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# Family Specials News Magazine!

FSM 161 DO  
(FN 270)

ARTICLES WRITTEN & CONTRIBUTED  
DIRECTLY BY MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD!

© March 1990  
By Family Services,  
Zurich, Switzerland

SPECIAL ISSUE!

## SHEPHERDING TEENS! —Preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow!

### Tips On Teen Discipline

By Sara D.

*(A discussion on Teen Care & Discipline at a meeting of the Executive Council of the HC School after reading "Dad's Guidelines for Discipline", ML#2066, DB7.)*

Once your teens have progressed in training & ministries, there comes a time when you wonder if they can take on more responsibility & if they can perhaps be shepherded by the Department Heads they work with instead of Teen Shepherds. In many respects our kids have had a lot more training than we ever did when we were young—good training! So it seems they should be able to do it. It's a big step of faith & it's real easy to back down & say, "Oh, they're too much trouble to train! They get in the way, they go slow, they're lazy, they talk back! I could do the job myself in two days & this teen takes two weeks!" It can in some cases be frustrating, but actually, many of our teens can really handle a heavy load & they have come a long long way. PTL!

Our Department Heads have really taken on a lot by taking these teens into their departments. It's not easy, but you adults have had a lot of training too, so it's a new challenge! Let's look at it like a challenge!

#### Teens Will "Test" Their New Shepherds

In this meeting we'd like to touch on some reports about the behaviour of some teens in your different departments. Teens behave well for their Shepherds because they know their Shepherds really deliver the discipline when they don't behave! When teens move on to a new department or undergo a change of job or work under new Shepherds they have a little time of transition that's difficult at times.—Have you noticed? They get a little bit "free" & maybe a little bit cocky & self-confident. They're hoping to prove themselves, so they sometimes try to come on more

"adult", & in doing so they become a little "big-headed". They try to not be under too much restriction & they try to act like the adults.

These teens are very very potential & they're real powerhouses & they're terrific teens & they can do the job, no doubt about it. Expect it of them! Have faith in them to do it & encourage & inspire & instruct them & you'll have a good hard worker. When they first come into your department you might not think they've had any training.—You might even question what in the world they've been doing for the last year. But please remember that you might be feeling this way because they'll be testing you.

We know the teens are going to test you, to see what you're going to do about it & how you will react & how far they can go or what they can get away with. Teens might really test you when you're extra busy & there's a whole lot going on. If you look back when you were 14 years old in ninth grade, you'll probably recall that you sat down at your desk on the first day of school, & you sized up every teacher in every class. You sat down in History class & you looked that teacher over & you saw what he was made of & you figured out just how far you could go with this one. Then you went to your P.E. (gym) class which was taught by a big burly six-foot-six coach!—So you pressed in & you dribbled that ball & you sweated until you nearly died to really get in good with him! You didn't dare cross him wrong! Then you went to Miss Wonderful's English class & you stared at the wall or stared at her bosoms all day & she never said a thing about it, so that's what you did for the rest of the year.



You see, these teens are doing the same thing you did when you were their age! Just sit back & put yourself in their place. You can imagine they might be thinking, "Oh, I'm in the kitchen now! Food galore! Wow! Auntie J. is beautiful! And Uncle H.'s off hours are...The fridge is full to overflowing with free provisions & my friends can meet me around the corner..."

Just remember, what did you act like at 14 years old?—Especially if you would have had no report cards, no deterrents, no punishment system, no detention hall, & no correction? Think what "damage" you could have done in junior high school under those circumstances!—Ha!

### **Give Them Clear Guidelines from the Beginning!**

It's very important with teens or children when you start off in a new shepherding role with them, to start off very firm & very loving, but very clear with your guidelines & restrictions. Just lay down exactly what you expect of them on a routine, scheduled, consistent daily basis. Make it very clear to them exactly what you want them to do & exactly what you don't want them to do—as we are instructed to do in the Letters about child discipline & then use every opportunity to let them know the rules & the guidelines.

Then later, as you get to know them better & as you see how they work & how they operate, you can let up a bit if you feel led. But it pays as far as the work goes, as far as their training goes, & as far as your patience goes to start your relationship with them on a stricter note. They'll respect you for it & they like it & they need it.

### **Execute Judgement Speedily!**

—Ecc. 8:11

As a leader or a Department Head, you will find yourself in a position where you have to correct teens, whether it's in your natural makeup to do so or not. You have to do it or else you'll be a delinquent parent, & if you are a delinquent parent, you & your department are really going to suffer as a result.

You need to win the teens with authority & love & a parental attitude & a real Shepherd's rod. "Thy rod & Thy staff they comfort me." It's guidance, it's the Shepherd's crook that pulls them in. If the teens in your department are misbehaving, you can remind them: "Listen, remember that first talk I gave you the first day you walked in here? You've almost crossed the boundary. You're on the border. That's your first & last warning. Do you read me?"—And they'll probably say, "Yes, Sir," and straighten up.

If you don't think you can control teens, even

if you think, "Oh, I'm scared of teens! They intimidate me! They're bigger than I am! They talk back!"—you can't just wait & write about a problem you may be having days later on your weekly report. That's like the Systemite mothers who say, "You just wait until your father gets home from work!" But when the father gets home the teen is long gone. Waiting like that to correct or discipline teens doesn't do a bit of good! It doesn't work!

The key verse in disciplining teens is: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil".—Ecc.8:11.

### **Claiming the God-Given Authority to Discipline**

Something that was coming out very clearly in the Letter we read this morning is that we don't allow wilful or stubborn or disrespectful behaviour in anybody. You shouldn't allow teens to speak to you disrespectfully any more than you would speak disrespectfully to your Shepherds! That's the standard. So you need to realise that you have the God-given authority to put these kids in their place!—And all it takes is the authority of the Spirit with a lot of love & conviction! Usually, according to our pubs & the lessons we've learned in working with teens, it just takes a few words.

But how those few words are said & delivered might make a difference! If you walk through the dish area at lunchtime & see the juniors squabbling amongst themselves, you could stop & say, "What's the problem here? Contention? Arguing? Do you want to make up real quick?" They'll probably say, "Yes, Ma'am," & then they'll pray together. Then you can say, "Good for you! That was really good. I was really proud to see that. It shows you're really maturing." And it's over! They'll know that when their Shepherds or leaders see something wrong, they're going to do something about it & take care of it, because they're concerned for them. So don't just let it pass!

Maybe you feel like you don't know what to say. Our pubs often recommend one word commands such as: "Billy, work!" But your question probably is, "But if he comes back with a smart-alec comment, then what do we do?" The teens behave for me & they behave for their Teen Shepherds, they know they have to, but why won't they behave for you? You have to make them behave for you. Let them know what you require of them in no uncertain terms.



### When Adults Are Intimidated by Teens

Let's take the example of what happened recently in our kitchen. Our kitchen crew is very busy & has a monumental job to do. It's hard enough to run the kitchen without having cantankerous teens on your hands. The other day at lunch dishes, someone saw Auntie J. trying to wipe the counters & she said to a teen, "Could you please wipe this counter?" He replied, "You messed it up, you clean it!" (Uncle H: Where was I?) That's exactly right! You weren't there, but had you been there it probably wouldn't have happened!

But Auntie J. knows the standard, & even if she herself can't handle it, she can say to that teen, "OK, I'm going to get Uncle H. now. You stay right there. You're going to hear from Uncle H. immediately." That means now. That's "executed speedily".

In some other places that's been the only solution we've had, because some women & some people feel intimidated by teens. They don't know what to do & they get frustrated & almost burst into tears & then they wait for days before they report it. Meanwhile the little rascal is offending everybody all day long, right? One little offender can make it or break it for your department, & if things are not flowing in your department because of one misbehaved teen, then you have to do something about it!

We certainly would not want anyone to feel intimidated by a teen who has the audacity to mouth off to an adult! That's not the Family, that's not the Revolution, & that's not what we allow here!—Certainly not as a sample to others. If worse comes to worst, get someone who can handle it, but now & immediately.

### Warnings That Mean Business!

Teens have got to know your warning really means business. So a lot of the key to your successful discipline is how you warn them in the first place. With troublemakers, you don't even need to wait for the first offense to give them a warning. You can start off your activity or job with a good powerful prayer or a good stiff warning & say, "OK, teen! Last time you were in here, you caused nothing but trouble! One misstep out of you, son, & you are on restriction for one week! I'm going to have you scour this kitchen from top to bottom! Do you understand?" And chances are, under those circumstances he won't give you a hard time. That's authority & that's fair. It's a warning! And with the incorrigibles, we have to be explicit in our warnings.

But with some other sweet & tender teens, they might burst into tears if we were to say something like that. So please remember that you have to know your teens & be Spirit-led! We definitely don't want to be giving hard stiff warnings to gentle yielded ones who don't need anything more than a little word of caution.

### The "Clout" of a Punishment System

There's nothing wrong with singling out offenders! It's good for all the other teens to see that you mean business, but if you threaten something, you're going to have to carry it out.

Maybe we have lacked in some ways a punishment system. We've lacked "clout". We didn't have anything to follow up our threat. This is why we were thinking & praying about the idea of a hard labour force in the kitchen or somewhere so with any teen—or adult, for that matter—if you need a sentence to execute, it could be hard labour in the kitchen. It shows you mean business & it gives you a deterrent. Grandpa says it's very important in discipline to have a deterrent. It gives them a clear-cut choice from the beginning: "If you do so-&-so, you're on hard labour in the kitchen!" And if they do it, all you have to say is, "Three hours labour! On your knees! Here's the brush. Brother, get to it!" It saves your patience, the teen gets the point, & the kitchen gets cleaned.

We should have our labour jobs listed—"majors & minors"—& whether it's one hour or two hours, or whatever the offense may be. But you have to make it clear, just like we said about the demerit system. Either they do this & everything's fine & you really praise them & love them & encourage them, or they do that, which means this certain punishment. It's very clear & gives them a clear-cut choice & boundaries. It gives you control of the situation & if they dare to defy it, you've got the sentence ready-made!

This helps people who haven't had that much experience with shepherding teens or someone who feels intimidated by teens. It gives them "clout". The overseer can say, "Teen, four hours hard labour, starting now. I'm going to go get Uncle H. to oversee it. Here's the brush, here's the soap, get to work." And it's much easier for everybody.

But you need to keep them right under your nose while they're fulfilling their chores. And we don't mean four hours has to be all at once. You can dish it out an hour at a time, or whatever. You could choose the time that's best—after lunch or during Get Out, a time that would also mean some deprivation of another activity. We're talk-



ing about good hard labour like scrubbing the floor, scrubbing the walls, cleaning the cupboards, hauling milk bags etc.—Girls too, but nothing too heavy for them to lift. Silence restriction & hard work that keeps them busy is a sample to others that crime doesn't pay!

The blessing of having a sentence to execute is you can use it on the spot & it works. And it saves your patience & it saves your anxieties. (A: I remember when I was a kid my dad used to make me scrub the bathroom with a toothbrush. I really got the point!—Scrubbing between all the tiles etc.) It does work! Good hard work, especially if they're lazy. Good hard work is good for them & they actually enjoy it! They like to sink their teeth into a big work project & get it done. And then if they've done a good job, really commend them & praise them & love them! Take them into your arms like it says here & really commend them for it & say, "Boy, you really took that great! I'm so proud of you!"

### Correction Builds Good Relationships

It gives you a relationship with the teen too. Once you've corrected them, it draws you closer to them. You can love them & praise them & say, "Is there anything bothering you? Can I help you at any time? If there's ever any help you need, please just let me know." It draws you closer & eventually it won't just be work, work, work, but it becomes a sweet loving relationship between Shepherd & sheep. PTL!

(J: It doesn't have to necessarily be just in your department. If you walk by & you see a teen doing something that's wrong, you can definitely handle the situation.) Yes! Usually you can just question them. For example, if you see some teen girls who you think are gossiping, you can simply question them & you can tell if their conversation was good or bad by their reaction. You can say something like: "Girls, what are you talking about? Oh, did I interrupt something? Oh, maybe you don't want to tell me & that makes me wonder what you were talking about! Well, in that case, do you want to start all over again?" They'll probably get convicted & answer, "Yes, Ma'am." And you can close the conversation on a positive note with something like: "Okay, fine. I love you! Just checking!"

### How to Handle Disrespectful Teens

We also have a few teens who we just disciplined for their disrespectful behaviour. I told some of the teens after a few reports of disrespectful behaviour, that they had gotten their first & last warning. We had to just pull them out of their normal ministries & put them on other

duties to show them that we mean business & they're no exception.

If someone answers back to you in a disrespectful way you can question it. You can say something like: "Wait a minute—what did I just hear you say? Would you like to repeat that one more time? Did I hear you right?" It says in the pubs to put your feelings into words, which is part of reasoning & explaining.—You can say something like: "Is that defiance? Are you challenging me? What exactly did you mean by that?"

It says in the Letter we read this morning that communication is so important, so you can talk to them & question their attitude & actions by saying: "What did you mean by that? Are you upset at me because I just corrected you? What do you think I should have done—just let you go & be a problem all day long? The reason I'm correcting you is because I care for you & am trying to help you. Do you realise that your behaviour has been quite a bad sample lately?"

### Discerning the Teens' Attitude

How you correct them depends on their attitude! Sometimes they're sorry & repentant & they might say something like, "Oh, I blew it again! I'm sorry! I've had correction for this so many times!" Then they might get the poor me's if they think, "I just keep blowing it in this area!" That's a good time to say some encouraging words like: "Well, if you're sorry about it, it shows that you saw the wrong & the Lord's trying to help you see the right way. It's good to be sorry! God bless you for seeing it! I can pray for you now & it'll be much better."

It all depends on their attitude & their repentance. I know that was a real underlying problem with Mene.—She was never sorry. Not an iota of repentance, never a word of apology, never the slightest indication that she was sorry for all that she would think & say. There was never any repentance whatsoever or no acknowledgement that she was wrong. And that's serious!

So when disciplining teens, the attitude is a key. Sometimes it's laziness, cockiness & smirks that you might be confronted with—not disrespect, defiance & blatant disobedience. Check out their attitude & if you're not sure, find out in words. Sometimes I've talked to teens & they'll stare at the floor with no acknowledgement of whether I'm right or wrong or they're right or wrong.—They just want to leave. I say, "Look, until this is reconciled you're not leaving. Let's talk about it. Let's get this straight." Again, call it by name by explaining: "Your attitude isn't right. I feel such-&-such about your attitude." Some-



times you just have to see it through. It takes more time, but it is good training.

### **Look to the Lord's Wisdom & His Leadings**

(E.: We have a couple of girls who have a very passive & rebellious attitude that you might not be able to put your thumb on at all unless you know it's there. They have this problem of being very stubborn & rebellious & it's got to be handled the same way & we can't overlook it just because you don't have any horns to grab the bull

by.) Yes, sometimes the Lord just gives you feelings. Sometimes it's just an instinct. It's an impression you get, it's the Holy Spirit checking you. And even if it's a borderline case, it's better to be a little strict than too lenient, especially in the beginning.

If you need any help, please report it. But especially ask the Lord for wisdom & conviction in how to handle your teens. PTL! "Correct thy son, & he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." (Pro. 29:17)

## **□ Compiled Teen Shepherding Jewels from the Heavenly City School**

### **Turning Over a New Leaf of Tidiness**

The teens needed a little talk today (at the Shepherds' request) about being more tidy in their living quarters, because the Shepherds often find dinner dishes with leftover food on them, as well as clothes strewn around. This is, of course, one of those "typical teenage traits", but one that we feel there's really no excuse for as there's a place designated for everything. We tried to really challenge them & get them inspired about the idea of just turning over a whole new leaf in their life by simply committing these problem areas to the Lord in prayer & expecting God to do it, & then to really use all their initiative to apply themselves in those areas & just try their best to be more tidy & clean & organised.

Some of the kids were chosen to come up with slogans to help inspire each other with this tidiness goal, & we gave a few little examples & stories of how really pressing in & being faithful has made a difference in people's recommendations as to whether they were going to be used further in bigger jobs or not. We tried to impress upon the teens how it's really important. Like Grandpa says, the little physical, even menial & organisational type things can indicate quite a bit about your spiritual life & how much you apply yourself to get things done in decency & in order.

### **Trimming Down Teens' Belongings**

We went through all the teens' diaries, papers & briefcases etc., to purge out any security hazards. There were many items such as photos, diaries, notes, old OHRs etc., that were questionable from a security point of view, so it was a real blessing to get their personal belongings purged down. We gave the teens the vision about the importance of protecting the Work for security, so that these things in writing would not

somehow fall into the hands of the wrong people & cause us trouble. Then we gave them one hour & 15 minutes to complete this project, so it was a challenge.

We also encouraged them to try to get their luggage down to where they can carry it themselves, as they really have loads & loads of stuff! Some of it is big winter clothes, but apart from that, they have lots of little knick-knacks, excess lit & papers & lots of clothes.

### **"Getting Back to the Basics" Movies!**

Videos are always a real big hit with teens. Like adults, they really value their video time & look forward very much to their video night. Although they were sort of "won over" to video pow-wows, unfortunately some still hadn't seemed to have picked up the lessons as much as they did the worldliness! We found from some of their confessions that some of the "cool guys" (See FSM 115) were really pooh-poohing the video pow-wows & thought it was childish that the videos had to be explained & the lessons brought out etc.

To remedy this, for a while we've only shown the more moving & message-type movies such as "Ben Hur", "Brother Sun" & "The Ten Commandments". Other such videos are "The Fred Jordan Story", "The Ultimate Trip", "Jesus of Nazareth", "Peter & Paul", "King of Kings", "The Robe", "The Gospel According to St. Mark", & "The Last Days of Pompeii".

Even though some of the teens have seen these movies before, they haven't seen them very recently. We also found in many cases that those teens who had seen those videos usually saw them when they were taking care of their younger brothers & sisters, & they were so distracted throughout the movie that they weren't able to catch the beautiful lessons in them.



By the end of many of these "classic" videos we were all weeping & were able to have a real good closing prayer, almost like an altar call, where we really drew close to Jesus & thanked Him for all His blessings & all He's done in our lives & in the lives of others. It's just been a real uniting, moving time & the teens really have thanked us for these videos & have said they've gotten more out of them than ever & can even relate to the characters so closely now. PTL, it's really been so feeding! It's been a real encouragement to see how inspired they've been about these old classic videos. *(Editor's note: This is not to say that teens should only watch these classic Bible videos. In this particular case the teens needed to get "Back to the Basics" & it bore good fruit! You might want to try it—if not a continuous diet of classic Bible videos, you at least might want to try it every once in a while.)*

### **Marshmallows & Pup Tents for Fun**

One night just for fun, all the teens had a marshmallow roast & then they put up pup tents at the Pyramid. Since it was sort of a camping atmosphere & a group project & because the teens also wanted to learn to video, we had a little sing-song that they could video while we roasted marshmallows. Then they got to sit inside the tents & fellowship & eat marshmallows & sing & it was a lot of fun, GBT. We had a marshmallow team, a pup tent team & a sing-song team, hallelujah!

### **Teaching Teens to Love the Bible**

Because some of the teens know so little about the Bible itself, we have had many classes straight from the Bible. We had a very meaty class on taking & receiving correction, covering most of the Scriptures from the Bible. We also had a class on Psalm 119, which is all about the Word! It's been real inspiring to see the teens so turned on about marking their Bibles & getting them all fixed up with added pages, extra Word-charts etc. It gives them a little project to work on in their free time & keeps their minds on the Word. It also strengthens them in the area of stewardship as teens really like challenges & special study projects & things they can devote their time & attention to. PTL! They're progressing!

### **Sing a New Song!**

Another change in our teen procedures is that we're singing a lot of brand new songs & not the same old songs they're used to singing. It seems the teens had gotten into the be-bop rhythm & jive of the music rather than really

singing as unto the Lord. In our Bible classes we've been trying to teach them a lot of the Psalms-in-song as well as the new Memory Book songs. So we've been using the Bible not only as our class book & our memorisation handbook to have in our hand all day, but also as our songbook. PTL! It's been a lot of fun & so feeding!

### **Teaching the Teens to Rest**

We have found that the teens push quite hard throughout the week & then get up early on free-day morning to have extra free time & do as much as they can in one day. In fact, they used to like to get up even earlier than usual on sleep-in day & it was running their poor Shepherds ragged!

We've tried to have a strict sleep-in morning where there are no planned activities before 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. The teens just wake up to go potty & come back to bed & try to rest or just lie quietly, taking "horizontal time" to pray. Those who want to get up can leave the room quietly, get their own breakfast & then go straight to a study hall where they can catch up on their reading assignments, but no talking. One person monitors the teens to help them maintain the quiet atmosphere.

We've tried to encourage the teens that they shouldn't pooh-pooh sleeping as any kind of weakness, but rather they should discover the advantages of sleep & rest, especially to get more quiet time with the Lord. We talked with them about all the advantages of sleeping in, taking it easy, taking a good rest: It helps them grow & clears their complexion & strengthens them physically, gives them more prayer time with the Lord, helps them to really pray about their week ahead & about their NWOs etc. In short, we've tried to give them every advantage we could think of to learning to be still & quiet & to draw closer to the Lord. The teens seem to have really caught on to this & the Shepherds are real happy about that.

### **Learning to Like Milk & a Balanced Diet**

Our kids eat real well, but we noticed that sometimes they don't really have a well-balanced diet as far as including sufficient dairy foods & even fruits & good natural sweets like molasses. They seem to curb those things quite a bit & just stick to a diet of meat, starch & a little bit of vegetable.

We've also tried to turn the teens on to drinking yummy cold milk, mmmm! The other night at snack we had home-made cookies & milk, but a lot of the teens aren't milk drinkers.



We gave them a little pep talk there on how good milk is for you & how they very much need it during these growing years for their bones, their hair & skin & periods, & how it's got so many nutrients in it that they really need. They said the reason they don't like it is because it's usually lukewarm. Well, you can't blame them too much for that. So someone who works in the kitchen volunteered to make milk in the morning & put it in the cooler all day so that by afternoon snack time they could have cold milk. We felt if the teens could get more accustomed to drinking milk & liking it, then the Lord would probably continue providing it through provisioning, & it could really help build their resistance against sicknesses & diseases.

### Evening Activities Give Teens a Chance to Pour Out

Tonight's activity after dinner is to take a walk all around the nearby farm area & back to the School, which should take about an hour. Tomorrow night's activity is half the teens going

to the beach for a campfire & "loving-up-Jesus" time in song & the other half staying back for a video, & then switching teams the following night. This helps provide extra fellowship & talk time with the teens, as well as good prayer & "loving-up-Jesus" time together.

These activities together allow the Shepherds to talk to the teens, to get their reactions on how they think things are going, asking them if they need prayer for anything or need to pour anything out. It's easy to pour into them, but you never can tell where it's going until you get them to pour out & get a little feedback. It gives us a lot of direction on what to talk about in our classes & pow-wows as well. PTL!

On the overall, it seems that many of the teens have gained some real victories, mostly because they've just been led to love Jesus more & love His Word & pray with a whole heart, sing with a whole heart, really enter in as a disciple & not just as an onlooker. PTL! He's really doing it!

## □ Teens Learning Responsibility by Taking Responsibility!

### From Ado, Latin America

**W**hen we moved to our new field we opened a Teen Combo, & soon we started getting more & more teens until now we have almost 30. We realised that it was just not possible for us to oversee these teens as closely as we tried to oversee the teens at the HC School because there simply weren't as many adults.—But the Lord showed us that the quantity of adults overseeing the teens is not as important as the quality of the oversight & how much we know about what is going on with the teens. In this situation it was going to have to be up to the teens themselves to have enough spiritual strength & conviction to obey, to be responsible & to do what they know they're supposed to do according to the Letters.

So we went in that direction, throwing the ball into their courts, explaining that we weren't going to be overseeing every conversation they have, every comment they make every time they're working because it just wasn't possible for us to do it! We have so much to do in our Home with outreach & everything else, that the teens have had to grow up & take the responsibility they know they're supposed to. It was a challenge!

So with that vision, we began to push them to take responsibility. Later we asked one of the

teens if we babied them here or what was the difference here compared to their past Home, & he said, "In other places we were told that we had to take responsibility & we knew we should, but here we're expected to & there are no if's, and's or but's about it. Nobody comes to our rescue. We have to take responsibility."

Now we have teens that are taking all sorts of responsibility at 13, 14 & 15 years of age! Some teens are handling large groups of children, or 16 & 17-year-olds are running the kitchen & 13 & 14-year-olds are overseeing a dining room for 60 people. It's really inspiring to see the responsibilities that they are taking!—To see that they have taken the initiative to really believe the Letters & "go for it", as they say, & to really try with all their hearts to do what they know they're supposed to do.

Time is so short & things are happening so fast that there's no time to play around. They have to take the serious responsibility that is being given into their hands. They've made mistakes, but that's part of the learning process.

There's a real fine line because we as Shepherds must know when to step in & when not to step in. There are some adults here who are used to taking the full responsibility of everything & doing everything on their own, so when



these adults come into the departments where the teens are working, the teens just step back & again become a "worker" rather than taking the responsibility of the work that they do. They do what they are told, rather than praying & taking the initiative to do extra.

So we as adults have also had to learn when to step in & when to leave it in the teens' hands in order to teach the teens to take responsibility. There's a real good balance that Mama pointed out in her Letter, "The Devil's Challenge to Our Garden of Eden" (ML#2526:27) that "We need to be very conscious of giving them (our teens) a challenge in their work. Often we request that they shoulder heavy responsibilities, but at the same time we must remember that they're still kids. They can't stand as much at a time as adults. Sometimes they need a break, they need a change. They have a lot of other things they want to learn."

That is a really helpful point because it showed us how we really need to be in tune with each teen's situation—so we can know when to step in & help them on their responsibilities, when to let them shoulder their responsibilities so that they can feel it is a challenge, & when to give them a break from their responsibilities. We have to be led by the Spirit in each case.

We've been trying to tell the teens almost

daily to grow up & that we're expecting them to do more. And if they're going to take up this challenge, we're seeing that we can't shelter them from making mistakes. In other words, if they make a mistake, we shouldn't say, "Okay, that's all right. Move over, I'll do the job now." But we should say, "Yes, that was a mistake. Probably you should have done it this way or that way. Okay, try again."—Giving them the opportunity to rectify it as we would with an adult. The teens have appreciated it when we were able to teach & train them & when we just didn't put them down & tell them, "You were wrong & bad! You can't do it! I'm going to do it!" Then they just feel dejected & feel like saying, "Just do it yourself!"

So I would say probably the biggest lesson we're learning at our Teen Combo right now is the need to give our teens responsibility so that they can feel that they are responsible for something & not just being told what to do. This way the teens learn to take the initiative, pray about a problem or a certain situation, pray about their work load & take care of it. We've been thrilled with the teens' progress & what they've been learning. We're looking forward to them learning even more & taking even more responsibility.

It's been a big learning process for us & I think an inspiring one for the teens. We've seen our teens really grow this way. PTL!

## □ More On Teens!

### ► *Going on the Attack to Strengthen the Teens' Health*

By Marc, Jumbo

We revised our teen schedule to give the teens more rest, as they have been carrying quite a heavy work load here. The work & responsibility has been very good for them in many ways, but with teens coming down with colds & coughs, & four or five of them coming down with one-day fevers, which can be a sign of being tired or what are called "stress fevers", we felt maybe they weren't getting the rest that they needed.

So we are going to get them to bed, lights out, a half-an-hour earlier than before, & we're also giving them an extra 30 minutes rest in the afternoon. So that means they are getting another hour of rest or Word time during the day. It seems that rest is very needed for our younger teens especially. They seem to need more rest than the older teens.

We also appointed health deacons in each of the boys' & girls' teen groups with an adult overseer for each. We have health forms for each teen,

which are filled out each time the teen has any problems or afflictions or sicknesses, so we can keep an accurate record. This way if they should move on to another Home they have a record of their physical weaknesses & what sicknesses they have had or haven't had yet.

We have been keeping a much closer eye on the teens' health. And they are going more on the attack in desperate prayer, & really fighting together as a team, which has helped to unite the teens. So far the Lord has kept us quite healthy, TYJ!

### ◆ ► *Loving Jesus In Our Singing!*

By Singin' Sam, HC School

A lesson that really touched my heart was one that was shared with the teens recently about really loving Jesus in our singing. I'll have to admit that I really have failed a lot in this area. Being a musician, I have many times gotten into the beat & the music, & not really emphasised the Spirit enough. It was so very convicting for me to see the right way to lead



them to loving the Lord when they sing.—And I saw I can't just do that when I feel like it! Like the quote says: "There are two times to praise the Lord: When you feel like it, & when you don't feel like it!"

I see how the teens really relate to music, they thrive on it, but it becomes as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal without the true Love of Jesus, or the right motive, which is Love! Lord help me to continue to impart that Spirit to them, & not my own, God forbid!

◆  
► **Life Is Exciting at a Teen Home!**

From Josué & French Marie (Shepherds of Teen Home), Latin America

We can say we have never been so happy serving the Lord! Being trusted with the care of the teens & working with them fulltime has enlarged our vision & made our lives so much more meaningful! We are making daily mistakes, but it is our prayer not to fail the Lord, the teens & you, our Family, in this job. It's a challenge every day & we love it! Personally, I even feel younger!

I'm just realizing what it means to shepherd a Teen Home: Just being a mother, but on a larger scale! The teens are so full of life, ideals & expectations, but also have fears to be conquered, weaknesses to overcome & questions to be answered. And besides learning to have a strong connection with the Lord & a real knowledge of His Word, they need a Dad & Mom. I realised like never before that this is their time to shine & if we can just stay in the background to support, encourage, lead & sometimes give a little push here & there, we can give them what we so missed in our teenhood: an open, loving, trusting shoulder, Godly counsel to prepare them for adult life & for the

Millennium! So exciting!

To strive toward that goal, we try to keep the Home as alive as possible with new projects. We are having an extensive review on Bible Prophecy. Two teens prepare each class & teach it to the others. They really apply themselves & always have questions for everyone at the end of their class. Their swords are quite sharpened on the Book of Daniel now, even though three of them had never gone beyond Daniel 2 before!

Besides two days a week witnessing, we try to have another special activity each week, such as monthly sunsign fellowship with representatives from the local Homes. At our last such fellowship 40 brethren came over! It was kept alive by the teens' performance, a cake of a very respectable size, Latin music & a beautiful prayer before everyone's departure.

The second Sunday of every month we have an "open house" for parents! Last month most parents came & the teens planned & prepared everything. Since it was a rainy day, they organised inside games instead of Get Out, led Communion at fellowship time, prepared a special dinner & a powerful show, PTL!

The third Sunday we have "visitor's day"! Last month 11 people that helped us start our new Home came over. Seven got saved that night, three of them being the local General Manager of Volkswagen, his wife & mother! PTL! We hope to receive more people this month!

In order for us to be ready for any situation, the teens have different shows ready: An English show, a GP show in the local language & a fun all-occasion show. They love to sing & dance so we're always working on something new! PTL!

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## □ Precious Shepherding Lessons From the Indian YES!

► **Daily Prayer & Details!**

From Stephen Ash

One thing that really stuck out to me was not only the importance of prayer, but the effect of consistent daily prayer. When shepherding teens before I have prayed for them, but not to the extent of specifically praying over them daily & manifesting faith that through our consistent prayers they are going to make it.

Also I learned a big lesson about the importance of details. For example, previously

when reading OHRs, I'd skip over little details. It really impressed me at this YES to see how those little details would be the key to help the teens to start pouring out. And I learned the importance of following up on those details—not just saying, "Oh well, it was just a little detail—he probably didn't mean anything by it," but going to the teen & checking, "What did you mean by that?" By doing this it opened the door for the teen to share his heart.

◆



► **Praying for the Victory!**

From Hannah

When we had our Room Shepherds meetings & counselling together, the united prayer was the very first thing that impressed me. I felt that was something we could really carry over, because a lot of times we counsel together & we try to help people, but haven't applied that principle of getting together & desperately praying for people & committing them to the Lord & trusting the Lord that they're going to get the victory.



► **Lessons Come through Correction**

From Abel

One thing I saw about correction is that we learn our deepest lessons when we are corrected. I was helping a teen with his OHR & I asked him, "Did you learn any lessons today?" and he said, "No, the only time I learn lessons is when you correct me." His OHRs were pretty general & not very specific, so this helped me realise that we can't expect young teens to be such spiritual giants & have such a high-frequency channel with the Lord & to come out with all these deep lessons on their own. It helped me see how much they need our guidance & direction. One of the ways they're going to learn is if we correct them. It gave me the faith to correct them more & point things out, so they can learn & grow as a result.



► **Nip It in the Bud!**

From Amos

One lesson I learned was about nipping things in the bud. I saw with the teens that I was working with, the quicker I would get back to them with needed correction, the better fruit it bore, because the situation was fresher in their minds, it had just happened & they knew exactly what they'd done. But if I waited to talk with the teen, then it was hazy.

One verse that I was getting all through the Session was Pro.27:23—"Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds." I've read that verse many times, but I never grasped what diligent meant, to know the state—to really know them and to look well to thy herds.



► **Challenging Teen Disciples**

From James

I felt that a lot of the training here was discipleship training—it wasn't just training teens or training kids, but they were challenged as disciples. When we just levelled with them, straight eye contact, as a disciple, they really took it seriously & sobered up that they were disciples now & not just teens & kids. They really took things seriously, such as the skit we had where they put their hand on the Bible & said the pledge one at a time, and we discussed what each phrase meant. It was a real challenge in their life. I found that if we challenged them as a disciple, they acted like a disciple.



► **Upholding the Standard!**

From Claire

Some of the main lessons I learned in shepherding the teens were: The importance of obeying the Lord's checks & giving that small correction immediately, before the teen's behaviour got more off track & it had become a big issue.—The importance of not letting little things pass. Along the same lines I learned to have more conviction to uphold the Word Standard & expect them to toe the line & keep the already-laid-down rules—and for me not to minimise or make excuses for their lack of compliance in these areas.

Also I saw the fruits of tight discipline & close oversight & how they actually like it & grow more in that kind of a situation. I learned not to be afraid of having a confrontation with the teens, but to really be on the attack & militant against sin or evil-doing in their lives & to be faithful to deliver my soul so that they can progress & look to the Word themselves.

I also learned not to be naive about them, but to really dig into their lives, to not be afraid to probe & ask questions. I learned not to be condemned by their lack of progress—or seeming lack of progress—and not to think that it's me who has to bring about some kind of a victory in their lives, because it's got to be the Lord doing it.

I also realised how my attitude around the teens is so important & personally I feel that I could be more on guard with my comments or reactions. I also saw the importance of really explaining everything to them, including negative happenings or influences & worldly things that they come across, so they can learn from them.





► **Learning to Give Correction so Teens Can Receive It**

From Simon

I think in my own life as a parent I've been the guilty party in making it hard for my teens to receive correction by the way I corrected them. In other words, I didn't deal with something as it came up, but I let things build up to the point that I exploded & really blasted them for all their sins. Then they would clam up & not receive anything & not change. I could see that my teens' inability to receive correction at the beginning of the YES was possibly more my fault as a parent than theirs.

But as time went on & we had classes & skits—then also the Room Shepherds pow-wowing together & counselling before administering the correction, making sure we're doing it the right way, in the right spirit, sitting down & doing it patiently, lovingly, letting them see what had happened & asking them if they feel they deserve the correction—it was like night & day in fruitfulness.

► **Follow-up to Strengthen Weak Areas**

From Andrew

The point came out that follow-up in our teen shepherding is very important. Using the "Why Be 'Cool'?" pow-wow in HOPE #7 as an example: James Paul, the teen who has now left the Family, was at the PI YES. At that time he had a breaking & a prayer for deliverance, but then he fell back into the same thing. At the "Why Be 'Cool'?" pow-wow in Japan he had another breaking & prayer for deliverance. The things that he shared & what he said were really good, but then he fell away again.

It shows the need for really close follow-up. Even though teens have a prayer for deliverance & share good lessons about a weakness, it's still a weak area that we have to help them with. It takes time to build up strength in a weak area. It's like building your muscles or weight lifting. When you see that you're weak in a certain part of your body, it takes time to strengthen it, even after you become aware of it.

So even though the teens see their weakness & they ask for prayer & it's brought out in the open, it still takes a lot of consistent work & very close shepherding to bring them through that weak area until it becomes strong enough that they eventually don't need such

close shepherding. You can't expect their battles or weaknesses to disappear just like that, just because they've asked for prayer.—We have to stay with them & bring them all the way through to victory.

► **Helping Teens Pour Out & Look to Jesus!**

From Marla

I knew the trial that one of the teens was going through, but she wasn't really pouring out. So I waited on the Lord & sat with her once in a while & shared my heart with her about things & then all of a sudden she just poured her heart out to me. It seemed she finally poured out because she felt that I could understand her. It wasn't because she felt forced to open her heart, but because she felt that she could open up & be understood. I learned a good lesson—to wait on the Lord & to work on establishing good communication with the teens. Sharing my heart with them & letting them know that I too am a mess really helped also.

Sometimes as Shepherds we tend to encourage people to look to us for the answer & the solutions to their problems. I learned here to help them to look to the Word & the Lord for that satisfaction in their life. In my Home one teen was going through many trials & breakings, & I got so involved working with him that he completely lost the point of looking unto Jesus for his satisfaction & his vision or desire to serve the Lord. He got so caught up with me & my personality that he had me in first place rather than Jesus. If I wasn't there he wasn't happy or inspired. So I really learned the importance of pointing the sheep to the Lord & the Word for everything & not drawing them to myself.

► **The Need for Close Supervision**

From Andrew N.

I learned how the teens need close supervision & a challenge, because a lot of their weaknesses, like laziness & daydreaming & foolishness, seem to come from a lack of supervision & a lack of challenges. I learned the need for that consistent discipline & high standard & not to let anything pass, which seemed to really help them. Another lesson was concerning our conversation as adults—the teens seem to pick up on it just like with videos & music, so I learned to be much more prayerful about my personal sample.



Here are 7 simple questions to hopefully help you get more out of each Letter you read. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth!"—2Tim.2:15. "Jesus is the Word, He is the Spirit & the Life, & you have to have a dose of Him every day, & have a good feeding & feasting & drinking. Just like you have to eat in order to have physical strength, you have to eat of the Word, drink of the Word to have spiritual strength." (The Word, DB1)

**LETTER REACTION REVIEW QUESTIONS!**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

LETTER TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please use the back if you need more room.)*

1. What was the main point brought out in this Letter? *(1 or 2 sentence summary.)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How can you apply this Letter to yourself personally? (Did it inspire or convict you in some particular way?)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What other Letters, Bible verses, Thots, or other examples support this Letter?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Write out two key quotes from the Letter: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have any examples, testimonies or applications to this Letter that you would like to share? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Things to Do: (Write down any special ideas, inspirations, suggestions, projects or studies that you thought of while reading this Letter.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_