TENERIFE! THE EXPLOSION THAT SHOOK THE WORLD!

By Paul Pappas

IN ENGLAND IN DECEMBER OF '73 DAD HAD THE DREAM "THE CRASH", where he & Marla were "on a big huge covered toboggan" that "took off like a rocket right up into the air" & it "seemed to be bound for some...other country (they) were going to...out of that snow country." (284:29,33 & 34.)

JUST PRIOR TO THEIR PLANNED DEPARTURE FROM ENGLAND FOR LIBYA, DAD HAD A "VISION OF THE ISLAND "TENERIFE" in bright red letters in the dark of the night"—at 4:00 a.m. Dad & Marla had never even heard the name before, so "locked it up in (their) map book, & sure enough, there it was—an actual Island in the Canaries," off the coast of West Africa! (633:21,23.)

IN EARLY 1974 DAD & MARLA LEFT ENGLAND TO GO TO TENERIFE & they immediately fell in love with the people & the place! They stayed in Puerto de la Cruz at the Hotel Belair on the 11th floor, & having already pioneered FFing in London where they had won Arthur, our first "Little Flirty Fishy" (#293) Marla shared God's Love with many of the waiters who brought meals up to their room. Amongst them was Carlos, by whom the Lord chose to bless Marla with Davidito, as in April of 1974, Marla conceived.

DURING THOSE FIRST MONTHS IN TENERIFE DAD WROTE about the "Adventures of a Flirty Fish"—the cost of FFing, as well as "Beauty & The Beast", & how Marla was "God's Love Slave". In pioneering this exciting new ministry, they were faithful to record even their "Four Fishing Failures", & "The One That Got Away", all part of the exciting new "Ministry of Love", based on the "Law of Love"—"Their life was love, & all because Daddy loved Mommy & shared Mommy to love another." (801:6.)

DAD & MARLA HAD MOVED INTO THEIR OWN LITTLE HOUSE but still continued going out dining & dancing where they ministered to the local populace. All this time they
faithfully kept in touch with Becky & Arthur. —Arthur who was "locked", "hypnotised" & about to "Forsake All!" because of Becky's faithfulness, when Dad & Marla had entrusted with the job of reeling him in. 

WITH DAVIDITO ABOUT TO BE BORN, Lucy "came to help when she herself was pregnant, about five months. Abraham said she was very special & would encourage the heart of the King, & that's why she was chosen over many other girls who were being considered for the job of taking care of Davidito when he was born." (502:3.)

LUCY WAS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE FAMILY OUTSIDE OF THE ROYAL FAMILY THEY HAD MET SINCE TSC, so it was something new for the Folks as well as for Lucy." (502:59.) Also Rachel & Lydia came to visit & assist with Dito's birth. By this time Mother Eve & Stephen David had also come to Tenerife, as Dad had offered them a house to stay in to encourage Mother to do her writing. Justus & Sally also came, & later Eman Artist & Genesis, so Dad could continue keeping his hand on the pulse of WS Publications.

THEN THE LONG-EXPECTED DAY ARRIVED & ON JANUARY 25th, 1975, DAVIDITO WAS BORN! As Dad recounted: "He was born on the 7th day of the week & he weighed 7.7 pounds. And I was lying there thinking, 'What else was 77? Well, it's 1975 of course. And then it just dawned on me that he was born on the 7th hour of the 7th day according to Bible time!" "Davidito's birth started both a Childcare Revolution & an FF Revolution, & he's causing a Revolution of Love in each of our own lives," Sara later wrote. (587:148, 501:6.)

SARA & ALF WERE ASKED TO COME HELP WHEN DAVIDITO WAS ABOUT TWO MONTHS OLD, as by this time Lucy herself was about eight months pregnant.

AT THIS TIME THE "NEW REVOLUTION" WAS ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY, as Dad had already gotten "The Bloodless Coup" on his birthday. Different leaders were summoned at that time, including Rachel & Emanuel, Jethro, Lydia & Corny Copp, as well as Ho & Falthy who had just come from visiting Godahl. The results of those meetings were the "New Leadership Revolution" in March 1975 (329C) in which the Lord clearly explained "How-To", "What-To", & "When-To!" (329C; 331B, C; 332A, B.)

DURING THIS TIME CARLOS WAS COMING OVER TO VISIT AT THE HOUSE IN LAS QUEVAS. Sara's first impression was: "I knew he was somebody special, because we very rarely, if ever, received guests at the house at this hour of night...Dad had explained to us previously that Carlos was a dear friend of theirs, a waiter in one of the hotels where they had stayed when they first came to the island. They had flown to love Carlos & he had really fallen in love with Marla. When I first saw him I knew that he reminded me of somebody. I knew, but I just couldn't quite place who it was! And suddenly it hit me like a thunderbolt! Carlos was the one the Lord had used to give us Davidito...The Lord later said that He had chosen Carlos so that Davidito would have the strong body of a young man, but the spirit of His Father David!" (505:11-13, 21, 22.)

IN JUNE OF 1975 WHEN DAVIDITO WAS FIVE MONTHS OLD, DAD & MARIA WENT TO LIBYA where they met with Godahl. Lucy & Lydia later followed with Davidito. In July they all went to Italy where they stayed at Zoagli, one of Emanuel's properties, where they met together with Rachel & Emanuel & other World leaders & counselled on "Picking Up The Pieces" (336A.) of the New Revolution.

AFTER A MONTH IN ITALY, DAD & MARIA TOOK THE TRAIN TO BARCELONA, SPAIN, with LUCY & DAVIDITO where they called Dave the handyman to join their team, & then they all travelled together by boat back to Tenerife where Alf & Sara had just rented a new house for them, Casa Tresbol.

THIS WAS SEPTEMBER 1975, & FOR THE FOLLOWING FEW MONTHS THINGS WERE FAIRLY QUIET. There was no heavy ffing being done, as Dad was concentrating on teaching & training the family through family dinner talks & writing letters & meeting with the Royal Family on business. Guests would still sometimes come to the house & Dad & Marla continued to witness occasionally at night in the Clubs or when they would go out during their daily Get Out time "in the gates of the City", as the Lord had told them to do. —(including the Café de París where over a year later, Dad had the "Death In Your Arms" experience with the older Bulgarian man.) (680)

IN OCTOBER OF '75 LUCY LEFT, in the heartbreaking "Days of Heaven" (#395) episode. Alf & Sara were helping with Davidito & Sally joined the staff at this time. Lynn later arrived around Christmastime, along with Arthur & Becky, & Rachel & Martha, & together with the Folks they enjoyed a beautiful Christmastime together.

ARTHUR, WHO HAD BEEN FIRED BY DAD & MARIA BACK IN LONDON, saw them again, after almost two years! Arthur & Becky were over-seeing WS Publications at this time & brought with them the first MO Volume ever printed.

IN EARLY 1976, DAD HAD RACHEL & HER STAFF MOVE DOWN TO TENERIFE, so this is when
Dad & Maria first met Timothy Concerned, who was working with Rachel at the time.

In March of '76, Sara & Alf had a baby girl named Davida, & right after this is when Dad & Maria started taking some of the girls out, one or two a night! FFing was now underway on a fullscale attack as Maria, Becky, Sara, Lynn & Sally were amongst the first girls to go out, following Dad as he made them "fishers of men!" "Fram henceforth (they would) catch men!"
(Mt.4:19; Lk.5:10.)

Some Spanish nationals came: Belen & Maria Jose who did staff duties during the day & FFed at night! Beverly, another Spanish-speaker also came, as did Juan & Gella at this time & Dad began training his Junior Fishermen Timothy Concerned, Emanuelle, Alf, Arthur & Juan!

By the end of April they were going out FFing every night & Dad asked everyone to begin writing FF reports, including the number of people they had witnessed to the night before, how heavy a witness they had given to them, how many got saved, how many filled with the Spirit, as well as transportation & club expenses, & Alf began keeping FF Stats!

Dad & Maria were taking the girls to the "Columbus", which was the first dinner & dance club the two of them had visited upon arrival in Tenerife two years before. Dad & Maria's FF teams were making such a splash that pretty soon the management reserved the whole back room for them, & the waiters & fish soon hailed them as the "Family of Love", as Dad had introduced all the newcomers as his "sons & daughters!" Besides hotel managers, businessmen, & the first catascombers, the Lord led them to witness to a number of policemen, including two different sets of secret police who were assigned to watch them. "The Spirit & the Word of God encased in frail feminine flesh turns out to be the most powerful effective weapon the Lord's ever used! It conquers these men right & left!"—All this to say they weren't having any trouble with the authorities! "Just like I saw in my dream of that little pill that policeman was looking at: I was saying to him, 'But it's so small!'—The little pill of Love, the love-power of God! But he said, 'Yes, but it's so powerfull. It's enough to blow this place apart!'" (55:14; 57:6:20.)

So many visitors were coming to the house every day that it was decided to have one day set aside for visitors, which was later to become the "Church of Love". All of the different houses would invite their fish & friends over to Dad's house every Sunday & Dad would come out in the yard & give a talk, with a running Spanish translation! All this time the Tenerifeans still didn't know who Dad & the Family were!

More daughters of David were recruited to come to Tenerife, among them German Yana & Kristina, Louisa, Judy, Patience & Roberta, as well as more Spanish national Dad gave out little States Bracelets to all the girls & each week the local shepherds would total up the states & a symbolic little medallion was added to their chain: a hat for someone loved, & a star for someone saved. Things were so hot & heavy at the Columbus at this time that the Family would dance & sing to "Mountain Children", often inspiring Dad to raise his hands & speak in tongues right in the Club! Evenings often ended with the majority of people in the Club joining hands & closing in the Lord's Prayer!

However, the Lord had another fish in mind, & one October night when the Columbus didn't reserve a table for them, the Family staged a dramatic walk-out & started going to "Caprichos". This was a more upper class nightclub, adjoining the Cava de Paris, & frequented by the City Fathers, who were next to have the Gospel preached to them in this exciting new way. This is when Sue came to Tenerife to be Maria's secretary & was soon FFing as well.

Back in April '76, Dad had written about "Piscos—The Age of Tribulation?" to ministry of the future that they were learning now, as "God's Whores" & "Priestesses of Love". In May of 1976 Dad confessed he really had "Fishing Fever" but that it was really going to take "Teamwork" with the balt & fisherman working closely together, especially in "Deep-Sea Fishing!" A new situation arose with Lynn, "The Bait That Fell In Love With A Fish"—Bernardo, whom Dad & Maria had befriended some months earlier, & Dad explained what to do with an influential big fish once you've caught him!

By June of '76 everyone was falling under the spell of "God's Whores" but in seeing the boys through, Dad's counsel for the locals was "Don't Drop Out—Keep In!", & continue to be real "Fighters" & witnesses from within the System! Dad's last Letter, "The FF Revolution" stated that he could "feel the importance of FFing in the Spirit, that (they were) pioneering a whole new area & a new ministry which is of tremendous importance, particularly in the opening of whole new closed fields...as the days go on." (M's 567, 560, 561, 550, 553, 547, 552, 573, 542, 551, 575:35—written April through September '76.)
so in invading "caprichos" in october &
beginning to reach the city fathers, dad
went on to explain to the family the need
for "winning the system". (no. 571.)

as they continued to win so many to the
lord with this exciting new method of ffing,
dad saw how this was really the way to
"change the world" through our liberated
convent of "nuns of love", who are "all
permanently & forever married to christ &
can never marry another," called to bring
God's love to many! (565, 570:79.)

by this time the newspapers were inter-
ested & dad was first interviewed in jan 77
by our friend el mundo & then in the fol-
lowing weeks by more local reporters,
as well as reporters from scandinavia
who took group photos of everyone.

---including dad & maria!

the tenerifeans, from the banana-pickers
to the professionals, even church-goers
loved dad & the family, as dad was always
witnessing about the love of Jesus. The
local villagers, where dad lived, testified
he was a "saint!" when the city fathers
greeted dad, many often stopped to respect-
fully hug & kiss him, & one, a mafila head,
would kiss his hand as the catholics greet
the pope! "we were reaching the leaders
of the system! do you understand?--the leaders
of the system!...these men were really fed
up & looking for a new religion." (576:13.)

the family of love had won such acclaim
in tenerife in a few short months that the
bishop of the island had sent one of his
representatives to live in with one of the
girls, where he later got ahold of some mo
letters, so the bishop vowed to stop this
work of God, as it was a threat to his
power! "the church was afraid that this was
going to absolutely sweep the island!...and
it did! the news of it was reaching the
mainland & madrid! it echoed clear back to
spain & up into scandinavia & all europe!"
(576:14.)

on february 28th, 1977, dad was sum-
momed to court for "public scandal", &
cursed the judge behind these false accusa-
tions! "in the early morning, march 5th,
several hours before we went to court for
ffing", dad prayed: "i want to see the ugly
face of my accusers! God will damn them!
they've stuck their finger in God's eye & i
want to see it!! give me this kiss of pleas-
ure to your father David to behold their
destruction, then that wish to destroy me, &
i wish to watch it!" dad also prayed: "show
this community who is right!--the judge &
church, or me & us." (577:1,2,35.)--this
thrilling story can be found in #577, "the
wrath of God!"--a few days later dad & maria
& their personal staff left tenerife.

on march 27th 1977, "the world's
greatest air crash in all aviation history
occurred" on the only runway of the small
tenerifean airport, the only airport of
this small island that we cursed in our
prayers! nearly 600 were killed--double
that of any previous crash, & scores more
seriously injured...property damage, in-
urance costs & damage suits are expected
to soar to nearly two billion dollars!
the courts will be filled with cases from
this crash for years to come!...and the
cause is still a mystery! seven of the
most unlikely & almost impossible "coinci-
dental" factors combined to bring it
about...the judgments of God on the
enemies!--the lord really knows where to
hit the people the hardest--right in their
pocketbook! tourism is already down
40%...followed by "flash floods, flooded
cities."..."many are beginning to sit up &
listen & through it all the family here
is gaining respect." (577:77--
81, 84, 85, 91, 102.)

dad & maria communicated closely with
the brethren left behind who continued to
minister to the fish, & in april 1977 dad
wrote the "ff explosion", sharing the
whole story of tenerife & the family of
love with the worldwide family which set
off a chain reaction of ffing around the
world, the repercussions of which are felt
to this day. Not only did the fruit re-
main there in tenerife, but more souls &
catacombers & disciples were won--a
tenerife continued to be a training ground for
ffing from where teams spread in a further
worldwide witnessing explosion!

in june & july dad wrote a number of
letters of rebuttal to different news-
papers who had presented our message er-
ronously or included slanted views, or
outright lies. These letters were printed &
distributed by the millions on the
streets by our missionaries throughout
europe, to give "our replies" to what had
been said about us, as we stood up with
the truth to "defend the faith!" (590,
586.)

regardless of the lies, the truth was
there, & nevertheless the gospel was
preached. The newspaper articles which
started in tenerife spread to spain &
later scandinavia, germany & italy, encom-
passing all of europe, followed by world
coverage through "time" magazine, & other
papers worldwide in which our message of
love covered the globe, clearly testifying
that in this new age of grace "God's only
law is love!"