your spirit we're sure.

OUR WHOLE LIVES HAVE BEEN REVOLUTIONIZED & MELTED WITH LOVE, & we've learned so much about just being

honest, being ourselves & relaxing, trusting the Lord more & trusting His leading.

WE WERE ALSO IMPRESSED & CONVICTED BY THE SIMPLE LIFESTYLE led by all—from greatest to least—the sufficient but simple food & presentation & how everyone is very prayerful about the "pennies" & economically minded.

WE DO PRAY THE FAMILY WILL BE INSPIRED TO GIVE MORE CARAVANS! Ours has been the first & only so far, & there is a desperate need, since some families with young children are still sleeping in tents on the cold hard ground (& it does get cold, wet & windy here), just faithfully putting the Lord's Work first every day & trusting Him for their need.

WE HAVE CERTAINLY FOUND THAT YOU CAN'T LOSE BY GIVING, as the Lord has blessed us so much in too many ways to list here, TY! Why sell it for one-fold when you could give it for 100-fold! PTL! Love forever, Ishmael, Cedar & little Clare. (Amen!-D.)

Notes From MWM Minstrels!

Prodigals pass on lessons learned! What life is like at MWM!

"Gettin' back on where I got off!"

From Jeremiah Russell:

Dear Dad & Maria,

GBY BOTH! ILY SO MUCH!

First I want to thank you & Jesus so much for your Fatherly understanding & patience you've had with me, & particularly in my recent lack of being in tune. Paul & Marianne have recently so lovingly taken some personal time to share with me some awful truths about myself that has wonderfully helped me.

BEING THE TYPICAL TEMPORAL INSPIRATION-IST, I DESPERATELY NEED ALL THE DIRECT LEADERSHIP I CAN GET, which sad to say I haven't had for the past two years. I'm really praying that during my stay here I'll get back to where God wants me to be. The quote comes to me: "If thou could'st in vision see the man which God meant, thou would'st no longer be the man thou art content."

AS ALWAYS, GETTING BACK INTO THE LETTERS IS THE MAGICAL KEY that is opening the door to greater victories. In my case it's a need to get back on where I got off. When we backslide it sure shows in our music too, as you've noticed.

GBY Dad, for your always loving way of correcting us & exposing to us our errors that the Lord is trying to use to keep us humble.

YOU REALLY SAID WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR when you said, "If there's anything a singer is prone to it's pride!"—I'm obviously not humble in any way I can think of. My reaction to your various but continued recent comments on my music is that I've been searching my heart as to what the Lord is trying to



Jeremiah opens one of the MWM Video Shows!

teach me. God deliver me! But as you know, I've always been kinda dumb & hard-headed & I don't usually get the point the first time 'round. But maybe this is what He lets happen as the thing He's using to humble me. I couldn't feel any more ridiculous than the way I've been feeling these past few days.

MY REACTION TO "ABIDE IN YOUR CALLING" is that I'm realizing that I've been out of my real calling with a lot of those uninspired songs I've written. What you said about musicians being mostly emotional & how their emotions can lead them astray has been true in my case. It can be very dangerous as you said in the Letter.

RIGHT NOW I'M DOING A PERSONAL PROJECT OF READING & STUDYING EVERY WORD YOU EVER WROTE ON MUSIC by following the Index from start to finish. Paul & Marianne suggested I do this & I can hardly believe the revelations I'm receiving of things you've said on the subject!

THE BIGGEST LESSON I'M LEARNING is about your even slightest suggestions or even hints

always turning out to be right (the testimony of history)! After all, you're not just an average guy, but God's anointed leader & prophet to put it humorously.

THE THING IS, I KNOW I LOVE YOU & I've always told myself I will of course obey your outright direct orders so-to-speak, but for me to perceive the spirit of your suggestions & even wishes is a vital lesson I want to learn & need to learn.

I'M DEFINITELY A BABE in the Spirit as to what real obedience is & its blessings, but I do want to get the point this time & rejoin the Family in spirit & in truth, by God's grace. I have a lot of catching up to do in the Spirit & the Letters, & I'm so thankful for this time of renewal that I've been needing for years.

IT'S THE WORD THAT DOES IT! Nothing can be compared to a fresh clean bath in the Holy Spirit thru' the words & spirit of David. If God will ever be able to use me again as he sees fit, it will only be possible by a complete filling of the Letters & completely yielding to their guidance & spirit thru' obedience by the grace of God. I have a long way to go before that day, but all I can do is get headed in that direction & keep going till Jesus comes back by His helping me. Forgive me, Dad, for failing you. I know that by failing you I've failed the Lord. I love you! Tks!—Your son, Jeremiah. (GBY, son! KY-D.)

P.S. TO PAUL & MARIANNE: Of course, the thing that's really making things clearest to me is the Mo Letters which I've really neglected reading, in recent months particularly. My present progress in the Mo Project you suggested is that I'm slowly reading all that is in the Index on music.

"THE KEY OF DAVID" REALLY SPOKE TO ME about how even Dad himself had to get

tuned in before the Lord could use him & free him from the system & former ideas. How much more do we ourselves need to get tuned in to the right impulses!

"SOCK IT TO ME" SHOWED ME HOW FAR I'VE BACKSLIDED in my musical output. I need to abide in my original calling of being led by the Lord's inspiration in songwriting & only sing that which comes from the heart & not head. If the Lord ever sees fit that I write another song I want it to be the result of a heart full of His Word & Love. It's an extra blessing & privilege to be here & learn what I'm learning. Love you so much! Tks.!

Escape from the House of Saul!

From Silas & Endureth:

Dearest Dad & Maria, **WE WANTED TO TAKE THIS TIME TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE MANY MIRACLES** the Lord has done in our lives since the RNR. Our close relationship with Rachel, Emanuele & Timothy developed from the days of the New Revolution in '76. We lived & worked together with them almost the entire time following this until they left the Family.

THE ABOLITION OF THE "CHAIN" gave us former leaders the exciting challenge of being able to get out & pioneer once again. Unfortunately, due to our personal failure to understand that we were now to look to the Letters as our leaders caused us to miss the point at first.

I, SILAS, HAD WORKED PRETTY CLOSELY WITH THE MUSIC MINISTRY during my days in the Chain. In fact we had just had Jeremy Spencer & family move back over from S. America. It was reasoned between ourselves, Rachel & Timothy that perhaps we were called to pioneer big-time music,



Relaxing while waiting to record for the Christmas tape—Endureth & Silas

rather than get back to grassroots simplicity. Looking back we saw this to be one of our major mistakes.

RACHEL, IT SEEMED, WANTED TO KEEP US FROM GOING THRU' THE HUMBLING CHANGES & breakings that the Lord knew we needed. TTL, God seems to specialize in getting His greatest victories out of seeming defeat, & the very thing we ended up doing to escape the realities of the RNR was what the Lord later used to accomplish His purpose in bringing us closer to Him!

"THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD" (Pr. 13:15), & hard it was being out of the Lord's will! The aloofness that had developed before the RNR continued as we were advised by Rachel to operate more independently from the Family, saying no one would understand this unique vision we had.

THO' WE KEPT SEEING THE PURITY, SIMPLICITY & HONESTY OF THE HOUSE OF DAVID coming out in the Letters & being reflected in the wonderful changes brought out in the Family, still we were being pulled & influenced by the money-minded materialistic motives of the House of Saul.

IT ALL CAME TO A HEAD IN THE UNGODLY MUSIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD—Hollywood, California. A planned six week stay turned into six months. Thru' everyone's lack of obedience to the Letters & the Lord, things were heading downward at breakneck speed until the Lord mercifully intervened just before we hit bottom! PTL, FAITHY & JUAN AR-

RIVED UNEXPECTEDLY en route to South America from Asia, & it sure didn't take them long to discern something was wrong, almost everything in fact. By a miracle they decided to stay over to help everyone get back on the right track. Then & there, a full ten months after the RNR we finally, after a couple of very moving & soul-searching meetings with Faithy & Juan, found that—

OUR MAIN PROBLEM WAS NOT HAVING LIVED THE SIMPLICITY & HONESTY that Dad gave to the Family with the RNR. God bless Faithy & Juan, tho' we didn't fully understand it at the time, they demonstrated a lot of real genuine love & concern for our spiritual welfare in encouraging us to start over.

WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE RETURNED TO ITALY, BUT THE LORD HAD OTHER PLANS. There simply was not enough money for our whole family to return, which left us with little choice but to visit Endureth's mother in Florida at her expense & to pray for the Lord to lead us from there.

OUR STAY IN THE U.S. LASTED CONSIDERABLY LONGER than we had at first anticipated as there was a lot the Lord wanted to teach us, & this was only one of many ways the Lord was trying to undo in our lives many of the false or wrong things & ways that we had come to believe were right.

I GOT A SYSTEM JOB IN ORDER TO RAISE OUR FARE but not before a quick trip to Italy alone to retrieve our belongings left there. This was my last contact with Rachel, with whom we had been in pretty frequent touch previous to this. We had a lengthy conversation over the phone the day she was moving in with her rich fish.

RACHEL'S COUNSEL WAS NEEDLESS TO SAY PRETTY NEGATIVE regarding our plans of heading to South America