

SWEET LETTER. I have been waiting to write you an answer as the Lord has been really dealing & working new things in our own lives; that is, of Ho, Esther's & mine & our children. (See "Prodigal Prodiges" No. 935, Mag 35.) I would say that even tho' we have not been a good sample a lot of the time in our relationship with one another, **WE ARE CERTAINLY LEARNING A LOT OF LESSONS FROM OUR MISTAKES,** as well as from our successes, & others' successes! Learning from mistakes is certainly the hardest way to learn, so I feel it's important to share some of these lessons to help others avoid the pitfalls & yield to the Lord in whatever way He's working in your lives. Yielding to the Lord may, at the time, seem a very hard thing to do, when your emotions can get in the way. But believe me, "the way of transgressors is hard" (Pr. 13:15)—much harder!

IN OUR THREESOME RELATIONSHIP, THE LORD CERTAINLY DID PUT US TOGETHER, about 6 years ago in Europe. Ho & I had been working together on the beginnings of the Mo Books, & Dad encouraged me to stick with him & love him as I loved Dad.

IN ITALY, ESTHER HAD A LOT OF BATTLES about accepting the situation as she felt it was done without her agreement, but on her birthday in Feb. of 1976 she really yielded to what the Lord was doing, & for the first time, together in bed loving & praying, & she got some prophecies etc. The next month was like Heaven on earth as we never wanted to be separated!

SOON AFTER THAT HO WENT TO HONG KONG to publish the first Mo Books, & I followed 3 months later. When Ho returned to Europe after a 10-month absence (I was in Hong Kong 6 months pregnant with our little girl Faithy!), Esther was again bitter about her

relationship with Ho. **HER BITTERNESS WENT QUITE FAR BACK** that she had not accepted Ho's work & his not being able to spend much time with her & the children, & also that his relationship with me was quite a bit more permanent now that I was pregnant. **WHEN ESTHER & THE CHILDREN ARRIVED IN HONG KONG** 5 months later (I had given birth meanwhile), our three-some relationship became quite rocky. Esther felt she deserved & needed someone just for herself only & thus began a 3-year relationship with a fish who drew her very far away from us & who never had any intentions of following Jesus.

IT WAS A VERY SAD THING & VERY HARD ON ALL OF US, even causing Ho to fail the Lord by not doing the jobs Dad assigned him, but getting drawn away into the system working for money to support Esther's high-cost tastes & failing health, resultant operation & almost

complete invalidism, caused not so much by actual physical ill health but by spiritual sickness, getting away from the Lord & the highest will He had for her, which was to take care of Ho & her children.

SO WE STRUGGLED ON, TOTALLY OUT OF GOD'S WILL & feeling defeated in many ways. The children were really our only inspiration, & God bless the faithful brothers & sisters who stuck with us during that arid time & kept up the faithful care & spiritual training of them in Esther's absence, & in Ho's & my absence while we worked quite a lot in the System.

GOD BLESS DAD & MARIA! —They really got it from the Lord what was troubling us. Part of it came out in "Porno Movies" & the full story in "Prodigal Prodiges". They gave Ho & Esther a real warning from the Lord to repent & change & get back to His plan & His will & obey Dad.

HO FORSOOK HIS SYSTEM



Photo of Ho by Ruthie in '75. Ho's caption on the back says: "Here I am happily at work on the Wonder Working Words. You can see the set-up of my little desk with everything I need handy. Working on these Letters has been about the most inspiring & spiritual refreshing experiences of my life. My real burden is to continue to help on in any way I can as I feel that I really need the renewing & refilling so I can have to give out to others. I'm very thankful for this opportunity."

OWN & to slowly over the next two years get to know them each one & love them in a deeper way. It takes such a long time to really show & minister love, to change from being a "helper" to a parent. Sometimes I got discouraged thinking I didn't love the children enough or that they didn't really love me. But then they'd do something so sweet that would encourage me to keep going & not give up on myself, that the Lord was working it all out & melting us all together.

NOW THAT WE ARE ALL YIELDING TO ONE ANOTHER IN FEAR OF THE LORD, of course my relationship with the children is growing much faster than when we were battling our own problems so much in our own strength! God bless you for your love & concern for Eli & Tara & their children. Children are certainly a gift from God & a binding force that confirms God's will for us in most instances!

AS TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT THERE BEING A SINGLE BROTHER IN THE HOME, as Dad says, we are all married to Jesus & so are mated to each other. We should take care of & love the brothers & sisters in our Home, but as far as being mated with children & knowing the Lord has put you together with someone as husband & wife & someone to come home to.

WE KNOW IN THE LETTERS THAT DAD ALSO HAS SAID HE BELIEVES IN HUSBANDS & WIVES & that God forms unions for His glory. If you know that being mated with Eli & Tara is God's will, then there must be a good reason, & it must be for God's glory. They probably really need your help & love & loyalty with their heavy responsibilities of raising their children for the Lord.

WITH SEVEN CHILDREN YOU ALL HAVE YOUR

HANDS FULL, & they probably need you more than the single brother does, on a permanent basis. The brother would probably be satisfied, as Dad points out in "Male and Female", with loving sexual help from time to time when needed from you girls. He may need a wife, but if it's not God's will for you to be his permanent wife & for you to leave Eli & Tara, then you should not worry about it but try to give him the love he needs while he's part of your Home & Family, however long that is. The main thing to know is God's will for each of you & to make loving allowances within the situation to try to make all as happy as possible working together for the Lord.

I HELPED OUT SEXUALLY THE TWO BROTHERS WE HAD LIVING WITH US, but really not enough. The first brother, after my repeated offering to spend time with him, was really thankful but did not want to as he felt he needed to be romantically involved in order to have a good sexual relationship, & soon the Lord answered his prayers & he now has a wonderful national wife & a baby on the way!

THE NEXT BROTHER TO LIVE WITH US WANTED MORE SEX THAN I WAS WILLING TO GIVE, & I had a lot of battles about this because of my selfishness. The Lord did manage to give me the victory from time to time, & I shared with him. But it became a difficult relationship because of lack of communication. He had a minor fungal sexual affliction which I caught from him twice, which he refused to get treated. Because of this & my own selfish battles our communication with each other broke down.

I ALSO WISHED ESTHER WOULD DO HER SHARE TO HELP THE BROTHERS, but she would not consider it at the

time & only made love to her fish, not even to Ho at all. What a mess! But recently, when working out all these problems, the brother & I really shared about it from the heart & he got the affliction treated willingly. We both learned a lot of good lessons & repented & forgave each other & now have a much more loving heart for each other, PTL!

INNER BATTLES SUCH AS I HAD WERE A SURE INDICATION OF SELFISHNESS & pride, & the humbling we've been going thru' has really made me sorry for not yielding to being more loving more often! Now that we've shared more openly with Family members near us, it's been a much needed & helpful victory! PTL!

I WOULD SAY, IF IT'S A BATTLE FOR YOU, GO AHEAD BY FAITH & DO IT ANYWAY.—That's the lesson I'm learning.—And you'll not regret it! "The Girl Who Wouldn't" (No. 721) applies here. Just try it! You may like it, or learn to like it! It's easy to preach a sermon of what one should do, but a lot harder for us to confess how we have battles along the same line & what we wished we had done when we had the chance! GHUI!

SHARING WITH BROTHERS & SISTERS, as Dad & Maria have shown us to do, is one of the very basics on which our worldwide Family is built, & there is really no excuse not to, as we have the Word! It's been so thrilling & exciting to see the fruits of obedience recently! The Lord has thrilled my heart when sharing wholeheartedly with others, & increased all of our vision as we step out by faith & in obedience to do it! It's so liberating!—And gives you so much more faith for the future as well as the present! There's nothing like the Family!

I HOPE THIS OPEN & HONEST ANSWER WILL BE A

WORK IMMEDIATELY & Esther finally got rid of that devilish fish who had seduced her away due to her wanting something else than what the Lord had given her. She too had returned to full-time service to the Lord & her Family just last month when your letter came, which is why I've waited to answer you.

ESTHER HAD BEEN ALMOST COMPLETELY BED-RIDDEN due to her mental & spiritual condition, but the very day she began doing the housework, cooking, laundry, child-care & husband-care that she had neglected for almost 3 years, the Lord instantly healed her by faith & she found out that she did have the strength to do all these things! God bless her & continue to strengthen her each day as she obeys by faith, not by feelings! With each step of obedience she has also been learning so many many lessons that she didn't accept before—a very difficult road back, but hopefully others will take heed & not fight God & His Will!

OUR FAMILY IS SO CHANGED NOW since Dad's ultimatum to us! It's just like we all have always wanted it to be.—We spend the morning or evening together in devotions & Mo Letter reading & Bible studies led by Daddy getting our hearts united in His Word.

THE CHILDREN ARE GROWING SPIRITUALLY by leaps & bounds & are so hungry for the Lord & His Word. The older children, especially, are taking more responsibility & are really beginning to seek the Lord for themselves. A lot of their spiritual problems, which were a reflection like a mirror image of our own, are now disappearing, just dissolving with the Word & feeding of the Shepherd's Letters, instead of our having to battle them in our own strength.

THERE'S A LOT MORE TO DO & A LONG WAY TO GO for

us as a family as all these things have not yet been completely sorted out, but the communication with the Lord & His Prophet is restored & as a result our personal communications with one another are being healed & restored as a threesome, & with our children, as well as with our brothers & sisters in other Homes here.

WE DO NOT HAVE A CHILD-CARE HELPER NOW, as the Lord worked out other things for them, & we feel it's God's will for now as we learn many basic lessons over again, & as Esther learns to really care for our children physically, which brings us so close to them. As in "Thoughts & Prophecies", we have to show them physically to make them know we love them spiritually & that the Lord loves them too!—Just like witnessing & FF'ing!

SO IN A THREESOME MARRIAGE, I WOULD SAY IT'S EASIER FOR THE SECOND WIFE. I knew from the beginning that I would need to share Ho & not be jealous of Esther. I went into it with my eyes open, so to speak, & have not yielded to any temptations along this line.

BUT FOR THE FIRST WIFE, WHO MARRIED HER HUSBAND EXPECTING TO BE HIS ONE & ONLY FOREVER, it is much more difficult to receive a second woman into the house. This has not only been our case, but a couple of other cases we know of. But thank the Lord, in their cases the first wife has accepted God's will & yields to it daily!

IF YOU'LL READ "FF'ING & JEALOUSY" (No. 603) you'll find that Dad's own counsel in that Letter really applies very specifically to threesome relationships also—that it may take time & patience to bring the first mate around to accepting God's will, but that eventually they need to accept it because they have the

Word on it! **BUT BEWARE, DEAR SECOND WIFE,** because you could also be in for a test of your ability to accept another wife or temporary wife, too! I fell in this respect quite hard two years ago! Accepting Esther was easy because I knew that was a requirement of being with Ho. But when another sister came to live with us who was very sexy, not just one sister, but several, anybody that seemed a "threat" to me in my relationship with Ho, boy did I get jealous!

THE TEMPTATION TO BE JEALOUS CAN COME UP AT ANY TIME, but as Maria shared in "Greater Victories", you don't have to yield to it! Well, it kind of hit me where I didn't have my guard up because I thought I was so righteous & so yielded, just because I wasn't jealous of wife number 1. What a mistake! Watta shock!

SO BE ON YOUR GUARD in case the Lord brings a loving & helpful sister to your Home to help out, & your hubby starts helping her out too! The Devil will tempt you to fear the future & the unknown—what if she gets pregnant?—What if he marries her too? Then I'll be left out, boo hoof! Well, it may sound funny, but it's not.

IT'S NOT WORTH IT TO EVER EVER YIELD TO JEALOUSY & to doubt the Lord or His love or what He has in store for you! I had to be sent away for several months & thought I would never see Ho or little Faithy again, because I wouldn't get the victory over my jealousy till I thought I'd lost all! I realised what a trap it was, repented & repented & repented again & kept on following Jesus & the Mo Letters, & in His complete mercy He restored me again to my loved ones!

IT WAS AFTER THAT EXPERIENCE, TOO, THAT I REALLY BEGAN LOVING ES- TER'S CHILDREN AS MY



Esther—back on the wall doing what God has called her to do!—Here singing with the children for visitors during Christmas. Photo by Ruthie.

HELP TO YOU, as sometimes it's difficult for us to show ourselves as we really are. We don't want to disappoint people's faith in us as we follow Jesus. But as we've learned from MO who is always so faithful to confess to us where he's made mistakes, those are the lessons we can really relate to & are especially thankful for. It's no good for people to follow what they think is a terrific sample when it's not.

IT'S BETTER TO KNOW THE TRUTH & ALL THE MISTAKES, breakings & lessons along the way so people do not look up to some kind of "ideal" family. If you want to look up to anybody, just please look to Dad, Maria & their family & the FN news & Letters & Davidito Letters about them!—Not us! PTL!

DAVID HAS BEEN FAITHFUL IN ALL HIS HOUSE, not only his natural family but this great worldwide Family, the Children of Love! "Hear ye

him!" We've had to try to make right a lot of wrongs recently & are getting back on where we got off the track, by following closer than ever to Dad, his Letters, his sample & his faithful families right here! We're really the least!—God help us!—And He is! In fact, He's never failed us ever! And He's still helping us & holding us up by His ever-present grace & mercy to those of a contrite heart! PTL! Love, Ruthie.

P.S.: OUR PLANS NOW?—To obey Dad & do what he's told us to do! We're teaching the children this year at home with the Calvert Courses of Home Study recommended by a sister writing in to the FN. The Chinese school system, which we tried for two years, is impossible as the schedule daily was 6:30 a.m. till 10 at night with school & homework!—No time for the Lord, Word or witnessing or litnessing!—& much

too competitive because there are so many many young Chinese & so few places of higher learning that the school & homework is unreal!

ENCLOSED IS OUR NEWS-LETTER FROM AUTUMN '80. We spent 2½ months in Hong Kong just litnessing, witnessing & FF'ing while Ho was away in Europe & it was such a blessing! But now we're back to work on assignments given & very very thankful for them & for our new vision & outlook, & new relationship with the Lord, Dad, each other & our great Family! **P.P.S.: HO & ESTHER ARE FIGHTERS FOR JESUS!** They didn't give up but are fighting their way back to the right track & fighting the Devil, not each other any more! That's why I love them! We're fighting together against the Foe, to reach the goal where we're supposed to go, thanks to the love of our dear MO!—We'll all meet in the end with victories to show!