

your own thing a horrible accident could occur!

LOOKING AFTER LITTLE BROTHERS & SISTERS IS HARD & RESPONSIBLE WORK!
Your older children should be thanked & encouraged for taking over when you need the break to rest or do some other important work. It is very good for them as they learn to appreciate your job as a mother & also to get to know their little brothers & sisters as people & not just "the crew", but it must be fairly distributed so that one person does not get the whole load, all the time.

FOR A TEENAGER WHO IS DEVELOPING NEW INTERESTS
it is necessary that he have time in which to do so. I get great pleasure when I am working in the kitchen to look thru' the window into the window of Shuly's room & see her sitting at her desk working out a new review system, doing her correspondence or her Russian homework. —Or listening for an hour to Debbie playing the guitar while I'm preparing dinner.

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS EN-GROSSED IN SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE OR INSPIRATIONAL, it can be very frustrating for him to be interrupted to do a menial task that you yourself could easily do with a slight extra effort. Perhaps I go to the extreme, but when I see one of them called away from something they are really into to fetch something trivial, I stand in the gap for them, either doing it myself or sending a less occupied child to do it (or telling them not to be so darned lazy & do it themselves, ha!).

I'VE MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING YOUR TEENAGER. This, I believe, is of great importance, as it will help them in turn to respect others & learn to be considerate. To be respected also will help them feel re-

sponsible, to themselves & to others.

SEXUAL LIBERTY



THIS FOR MOST TEENAGERS IS AN ABSOLUTE BLESSING, & diminishes greatly one of the main causes of rebellion in teenagers. For others it can complicate life as they may feel that something is expected of them that they can't or don't want to give yet. I really can give no advice on this subject relating to teenagers as neither of my big girls are into "sharing" yet.

HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE HOW EARLY EXPOSURE TO WRONG SEX CAN BE VERY HARMFUL. —I'm not even talking about rape or anything so dramatic as that, but my eldest daughter has had tremendous trials about sharing because of the unnecessary attentions of a brother some years ago.

WHEN SHE WAS 11 & 12, WE HAD A BROTHER IN OUR HOME, sweet, hard working & devoted to the Lord & His service, but he had a "crush" on Shuly. At least that is what it looked like, tho' sometimes I don't think that even he knew what he was thinking.

IT WAS IN THE PRE-RNR, PRE-'SHARING' DAYS, & he had been married before, so the poor guy must have been going thru' some pretty bad sex trials. I realised his sex trials & knew

in the Spirit that I was the one indicated to help him, but I never dared breathe such a suggestion to anyone because of the "law".

THIS POOR BROTHER NEVER DID ANYTHING WE COULD PUT OUR FINGER ON, but he used to pay her three times the attention that he paid the other children. He'd go into silks if she didn't kiss him every time she left or entered the house, & he'd get her little gifts apart from the others.

HE'D ALSO INSIST ON GOING INTO HER & DEBBIE'S BEDROOM. If she objected to any of these things, he'd use the Word against her, getting her under terrible condemnation. Also he'd be up early in the morning when she was getting ready for school, & a long time afterward she told me how she'd been revolted & scared because she would see by the shape of his pants that he'd have a hard on!

BECAUSE SHE WAS SO SCARED OF HIM, SHE HATED HIM & got under terrible condemnation. I didn't know about this until afterwards because during this period I had two babies one immediately after the other & would be sleeping in a little later in the mornings.

IN THE END WE HAD TO SEND HIM AWAY as he couldn't understand why we didn't want so much attention paid to Shuly. We'd say, "Leave her alone," & he just couldn't seem to understand or listen to us, maybe because he had never actually touched her (except kisses & hugs). But women can feel these things. We just get the vibes, & imagine how disconcerting for a young girl who is only just waking up to this kind of thing! It really made her revolted & fearful of older men.

SO ALTHO' WE HAVE SEXUAL FREEDOM, we do need to be very aware & make sure that our girls are exposed to sex at the right stage & with the right person, &

that they can handle it emotionally. A girl gets much more deeply involved from a sexual experience than a boy.

THE AGE WILL VARY GREATLY WITH EACH GIRL for her first experience. Some girls will welcome it at 13, & others are still nervous about it at 17 & 18. Shuly has had some great victories in this area, in just letting go & trusting the Lord. She, at 16, just prefers to have boy friends her own age with whom she feels at ease & whom she can handle, & she knows that when the Lord wants her to share with someone He will work it out in His time, His way, & with the person He chooses.

THE SYSTEM

SCHOOL: This will bring your teenager closer to the System than anything else, & its influence will undoubtedly rub off on him to some degree. There are ways you can get around the awful grind & routine of system brainwashing, depending on what country you are in. Shuly loves studying, but—

INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO SCHOOL, SHE HAS CHOSEN TO TAKE DIFFERENT COURSES in different centres. That way she isn't always with the same people & has new souls to witness to, also a wider age group to mix with. Also she can

Come on Baby! Forget about all those things you need to do! Come with me! I'll show you a real good time!

DEBBIE, ON THE OTHER HAND, DOESN'T LIKE STUDYING or school, & the influence of the rowdier kids has rubbed off on her quite a bit, much to our dismay. So when she told us she didn't want to go to high school next year we were very happy.

HERE YOU CAN LEAVE SCHOOL LEGALLY AT 12 YEARS OLD.

So she'll probably do the same as Shuly & choose courses to develop her talents & interests.

IF YOU CAN POSSIBLY GET MORE THAN ONE CHILD IN THE SAME SCHOOL, either your own or children from another Home, or even a brother or sister teaching there, it can be a tremendous help & spiritual support to your child. I am very thankful that this year I have three of my children studying in the same school, in the same building.

YOUR CHILD MAY BE VERY LONELY IN SCHOOL. We are so different that it is hard for our children to have intimate relationships with systemites unless they are Christians, or our own disciples. At first I worried about this, but then I realised why they were so isolated, & had to just trust the Lord.

A TEENAGER SOMETIMES

What a goot!—And his friends were worse! I feel awful! I wish I'd obeyed the Lord's check!

LATER ...

FEELS VERY AWKWARD TO CONTINUALLY WITNESS TO HIS COMPANIONS, & we need to understand this stage. Shuly has found it a hundred percent easier to witness to her old schoolmates now that she has left school!

FRIENDS: Do you know how to make a healthy cake, or cookies, at a moment's notice? Better yet, have you taught your kids to make their own snacks for their friends?—Because if you are a loving, happy family, your teenager will want to bring his friends to your Home.

IT IS VERY COMFORTING FOR A TEENAGER TO KNOW HE CAN BRING HIS FRIENDS back & that they'll be welcome. A boy friend of Shuly's brought her home one afternoon, & he was unusually shy about staying to dinner, so I said, "Please stay, I need your help, I'm all alone with these little ones!" So he stayed. Shuly found out afterwards he was afraid to stay because he always came in & I look very busy. So praise God, I said the right thing & he stayed to three more hours of Shuly's witnessing!

SMALL CHILDREN CAN BE A PAIN IN THE NECK to big brothers & sisters, if they are not trained properly! Shuly & Debbie have trained their little brothers



& sisters to be tactful around visitors (7-yr-old Miriam had to have some extra indoctrination!), especially around boy friends! For example, they know they mustn't say in front of Jose that Alfredo is on the phone! However, in spite of their training, I often have to come to the rescue of the poor innocent victims who are inevitably hugged, set upon or climbed up!

BECOME FRIENDS WITH THEIR FRIENDS, so they always feel welcome. Never embarrass your child in front of his friends. Save rebukes & comments until afterwards. It may discourage him from ever bringing friends back again.

EXPERIMENTING: What do you do when your teenager wants to try something or go somewhere you disapprove of? What I do with Shuly & Debbie is to explain to them my point of view & whenever possible cite a Mo. Letter or Bible passage where appropriate.

I LET THEM KNOW I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT IT, but if they insist & it's obviously not totally unsuitable for their age, or dangerous, I let them go. I'll give you an example: Shuly, a couple of years back, was desperate to go to the latest in-fashion high-class disco. All her friends were going & she wanted to be "with it".

HER ARGUMENT WAS THAT THE EXERCISE WAS GOOD & she could meet people she could witness to. I said the music wasn't edifying & that it was too noisy to carry on any kind of conversation, much less witness. However, her heart was dead-set on it, so I made sure she was taken & brought back by a friend, prayed for her & let her go. She went off all excited & looking beautiful. She came back yawning never to go there again! Her ear-drums were ringing for three days from the volume of the music!

A SHORT WHILE AGO DEBBIE WANTED TO SPEND THE DAY in the countryside—quite a

difference from a disco. However, I had to put my foot down & refuse to let her go, because in the group of friends who were going was one particular 14-yr-old girl who goes to Debbie's school, who is rough, vulgar & has a horrible spirit. We said the only way we would approve of her going was if that particular person wasn't part of the group.

WE JUST NEED TO USE A LOT OF WISDOM

in this area. We can't over-protect our kids.

Many times they have to learn the hard way, which can be quite painful for the parents!

REBELLION

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOUR CHILD STARTS REBELLING? First of all, pray to see if he is a legitimate reason! If there is no apparent reason or fault on your part, the situation will be much more difficult to solve, as there could be such a variety of reasons.

EVERY CASE WILL BE DIFFERENT, & only prayer, love & understanding will help him. You will have to trust the Lord to do the rest, & it may be pretty hard to see your child being broken by the Lord.

There's no hope! The system's ruined her!

Trust the Lord, honey! She's His child!

WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO HAVE TOO MANY CASES OF REBELLION in the family. Some of you who have teenagers

already, or children approaching adolescence, may have joined when your children were well past the first impressionable years. If these children are showing signs of rebellion you may be tempted to think, "Oh well, it's not his fault, he had such a rough time in the System," or "There's no hope, the System's ruined him," or as in our case, be tempted to blame bad handling by inexperienced & authoritarian leadership of the past.

BUT—DIDN'T THE LORD MAKE NEW CREATURES OF US? And most of us were beyond our teens when He saved us from our sins & the System! "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2Cor. 5:17), & "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). So the Lord in His wonderful love always has the solution for us & our dear ones, if we trust Him & obey.

I KNOW IT CAN BE QUITE A CAUSE FOR CONCERN if an older child is giving a bad example to the younger ones. The advice Mother Eve gives about sending a difficult child off to Grandparents for a while could work wonders. Or if there is a good on-fire Home nearby, it may help to send him there for a while, or maybe even send him to his systemite relatives so he can learn to appreciate his own Family of Love. I know that if I sent my kids to their rich cousin's house for only one week, they'd come back home running & kiss the ground on arrival!

Just make sure your child knows that you & the Lord love him, no matter what happens, & that you haven't lost faith in him.

WHEN THE LORD WORKS DIRECTLY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CHILD

YOU MAY FIND THAT YOUR

CHILD IS GOING THRU' A COOLING-OFF PERIOD TOWARDS THE LORD. There may be many reasons for this, but let me tell you, the Lord knows better than we do. He cares for His own & He'll bring His little sheep back, wiser & dearer & closer to His heart.

DON'T WORRY OR FRET, BUT PRAY FAITHFULLY, & your little lamb will come back to the fold. I've found in my experience that it is far better to let the Lord deal with your older child than to lay down the law yourself.

GIVE LOVING COUNSEL & ENCOURAGEMENT, BUT LET THEM CHOOSE whom they will serve—themselves & the System, or the Lord. They'll come back. "Train up a child in the way he should go; & when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6). One of the hardest things to bear is to see the Lord dealing with your children! All you can do is pray & love them & let your good example convict them.

I know what you're going thru'. Just remember, we love you & are praying for you!

I PERSONALLY HAVE JUST COME THRU' A VERY DIFFICULT YEAR in which the Lord was working in 16-yr-old Shuly's life. She has always loved the Lord deeply & has been very much on-fire since she joined the Family at 7 years old.

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OF GRADE SCHOOL SHE WENT THRU' A DIFFICULT PERIOD, approaching adolescence, & she found it very hard to witness to her school friends & was embarrassed about the Family in front of them.

MOVING TO MEXICO FOR 6 MONTHS helped her tremendously, & she blossomed like crazy. Back again in her native country she got into a school routine & became an exceptionally good student she couldn't help going thru' trials about her education.

SCHOOL BEGAN TO BE HER WORLD, which was very easy to slip into. It took most of her time, she loved studying, it was a Christian school, so what else was there? We were a small Home, mostly childcare, not exactly the greatest stimulus for an intellectually inclined, vivacious, attractive young person!

PART OF THIS TIME HER FATHER HAD GOTTEN INTO DRINKING AGAIN which did not exactly encourage her to do things at home or bring friends here.

THEN EXACTLY A YEAR AGO SHE GOT VERY SICK with what looked like a strange flu. But altho' the fever left she steadily went downhill. I took her to doctors & of course we were praying earnestly to see why she had these various aches & pains, loss of appetite & weakness.

AT LAST HER DISEASE WAS DIAGNOSED AS LUPUS, a very unusual degenerative disease about which Shuly has already written in her own testimony. We asked the Lord why so many times, wondering where it was we had failed.

OUR POOR LITTLE 15-YR-OLD SPENT TWO NIGHTMARE WEEKS in the hospital undergoing exhaustive & extremely painful & unpleasant tests. Almost every organ had to be tested to

see how much the disease had affected her.

IN SPITE OF THE MISERABLE TIME THERE, whenever she could she'd cheer up the other patients, giving testimonies, telling jokes, reading the Word with them before lights out, & altho' feeling groggy herself, she'd escort old ladies to the bathroom & back.

I COULD TELL THE EFFECT SHE HAD on the patients & hospital staff by the way she is greeted each time she goes back for an appointment. In fact, the head doctor of the Medicine Dept. offered us any help he could & was extremely sweet & kind to us. In turn I found him an English teacher (a dear sweet American sister) & he is now her helpful & loving Fish, saved & really turned on to the Word. —Also a marvellous contact for PG sisters.

THE DOCTORS GAVE SHUYL SOME VERY HEAVY DRUGS that made her feel ill, & sometimes she'd ask my questions about brethren that had gone to be with the Lord, & was obviously totally discouraged about ever getting better!

SOMETIMES SHE'D WAKE UP AT NIGHT with such a painful itching in her toes that she'd be crying & use the only relief she could find, cold water at high pressure from the tap. Many times we'd wake up & our hearts sank to hear the running water in the bathroom on the occasions that she didn't wake up.

A COUPLE OF TIMES I CAME BACK HOME TO FIND HER FIGHTING BACK TEARS as "accidentally" she'd come across horrific stories of people who were dying slowly of lupus, & of women who had horribly deformed faces because of the disease. How the Enemy loves to use fear as one of his main weapons! Can you imagine the trial? We were totally unable to help her.