

such an older girl, not a little-girl playmate like Davida.

20. AT DINNER TIME SHE JOINED US STAFF RIGHT AT THE TABLE WITHOUT USING THIS CHILDISH LITTLE STOOL that both Dito & Davida have still needed for height during meals. "Strong" little David went to fetch his own wooden stool to add to his chair, but when he then saw that she wasn't using one, he put it aside real quick before anyone noticed & sat up in the chair like she did, with his plate right under his nose! Bethany said before all, "I want to sit next to my favourite friend", then she went around the table asking everyone their names & what they did for the Lord. It was really adorable!

21. AFTER DINNER, RICHARD GAVE BETHANY & DAVID A LONG FLANNELGRAPH on "The Sword of the Lord & of Gideon" & she was a real good sample to David & he was as well for her. The only "crunch" came when Bethany got to go upstairs to meet Grandpa, when David himself was very anxious to be with Mommy & Daddy who had been very busy of late & had not had much playtime at all. He was anxiously awaiting Bethany's return downstairs when Mommy returned with her & made a special effort to cuddle David & talk to him quite a bit about his day, etc, even giving him a little surprise from Daddy! What a precious concern & love they have for all, & right when it's needed the most!

CHRISTMAS '78

22. WITH THE BEAUTIFUL SNOW & WINTRY



Dito traces circles on coloured paper for "spirit tree" decorations!

WEATHER, CHRISTMAS HAD FILLED THE AIR by the middle of the month! Daddy was real glad that Alfred the Shopper found a nice medium-sized Christmas tree for an extremely low price. Alfred & the kids began decorating the tree as soon as we got it & we made a real fun nighttime project of everyone in the house contributing at least a little something to the tree that we'd made or thought up ourselves--cotton balls, small manger figures, pretty verse cards, paper stars, pine cones, etc! Fun!

23. DITO HELPED ALFRED PUT TOGETHER A BEAUTIFUL BIG CHRISTMAS WREATH OF EVER-GREEN BRANCHES with candle decorations, & placed it on the living room table, when Daddy passed by & said, "That's beautiful, but don't you think it's a little selfish to make all that for ourselves when a Christmas decoration should be for the sake of others? It's a little selfish not to share it with everybody else by putting it outside on our front door as a witness." Dad had even shared that with us the previous year, so the big pretty wreath went outside on the front gate, as well as one on our doorway to greet any passersby with a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Greeting!

24. DADDY AGAIN SHARED A REAL GOOD LESSON WITH THE FAMILY: "Christmas is for kids--& Alfred. Ha!--You know, I just don't think we need to buy Christmas presents for each other. Everyone is supposed to have everything he needs already. I think it's a great waste! Imagine if all of us here bought one present for each other, then each person would get a couple of dozen presents of lots of things they don't need or just don't fit."

25. "IT WAS ALWAYS VERY EMBARRASSING FOR ME AT CHRISTMAS TIME WHEN EVERYONE EXCHANGED PRESENTS. I always felt ashamed that I had forgotten somebody or didn't get them something nice enough. I had been poor all my life & just couldn't afford expensive presents. My mother used to give me \$5 to buy Christmas presents for 25 people! There were that many people living with us, so I'm used to blobs! Ha!" Dad did mention that he'd like to have just a nice meal all together on Jesus' birthday. (We usually have a baked chicken dinner with yummy dressing for a special treat!)

26. ANOTHER CHRISTMAS EVENT WE ALWAYS ENJOY WITH THE CHILDREN IS BUILDING & MAKING TOGETHER A LITTLE MANGER SCENE to place under the tree, simply made from a box covered with pine leaves & sticks



Can you see our Manger scene?
--Christmas '78.

using small animal figures that we have in a toy set & small figurines of shepherds to add to the Nativity scene. There's lots of little things you can add in to make it grow a bit each day & it can be a beautiful representation of Jesus' birth for the children & something they themselves can participate in.



Children's Nativity Scene for Christmas '80!
--With plastic figures for little Tech!

27. ONE GIRL STAFF MEMBER DECIDED THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO GO VISIT HER PARENTS IN THE U.S.A. FOR CHRISTMAS, as she had not seen them for a few years. When she asked for counsel on going, Dad & Maria agreed

it would of course be fine to visit other loved ones at Christmas & would be a good witnessing opportunity, & even offered to pay her way, but her parents had already arranged for her fare "home".

28. WE WERE ALREADY MAKING PLANS FOR MOVING AGAIN AT THE TIME & SHE LEFT around Christmas soon after her initial news of leaving; only days later we all began our move & she never rejoined the staff, but is still in the U.S.A.!

29. WELL, THIS YEAR OUR CHRISTMAS WAS A BIT "UNUSUAL" (as usual!), as soon after Davida & Dora left for our new living location, Dad & Maria soon followed & others of the staff left in pairs. David-ito, Alfred & Path then left on Christmas Eve, while Sue & I prepared the follow-up & were apart from the others for about a week.

30. BECAUSE DAVID LEFT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, DAD & MARIA MADE SURE THAT ON HIS DEPARTURE DAY WE LEFT FOR HIM UNDER THE CHRISTMAS TREE A LITTLE PRESENT, a toy lawnmower (actually sent to him by some loving Family members in the U.S.A.). He clutched it to his side throughout his entire travels with Alf & Path, & "drove" it around everywhere, its noisy little blades going clicky clack!



Dad & Maria's surprise gift for David left under the tree!