From “Cloister” To Classroom!

TEACHING SCHOOL! — A way to witness, relate to others, use talents & prepare for a foreign field!

by Daniel & Joy; Boston, U.S.A.

AT THE SAME TIME AS I AM HOME SERVANT here in Boston, I am also holding a full-time teaching position at a local Montessori school, teaching mathematics & social studies to 25 children aged 9 to 13.

We had been in Europe for five years when we returned to the States last May — Joy & I & our three children. We were able to move into the Boston Home, replacing another family who was preparing to move on.

DURING THE SUMMER, WE BOTH WORKED PART-TIME AS SUMMER DAY CAMP COUNSELOR-TEACHERS. We worked from 8:30-1:30 & we were able to have our children participate in the program without charge. The principal of the school had been observing our techniques with the day camp kids as well as the sample of our own & towards the end of the summer he offered me the opportunity to be a full-fledged teacher there if I were willing to make the commitment to stay the entire school year. I HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE, BUT NO TRAINING AS A TEACHER except for what I had picked up along the way in the Family. After considerable thought & prayer, we decided to go ahead with it.

THE SCHOOL AT WHICH I AM WORKING IS RENOWNED for its exceptionally dedicated, hard-working & tightly-knit staff & it is considered a challenge & a privilege to teach there. PTLLI. As a result, I have received an intense crash course (I estimate 3 or 4 years worth of experience in one year) in teaching, child psychology, special-needs children, school administration, dealing with parents etc. to say nothing of the variety of interesting & influential people with whom I have established firm friendships & to whom I have been able to witness — students, parents, teachers & others.

I FEEL THAT, FROM THIS EXPERIENCE of working with people from within their own world, that I have come to understand people as never before during my eight years in the Family. Having a professional standing has given me a jumping-off point from which to relate to people. I am now approaching my 35th birthday & feel that I am finally beginning to use talents that had been buried for years & that I have emerged from having had a somewhat cloistered perspective! Hallelujah!

AS FOR THE REST OF OUR MINISTRY HERE, it has been two-fold. Firstly, our FFing about which we have learned so much in recent months & have borne some wonderful fruit. Secondly, we have been working with many former Family members who had been estranged, offended or misunderstood — or who had become discouraged or lost faith in the Lord or the Family. We have found the key in working with these brethren has been to relate to them as real people & to avoid the temptation to pull tightly on them.

WITH THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR coming up in June, we’re praying about finding some sort of teaching or tutoring position in some far-flung underground situation abroad. If anyone knows of a prospective opening, please write: Daniel & Joy, Box 2509, Boston, Mass. 02208 U.S.A. (No COG or FOL on the envelope please!)

Love: Daniel & Joy
(formerly Philomena & Daleth) & children Jacob, Robin, Haven & new baby Jeremy.

Cult Members Come Home To Answer Accusations! by Tom Hill

(Topic from “The Citizen”, Ottawa, Canada — Jan. 6, 1979)

TWO MEMBERS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL CHILDREN OF GOD religious cult have come home to Ottawa for their first visit after six years in the sect’s European community. Philip Sherwood, 25-year-old son of Ottawa realtor F. H. Sherwood, & Susan Babbitt, 25-year-old daughter of scientist John Babbitt, flew to Ottawa to spend Christmas with their families. THEY HAD ANOTHER AIM AS WELL — to answer the critics who accuse the cult of brainwashing its members, keeping them in the cult against their will. “We really wanted to refute all the lies they say about us in the media,” Babbitt says.

Susan Babbitt, Philip Sherwood back home for Christmas. Photo: Bryne Flynn

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