

Shiner!

JOHN DAVIDSON, AGE 15, OUR HOME LIT SHINER FOR 1980!—A total of 20,779 Mo Letters distributed & 52 souls won, one for every week of the year! TYJ!

THE KEY TO SUCCESS FOR HIM? "I guess the Holy Spirit just anoints my smile & puts Jesus' Words on my lips when I'm out witnessing."

HIS GOAL FOR THE YEAR? "I just want to keep getting out Dad's Letters!"

WHY? "Because I know the Mo Letters will help bring the sheep closer to Jesus, & to getting saved—so they can go to Heaven & be with Jesus & us forever!" (Amen! GBY, Grandson!-D.)

John, son of Ben & Ruth Davidson, during a faith trip last summer! Photo by Ben.



...Give My All

From Miracle, age 13; Carribbean (daughter of John & Rejoice):

Dearest Dad & Maria,

HII GBY! I REALLY LOVE YOU BOTH SO MUCH! Please forgive me for not writing sooner. I really thank God for you all of the time, for all your love, devotion & sacrifices t'at you have given & done for us.

I JUST WANT TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT OF WHAT HAS BEEN ON MY HEART lately. I am so thankful to be a help in any way I can to start this new MWM ministry in Spanish. My Dad just got back from his trip to Greece & came back with such a beautiful sample of love from everyone there, that came from you, & it really showed us how much love you have for everyone.



THE LORD HAS FULFILLED MY LIFE more than I ever knew

could be possible, & I am really trying to give my all & put my whole heart into it. I am so thankful to have the privilege to even be considered for such a job as this. I love it!

THE TESTIMONY FROM SHULY in Mag 34 encouraged me to write in & share with you a little about the same. After I turned 13, I started to share with some of the brothers, but went thru' it a lot, as I had a lot of bad things stuffed in my mind such as "sex is bad & evil" etc. etc., so I really had to go out on the attack against the Devil, & am learning more & more all the time!

THE NEW LETTERS LIKE "SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP" ARE REALLY A BLESSING, & we are having Fellowships every Sunday here. It is really bringing everyone together & in more unity than ever before. Please keep them coming.

I HAVE FIVE SISTERS. The oldest, Carina, age 6, is in first grade. I just dropped out of school after being in for only 1 month here. I found out that I don't belong there & also where the system is really at. God bless & keep you all. I love you!

—Miracle.(GBY, Sweetheart! ILY2!-D)

Wit & Lit!

From Zack, age 14; S. America:

HII MY NAME IS ZACK & my parents are Nimshi & Merryheart. We're here in South America doing a singing ministry. In the day we sing with my younger brothers, Stormy & Joey, ages 5 & 4. They sing songs about the Lord using hand motions. In the evening my Dad & I sing in restaurants & pubs.

WE JUST PRINTED UP 6,000 COPIES OF "JESUS LOVES YOU" TK & are pressing in to get them out real soon because we're going to another country that's a little more selah & we can't take a bunch of lit across the border.

I WAS WRITING DAVIDITO & SENDING HIM COINS for his collection. I stopped when we got here because you can't send coins in the mail here. Thanks, David, for the little printed letter you sent me. I really liked it. (He loves you!-D.)

OUR GRANDMA SENT US SOME DIGITAL CALCULATOR WATCHES for Christmas. It's amazing the new things they've invented! Well, I've got to go. Bye for now! I love you! Love, Zack.

More coming!—From you?

Understanding Your Teenager!

Just can't cope with the trials of your teenager? Try these tested tips from a real revolutionary Mom!



The adolescent: Moody but idealistic! Rebellious yet visionary! The drive to change the world! New bottles who can hold the new wine!

From Rebecca Bolivar, Central America: (Whose children have tood the test of time! GBM!—Dad.)

INTRODUCTION

TEENAGERS! PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT SUBJECTS to write about, as there no two teenagers

alike. Of course, no one person is alike, as the Lord made each of us as an individual with our own free will & our own special characteristics. However, with small children, in spite of their differences, there are several basic rules of training one can follow & get good results, bending a little this way or that accord-

ing to the child.

BUT WITH TEENAGERS!—OH MY!—What a controversial, complicated, incomprehensible bunch of individuals, the emphasis being on individuals! Even adults are easier to handle as they have usually decided their role in life, & one can work with them from thereon.

BUT ADOLESCENCE IS THE TIME OF CHANGE, when a young person suddenly finds out that he or she is a real person in this world who counts, who needs to make his own decisions, who suddenly has responsibilities to himself & others.

HE FINDS THAT HE IS CAPABLE OF MAKING OTHERS HAPPY OR SAD, that he is able to control up to a point his future by his decisions, & that he is getting a new body, with new reactions, new passions & desires. Often it all happens so suddenly that he is quite confused, & naturally those about him find him as hard to understand as he himself!

THE KEY TO BEING ABLE TO REALLY LOVE & GUIDE your growing-up children, apart from being the best possible sample, is being in the Spirit & Spirit-led. It's the only way! If you think it is hard, dear sisters, with several tiny tots, let me assure you, you're only a couple of rungs up the ladder! Lord, give us loving & understanding parents!

WHAT I'M GOING TO WRITE IS, I'M AFRAID, VERY LIMITED, as I have only two adolescents, both of them girls. But I pray that what I have to share will be of help to some of you.

THE PHYSICAL CHANGE

ALMOST OVERNIGHT IT SEEMS YOUR DAUGHTER SUDDENLY DOESN'T LOOK GOOD in her little-girl clothes anymore! She's started taking an interest in hairstyles, fashionable clothes & unsuitable shoes! **MAYBE UP TO NOW SHE'S**

BEEN A TREMENDOUS HELP with the little ones, & really responsible, but all of a sudden she's in her room more, paying more attention to herself, perhaps a little moody or "out of it". This is because she is approaching what I call the "tender age". With womanhood approaching many young girls become very sensitive & like to be alone to think & get to know their new selves.

WHEN SHE STARTS TO MENSTRUATE, IT IS A VERY BIG STEP in the life of a young girl. Reactions to this are varied. Some are really excited & happy that at last they are becoming a woman. Others look upon it as a monthly nuisance because they still like to play with dolls or climb trees!



I THANK THE LORD SO MUCH FOR DAD'S TEACHINGS ON SEX. When I remember how I learned about it & compare it with the natural way my children have learned, there is a world of difference! It was the most normal thing for my girls when they started menstruating, totally different from the embarrassing affair when I was young. My mother was so shy about it that she told me, blushing & hemming & hawing, only just in time, & I thank the Lord she did, as I had some very weird ideas about it picked up from school. Because of her embarrassment

I remember for years thinking, "Oh my, if one day I have daughters how shall I tell them?"

IN THE FAMILY WE ARE SO OPEN & NATURAL about this sort of thing we mustn't forget that young girls can be quite sensitive & shy to begin with, & I believe we must respect this. For instance, my girls for some reason or other do not like the men in the Home, including their father, to know when they're on their period. Whether this is wrong or right I don't know.

BUT I DO REMIND THEM THAT MEN DO UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS & that if they know they'll be more likely to forgive them if they are a bit grumpy & out-of-sorts; but that of course I won't mention it if they don't want me to. For example, I'd never say in front of them, "Oh, let her off the dishes today, she doesn't feel well, she's on her period." That would greatly embarrass my girls. That doesn't mean to say that all girls are so sensitive, but we do need to be as understanding as possible.

HEALTH: Have compassion on your sleepy teenager who can hardly open one eyelid in the morning! Adolescents need lots of sleep. They are growing & changing so fast they need it as much as they need good nourishing food. Lay down the law for bedtime if they have a battle getting up in the morning.

DON'T WORRY IF YOUR DAUGHTER GETS PLUMP around the first years of adolescence. Don't put her on a diet unless the weight increase is exaggerated & a doctor recommends you to do so. This is a normal hormone reaction in a large percentage of teenage girls, as they lay down an extra layer of fat under the skin that men don't have. When they reach 16 or 17 it just drops off, & all of a sudden you have a beautiful woman in your

Home!

THIS BRINGS US TO EATING HABITS. Good eating habits should be formed by now, but they'll be tempted by their friends to eat sweets & junk food etc. If you find they are developing a taste for such food & eating it on the sly, a few comments about pimples, cavities & overweight will miraculously put the brakes on! If they can't avoid eating bad food when out visiting, just remind them to pray over it & clean their teeth well afterwards.

IN CONCLUSION, DADDIES & OLDER BROTHERS, express respectful admiration for your teenager's new image, but don't tease them or make fun of their new boobies! Some girls may not mind this at all & join in the jokes, but others can become very embarrassed & self-conscious. Love uplifts & inspires!

DRESS

WITH OUR REVOLUTIONARY MUMS TRYING TO LOOK AS PRETTY & FEMININE AS POSSIBLE, our daughters will want to follow our example! We need to help them to dress appropriately for each occasion. Teenagers usually have such a pretty youthful bloom that they don't need make-up, or very little, perhaps if going out in the evening.

HOW TRUE WHAT DAD SAYS IN "REVOLUTIONARY WOMEN" about the most attractive woman being the natural woman. High-heeled shoes are extremely bad for a teenager who is still growing. They can adversely affect the feet, legs & back. Uncomfortable shoes can give a strained weary look to your face, taking away from the joy of the Lord that should be shining thru'.

WE ALSO NEED TO TEACH THEM HOW THEIR WAY OF DRESSING CAN AFFECT THE OPPOSITE SEX. If she is quite

young & doesn't want masculine attentions yet, then tight revealing sexy clothing should be discouraged—& the reverse applies!

UNDERSTANDING PARENTS

WHY IS SHE SO MOODY & out of it this week? Her period? A crush on a guy who walks past the house every day? Committed to some awful sin & hasn't the guts to confess it? Has she suddenly found out that her parents aren't God? What have I done? How can you restore your child to the joy of the Lord? The way to avoid their moody time as much as possible is to have the best communication possible with your teenager—& this starts from babyhood.

UNDERSTAND THEM! Share your own experiences. Take time with each child alone. Whenever I go out on an errand I take one child out in turn so they can have Mummy all to themselves for at least a short while! (I have 6 children from 3 to 16 years old, & as you can imagine the conversations & questions vary extremely!!)

SO WHEN YOUR TEENAGER IS GOING THRU' A DIFFICULT PATCH, GET IN PRAYER & get it from the Lord. Often as not, we are tempted to keep on asking what's the matter, or exhort them to snap out of it, but the Lord says, "Wait, leave him alone until I've shown him the way." Because many times the poor child doesn't even know himself what his problem is!

BE AVAILABLE! Always have a ready ear & a willing heart & a strong shoulder for all their hopes, joys & trials, fears & tears. Above all, remember, love never fails!

RESPECT YOUR CHILD! Sometimes we can be so blasé & want to even laugh at some of the things they find so serious & we've forgotten how important these things are to them.

Feel free to come to me anytime! Let's pray & counsel together, aks



When you do find out what the trouble is, pray earnestly for the right counsel. If the kids have been brought up with a strong foundation in the Word, they will find it easy & inspiring to receive counsel from the Word. Our own experiences are great, but with the Word added it has power!

CONTINUE THE GOOD HABITS OF CHILDHOOD to pray for every little thing. My 16-yr.-old never fails to ask for prayer, even for only going next door to look after the neighbour's house for an hour, or before making an awkward call to a boy friend!

SHARING THE VISION: To quote Shuly, she says, "Mummy, it hardly seems like we are mother & daughter sometimes. It's like we are sisters. We don't have the generation gap the systemite kids have with their parents, because we have the same interests, we have the same goal, the same vision for souls, & we can be one & united in the Spirit."

FAIRNESS: How true what Dad says in "Lashes of Love" about the greatest judges in the family being the children! He was speaking about little children judging each other. But I've found that teenagers are even keener & more critical judges! They can be quite merciless!

THEY WILL START WANTING THE SAME RIGHTS & privileges as other members of the family who are living with you. It is very easy to work your flesh children harder than your helpers. But woe to the parents of teenagers who make them constant babysitters to their younger brothers & sisters.—They'll find rebellion on their hands.

I'M NOT SAYING THAT OLDER CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HELP WITH THE YOUNGER CHILDREN. Rather, they should take their turn, & it should be part of their training. But it is all too easy for a rushed mother to palm the kids off on their eldest child.

A TEENAGER IS NOT AN UNPAID MAID OR NANNY. There are many different things a teenager needs to learn & develop so that he can become a productive & useful member of God's Family. The best way to avoid problems arising from overloading a teenager with childcare is to sit down together & work out a schedule, & keep to it, just as you would with a helper.

IN OUR HOME, SHULY-18 KNOWS THAT EVERY DAY FOR AN HOUR she is to minister to two of the little ones, whilst I take care of the other two. We have a little school set up & we share the equipment. But GBH, because she has the overall vision for God's Work, whilst I am busy typing this class she is at home taking over three of them, & I have Debbie-12 with me in another quieter Home looking after the other little one.

ONCE A MOTHER SAID TO ME ABOUT HER 11-YR. OLD, "She's had plenty of freetime today, the whole afternoon! All she had to do was look after the baby!" I don't call looking after a baby, or any kind of childcare, freetime! It is hard work, & you have to concentrate because if you get distracted doing