

like evil trees growing all over our lives. Oshea came during that time & he was like a shining light in the midst of darkness, although it took me a long time to even receive him because of my warped outlook on everything. But in the darkest hour when we felt so alone & when I had even lost my former close relationship with Jeth, the Lord sent along Bess, who was such a comfort & blessing to us all during my pregnancy & the very dark days preceding the RNR. She was born right after the RNR & was such a precious gift. She's like a little angel, & she & Josiah are what have given me the will to keep going.

STILL I WAS NEVER DELIVERED FROM THIS BITTERNESS & everything that came out of me, every word, every letter, every action I took, was tainted with it. The Lord finally had to remove me from being used for Him in any capacity at all. My bitterness grew ever greater as I blamed everyone else except myself. That's when Oshea & I began working in the system. I turned into more or less a prudish housewife for awhile & you know the rest of the story.

BUT, THANK GOD! THIS PAST YEAR THE LORD HAS WORKED MORE IN MY LIFE than in all the others put together—God's way up is surely down! After I wrote you those last two letters which were published in the FN, I knew the healing I needed & removing that root of bitterness had a lot to do with Abdon & going back to where I had gotten off the track so many years ago. But I was still really unsure if I could do it & the Lord had not opened the door at that time for me to be with Abdon.

IN THE MEANTIME I ASKED THE LORD TO GIVE ME A REALLY GOOD FISH & claimed the verse, "If you ask for a fish He won't give you a serpent". And I sure didn't want another serpent after my previous experiences! Within a few days I met someone whom I immediately saw in the Spirit was really precious to the Lord & that God had a beautiful plan for his life. And sure enough, the first time we went out together he told me of a vision he had had of meeting a wonderful woman who gave him the love & warmth he had been seeking all his life & wanted to stay by her side forever. But she gave him a gift which he didn't want, which was a crucifix. So, as he walked away from her, as soon as he saw she wasn't looking, he threw it away. But when he came to the end of his journey there was a man waiting who asked him what he had done

with the gift. He told him he had thrown it away because he didn't want it, & the man told him he could not return without the gift, so he had to go back & look for it.

IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT SEARCH & he was sweating & crying when he finally found it again, but as he picked it up it turned into the most precious thing he had ever seen. Then the vision changed & he felt like Jesus hanging on the cross. He saw all the people looking at him & he said, "No, I can't do this!" Then a couple of months later he had another vision of himself as a tiny baby, newborn, & he heard the name Moses.

BY THE TIME HE FINISHED RELATING THIS STORY to me, he was almost shouting & said, "But I don't know how I could see things like this, I'm not even a Christian & I don't believe in any of that stuff." But I felt from then on he was very special to the Lord & God gave me such a supernatural love for him, & my heart was so broken for him.

AS TIME WENT ON IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT BITTERNESS HAD REALLY WARPED HIS LIFE. We were so much alike, & although he finally received the Lord & the Holy Spirit, his warped outlook didn't permit him to receive any of the joy or fruits of the Spirit & now he's returned to be more bitter & hardened than ever. It's broken my heart so much more than over one person in a long time, because the Lord used it & is still using it to show me how my bitterness & hardness of heart has broken His heart & caused Him to weep over me & how I've missed so many wonderful blessings the Lord wanted to give me.

THESE PAST MONTHS HERE HAVE BEEN SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT & at the same time some of the most fruitful in my life. Like in the beautiful "Jean Manson Revelations", "But the Lord will bring her back. He has to break her, & it's hard to be broken. It makes you want to die, you know? But then you're willing to live—for Jesus! When you want to die, then He makes you willing to live. Isn't that wonderful?—Beautiful! First He makes you want to die, & then you yield & surrender your life in the face of death, & you're willing to live it for Him!—She's getting to where she wants to die, but then she'll want to live—not for money & not for men, just for Jesus & His Love, through me & mine."

I'VE FELT SO MUCH LIKE GIVING UP & dying, particularly in the past few months, but it's just the Lord trying to bring me to the end of myself & help me to surrender all so He

can work. Such heavy, beautiful, life-giving lessons! Thank God you're so faithful to pass on to us what you've been through for us to profit! I feel like I'm beginning to see Jesus & you & the Family & everything in a whole new light—Hall!

ONE THING THE LORD IS GIVING ME through all this, is a real love & compassion for those who are bitter & hardened of heart; the ones that are really hard to reach. There are so many, especially in America, who have been hardened & embittered from early childhood. I saw so much misery, unhappiness & pain those last months in the States. It seems that God's judgements on America will be a blessed release for so many of these poor victims of the system, & maybe in the Millennium we'll really be able to help them.

WHILE IN THE STATES, I WENT WITH MY FISH TO SOME OF THE BARS where the real down-&outers go; those who just have no hope left, & to the rest home, where his mother is a completely broken person at the age of 57. I felt so much love for them & like the Lord would just like to take them all in His arms & heal all their wounds & mutilated lives & broken hopes. I really want to live to see the day when the Lord can use us to help heal these terrible seemingly hopeless cases.

I KNOW THAT IN MY CASE, RECEIVING JESUS' LOVE FOR ME THROUGH ABDON IS A REAL KEY to my healing & being able to be useful to others. Please pray for us. More than anything I want to be united in heart with you again. I know in the beginning the Lord wanted me to be your wife but my hardness of heart wouldn't permit. Thank God it's never too late for love, & I love you & want to be one with you! TYJ! (GBY! ILY2!)

IF IT'S EVER POSSIBLE, I'D LOVE TO BE ABLE TO TYPE SOMETHING FOR THE LORD. God hasn't been able to use me at all in this way in the past 3 years, but it would be one of the biggest joys & privileges of my life if I could do some type of secretarial work for the Lord to help get out His precious Words to the world in Spanish or English. I know now it's only possible with a broken heart, nothing less will do!

ONE LAST THING I'D LIKE TO MENTION is about the local situation here concerning Jeremiah & Rebecca & their position as VS's. It's been a big controversy & they've been voted in & out. But, Dad, I just really feel like the Lord wants to break their hearts

& bring some needed changes in their lives. Poor Jeremiah is acting so much like Jethro right now. Yesterday he held a meeting to have everyone vote for or against him & said he received Jeremiah 1 & that anyone who voted against him was voting against the Lord & would be judged by God! He thinks I really hate him & stand against him. But the Lord has given me such a real love for him & I had a beautiful dream about him that the Lord was able to really begin to soften & break his heart. But right now the proud spirit he is in is really hurting the Lord's precious sheep here. I really believe his continuing as VS at this time is not the best for him, his family, or the local work. They are all so unhappy, nervous & upset right now & really need to rest in the arms of Jesus to be uplifted & renewed.

I KNOW THIS LETTER IS MUCH TOO LONG but I felt such a need to pour my heart out to you & make things right. Please forgive me for being such a wayward wife all these years to the best lover anyone could ever have. I just want to be free from any darkness or hidden things & be completely one with you in heart & spirit! (Amen! May it be so. It's easier to bend or melt than be broken!) Much, much love & prayers to you & Maria, Liz.

P.S. I TALKED TO MY MOTHER ON THE PHONE a few days ago & she was the most loving & kind I have ever known her to be. And I have just received word that my half-brother & his whole family (8 children) are on their way to be missionaries in Guatemala. Hall

(PTL! GBY! TTL for softening our hearts, so often hardened by our own selfishness! It's only as we yield to His love that we melt! PTL! GBY for doing so. One of the greatest sins of Jeth, Deb, Rachel & the ChainSaul was a harsh, critical spirit of others, to defend themselves & their own sins & selfishness & hardness on others & unyieldness to the Lord & His Word—because it exposed them!—Like the Scribes & Pharisees! They were so rebellious! (1 Sam. 15:23) We kept giving them another chance, but they were determined to go their own way — & did! By the way, VS's are not elected but appointed by WS. Only your Area Sheps are elected by you. Happy Fellowshiping!)

The Plea Of A Family Of 11!

Will YOU help them go South?

From Keilah & Shiza; U.S.A.

Dearest Dad, Maria & Family,
FIRST OF ALL, WE WANT TO THANK YOU, Dad, for all your love, concern, suggestions, & Letters that have been our inspiration, guidance & hope for so many years. We're sorry we haven't written sooner as to our whereabouts, but we were hoping we would have a "change" to report that would be an inspiration to you, but find ourselves still in the States & what's inspiring about that? Well, some things still are, TG, but

WE HAD TO RETURN HERE AFTER A SHORT CARAVANING TRIP to Southern Mexico with 3 other mobile families, two of which are still there. We took the trip to get a taste of the South & found it warm & wonderful. But we also found ourselves needing better support & some repairs on our trailer. We have to trust God for our safety while here, but feel we need to obey & get support before we go. Our prayer letters have gained very little so we have to go on a new attack during the up-coming Christmas season.

WE ARE PRESENTLY STILL WITHOUT HELP FOR OUR CHILDREN & must admit we were pretty disappointed in getting no responses at all either to our add or to your comments on one of our testimonies. In any case, we are not bitter, but expect God to supply soon & feel there must be a reason for it all. PTL! Perhaps we've been undeserving in not doing enough "spiritually" ourselves with the children, but are presently going on the attack with what we've got.

WE DO FEEL THOUGH THAT THERE IS SOME TRUTH to the comments made in Mag 42 about some single brothers thinking "the world revolves around them" & we know the blessings far outweigh the hardships if they'd just give it a try!

I GUESS WE FEEL A LITTLE DIFFERENT

FROM MOST FAMILIES as we seem to have 2 families in one. We have 4 "older" ones, 6, 7, 9 & 10 years old, & 5 little ones, 1, 2, 3 & 5 years old. As many well know, it's the little ones that take the most physical work & require the greater supervision, so you can imagine the organisational jigsaw required to prepare a meal, clothe a child, read a story, nurse a baby & keep calm all at the same time. I often am amazed how we can accomplish anything at all & when I see all 9 kids in one place at one time, I still say to my wife, "Do you realise we have 9 children!" PTL! Each one is special to us & we really couldn't spare even one!

THEY'RE EACH SO BEAUTIFUL & UNIQUE that I know the Lord has a plan for us & we pray we keep our antennas up so we can follow the path He leads. We certainly don't need anyone's sympathy, but mostly your prayers that we'll be out of this doomed land soon into God's greener pastures. After reading all the inspiring testimonies of others who are out of the tunnel, I want to try anything to get out of here, even if we have to go on the road with all 9 alone, as crowded as it may be.

WE ARE PRESENTLY CAMPED OUT NEAR A LAKE trying to accomplish something while being stationary for awhile instead of moving so much. Moving around is more inspiring sometimes, & God blesses it, but with 9 it's a lot of work & not at all safe sometimes.

ANYWAY, BY FAITH & PRAYER I KNOW GOD'S ANSWERS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! I don't want to burden you, Dad, or make this too long, but wanted you to know our situation & to tell you we are still fighting! We love you so much, Dad, & pray we can be useful tools for the Lord & His Family.

Much Love, Keilah, Shiza & Kids.

(PTL! GBY! —A ballgame! Get on the ball! Someone help! The Clan!

Rebecca (11), Joshua (2), Andrea (3), Andrew (3), Ben (5), Christina (6), Isaac (7), Dalgith (9), & Chris (10).



Making His Words Known To Our Children!

From Amos O'Test; Australia:

Dear Dad & Maria,
GBY! WLY! GJH! We appreciate all your love letters which are so helpful. I've had something on my heart which I want to share with you. In several of your Letters you have mentioned what a really tremendous testimony it is to "forsake all" & "go into all the world to preach the Gospel" & live by faith. I have found this so true in my own life.

I'VE BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR 12 YEARS, & I know that my parents, relatives, friends, etc. can never get away from the testimony of my living for the Lord full-time & going into all the world to preach the Gospel.

I REALLY BELIEVE THAT SOMETIMES WE DON'T REALISE WHAT A TESTIMONY WE ARE just living for Jesus day after day, month after month, year after year. I recently received a letter from my cousin. She is 14 years old & was 2 at the time I joined the family. She said that Jesus is in her heart now & that after my grandmother reads my letters she gets them & goes to her room to read them. I have never even met her.

THIS REALLY SPOKE TO ME OF HOW FAR-REACHING OUR TESTIMONY REALLY GOES, & we have no idea how many people it affects. Like you said, "You never lose by giving." I would not trade this life for anything.

RECENTLY A KING OF OURS SAID: "Amos, you need to settle down, quit travelling so much; you've got so many kids, why don't you just take it easy for awhile?" I got the quote: "Be a fly-by-night missionary like the apostle Paul. Scrounge off the System all you can.

A GRANDFATHER WITH 12 YEARS IN FAMILY EXPRESSES GRATITUDE FOR LIFE OF SERVICE!



Amos & Mary O'Test with children: Stephen (10), Ben (8), Aliya (7), Crystal (3), Darren (2) & Phillip (1). (Looks like the days when we camped together!—GBY!)

But when they try to make you become one of the Systemites, head for the hills, or back into the woods or the jungles & live with 6 like the poor that nobody bothers much about." (333C:20)

I REALLY THINK OUR KING WAS CONVICTED by our sample of living for the Lord full-time with 8 children. At present we are living out of our caravan & going on the road. Also, 3 of our children are on correspondence schooling, & this keeps us really busy. TYJ!

I KNOW THAT SOMETIMES IT MAY SEEM THAT FAMILIES WITH LOTS OF CHILDREN DON'T ACCOMPLISH MUCH, as they're so busy just raising & teaching & training their children that they have very little time for anything else. But your Letters have really shown us how important our sample is & what a heavy testimony big families are when they are living by faith & preaching the Gospel, mostly thru

their children. (AMEN!) SO BIG FAMILIES' SAMPLES REALLY SPEAK LOUD. Thank you very much for all your encouraging Letters on raising children. I got a really good verse, Psalm 78:5-7, "He commanded our Fathers, that they should make them (God's Words) known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise & declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, & not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments. (Also Deut. 6:6-9) (AMEN!)

IT IS SO ENCOURAGING, DAD, TO SEE MY NEXT GENERATION OF TWO GRAND-DAUGHTERS being raised in the Word & for the Lord's service. PG! TYJ! We sure love you all a lot!

GOD BLESS & KEEP YOU ALL! (Phil. 1:3) Much love and prayers, (GBY! WLY!)

Amos O'Test & family.