

DAD'S FLYING AMBASSADOR!

Lessons & Tips on Being a Visiting Servant, by FAITHY!

From Faith & Juan:

Dear Dad & Maria,
GBY! GJN! We are so thankful for each & every Letter which causes us to keep revolving & bringing about the needed changes in all of us, your children! TTL!

THANK YOU FOR EN-TRUSTING US WITH THE EXCITING TASK OF VS AT LARGE, your Flying Ambassador, in which we have been able to learn once again the meaning of true shepherding & feeding the sheep in obedience to your call. TTL! It has been a tremendous blessing & a thrilling experience to visit our beautiful Family, & we can say with all our heart that we do belong "to the greatest family in the world, the family of God's Love."—Surely God must think us! worthy to give us! such a priceless privilege to be a member of His Family!" Hallelujah! TYJ!

WHEN WE HEARD RUM-ORS THAT SOME BACKSLIDEN former chain leaders were saying that our Family was falling apart we just had to laugh, honestly, as nothing could be further from the truth! The only ones that are falling apart are those who are falling apart from us! Ha!

SINCE RECEIVING OUR ASSIGNMENT AFTER THE RNR to begin travelling the Homes, we hit the road & so far we have visited 32 countries on 5 continents! These are: Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, New Caledonia, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, U.S.A. (L.A., Calif.), Bahamas, Peru, Venezuela, Curacao, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Spain, Libya, The United Kingdom,



Faithy (right) during a visit with Job & Charran & family.

Belgium, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Austria & Poland.

ALL THIS IN JUST 18 THRILLING MONTHS! Wow! What a Family! It has amazed us to meet personally our brave pioneers on many difficult foreign fields, & to see what the Lord has helped them to do as they "trust & obey" & continue to live the Letters & "Seek First"! Hallelujah!

WE'VE LEARNED SO MANY WONDERFUL LESSONS along the way about "Hearing From God" & turning to the Word & the Letters for our answers & encouraging others to do the same, as many times it has been necessary to "get right into the nitty gritty & see what the problems are..." (Duties of KQS's & VS's 674:16.) The basic problem is that we all should be hearing from God more & daily, & He will guide us to the right solution thru' the right Letters!

ONE OF THE MAIN JOBS OF A VS, we've learned, is to be a loving listening ear &

then help them by hearing from God ourselves first & then trying to guide them to the Letters on the subject. And as you said, the Index has been a tremendous help in this. God bless our Index team!

ANOTHER IMPORTANT TOOL in helping to locate the problem in the Home, if there is one, has been the Home Checklist, which we have used whenever we felt it necessary, & it was lots of fun too! Reading "Happy Housekeeping" beforehand together with the Home gave everyone the faith & freedom to really speak out & if need be, make the necessary changes to make it a good sample of a happy Heavenly Home! TTL!

ALSO WE FOUND IT WAS A LOT OF FUN TO TRY & COOK AT LEAST ONE MEAL when visiting a Home to give them a sample of love by means of a good tasty meal—oftentimes cooking a one-pot dish, as you described in one of the chapters on camping, teaching them your healthy

yet time-saving, fuel-saving, delicious recipe.

WASHING DISHES is also a good time to fellowship with others in the Home & to really get the inside story on what's really going on! Ha!—As every one feels more free to talk during this dirty dishes time as you become one with them.

OF COURSE SOMETIMES WHEN WE HAVE HAD A HEAVY SCHEDULE & a lot of travelling & we needed to save our strength for the most important thing, which is to feed the sheep spiritually, we have taken them out for one-course meal, usually a cheap place & maybe even greasy spoon. If we can afford it, we may even go to a little nicer place with a nice atmosphere for fellowship.

COMMUNION OR EVEN COME-UNION has been very fruitful & uniting & enjoyable when our strength, time & circumstances permit. TTL! The latest Letter on this subject is really a blessing as it talks about our physical healing thru' Communion, & also our unity physically & spiritually, & how important it is.—"The Real Meaning of the Lord's Supper" It is so needed!

WE HAVE FOUND THAT A LITTLE FAMILY FELLOWSHIP & DANCING can be very relaxing, helping everyone escape their inhibitions & fears, besides being fun, & it can even sometimes lead to a little more! Ha! We tried it & we like it! In fact we love it!

ANOTHER THING WE FOUND THE HOMES NEED IS A GOOD OLD FASHIONED INSPIRATION TIME in which everyone participates, singing faith-building & inspiring songs. We just pass the guitar around the circle for everyone who can play to sing a song(s). When there are children

present, we dedicate the first part of our inspiration time to them, singing songs they know & can lead us all in.

WE LIKE TO USE SCRIP-TURE SONGS like "John 3:16", "Eph. 4:32" etc. & also action songs like "Gospel Gypsies", "The Time to Be Happy", "The Name of Jesus", "Lord's Army" etc., which they can perform & lead us "old pirates" in the motions. "A little child shall lead them", as the Scripture says!

WHEN IT IS FAMILY INSPIRATION TIME we find it's better to stick to songs of praise & thanksgiving, like Psalms & the songs which made the Revolution, instead of our commercial witnessing songs. Because these are the songs that really have the Spirit & move you to action! It has amazed us that our new disciples, nationals & children have in some cases never heard some of our power-packed & convicting songs of our first inspirationalists like Aaron, Esther, Black Simon, Jeremiah & others!

SOMETIMES IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE THEY HEARD THEM & SANG THEM, like one of our original Scandinavian pioneers mentioned to us recently when we sang the song, "Now all I want to do is serve Him", one of the songs that helped him in the early days to keep fighting.—Songs which really motivated us to serve Him & others with all our hearts & even made us weep!

IT IS SO BEAUTIFUL TO REMEMBER IN SONG His story & our history to remind us of what great things the Lord has done in us & thru' us with our Music Miracles! These are the songs which have kept us & will keep us in times of trouble in spite of persecution, trials & tribulation. TTL! Sock it to us, that's the Spirit!

WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR ALL OUR VS'S around the world & the tremendous job they're doing! GB'M! We know it is a very inspiring & rewarding task, but also a very sacrificial life, oftentimes having to leave children & loved ones at home for months at a time in order to visit & keep our Homes happy & united as one Family.

SOMETIMES WE FEEL SO LIMITED because after all we are only human & often can't fulfill all that certain people or Homes would like us to during our visits, altho' most have been very considerate & hospitable & understanding of this. GB'M!

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO BE OF SERVICE to you & the Lord & His Family in this capacity to help care for & feed the sheep. Lord help us to stay close to Him & the Letters & in tune with the Spirit & to follow your sample of faithfulness & love. "They that love Me most, follow closest."—Lots of love & prayers—yours always—Faithy & Juan.

Thoughts On The VS Ministry!

From Paul & Marianne:

Dear Dad & Maria,
WE WANT TO SAY THAT WE HEARTILY SHARE

YOU FEELINGS ABOUT & CONCERN FOR THE VS'S. After having been VS's for 1 year & doing this job again in England, we must say that it is one of the most exciting, thrilling & inspiring jobs we've had in the Family, tho' also

one of the most demanding & testing.

IT IS LIKE FULL-TIME WITNESSING WITHIN THE FAMILY. You really fall in love with your family & you get to see them grow & progress, & feel you bring them some fresh vision & inspiration—a little bit of "spiritual fresh air"—as well as being the outside person who can help point out the weak areas & the strong ones & inspire them to work more on this or that area.

SO MANY HOMES HAVE ASKED FOR MORE VISITS to "shorten the cord", more "pastoring", more communication about the "overall" or national vision. We have really been torn between this need for more visits & the fact that the VS's can't do more than they do at the moment, & also the fact that good VS's are hard to find. GB Andre & Maria, they are hard working & sacrificial, too much sometimes—& your little note about them is so right on.

CONCERNING THE HOMES BEING VERY DEMANDING, we are glad that you feel the same way. We did feel that rather than having another team of weak VS's, it was better for the Homes to learn to look up to the Letters for their answers & get fewer but better visits, as the more you are around, the more people tend to depend on you instead of the Letters & the Lord.

WE DO BELIEVE THAT THE HOMES NEED TO FEEL MORE THAT IT IS A GRACE—a favour—to be visited. Then we feel they would receive & help the VS better. One thing it would be good to mention is that the VS's do not receive a "big budget", so the Homes will feel more responsible to help them on their way.

WE HAVE ENCOURAGED, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, THE IDEA OF AN "AREA SERVANT" to provide the needed circulation of blood, guidance & inspiration, which we all need. As we have gone around, we have found some real servants who have true shepherds' hearts, more training & experience or just more fire & conviction, & these we have encouraged to "serve" or "parent" their area, to always offer an open house & a listening ear & sometimes to coordinate efforts.

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE RNR WAS A TRANSITION from a "feudal system" to "anarchy"—in the sense that everyone is now equal & there are no leaders—on the contrary, it is the time for the true servants or leaders to take care of their flocks, which means standing up for God's work & organising & making sure everything is running smoothly & according to communal decisions etc.

THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL IDEA OF THE "DISTRICT" (in the old "Chain") which was the best working link of the Chain, probably because it was fairly small. People are starting to realise that the Chain itself was not the mistake but the fact that it was a broken chain!

WE FEEL SAD SOMETIMES that people who really have a servant's heart & talent are afraid to initiate local homes getting together for prayer, testimonies & inspiration or other projects for fear that they would be accused of acting like the old "Regional Shepherd" when some young servants of smaller homes could really benefit from the training! Dad has written so many times about teaching others to teach others, training leaders etc.

THE VS'S CERTAINLY

CAN'T DO IT ALL & the young servants do need personal attention & guidance. Some major mistakes & unwise moves have been made, to the point of endangering the whole work of one city, because some young servants were too proud to seek advice from the others who were not humble enough either to propose their counsel.

FROM OUR EXPERIENCE IN ONE LARGE CITY, tho' all the brethren are sweet, responsible & willing, most of them being "older brothers", unless someone was willing to coordinate the work among the 3 Homes (the provisioning, FF'ing, printing) some dissension would always start to subtly creep in, little seeds of disunity, & the work would start to slow down; a serious mistake was made once when the FF'ers were not really being overseen, endangering not only the FF'ing but also the other aspects of the work.

BUT WE HAVE SEEN SUCH WONDERFUL FRUITS when the Homes do work in unity, but this of course always takes someone to initiate & keep it operating smoothly. Not only at the Home level, but also at the area level. The key word these days seems to be "unity" as everyone is finding out more & more that "in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Pr. 11:14).

WE HAVE NOTICED THAT THE HOMES LACK FELLOWSHIP even more than VS guidance. They need to know that the Family is doing good, in fact better than ever before! And because the VS always carries these good news & testimonies everyone is so hungry to hear, all the Homes cry for more VS visits.

BUT IF THERE WAS A LITTLE MORE FELLOWSHIP & UNITY AT THE AREA LEVEL,

consequently there would be more guidance & inspiration. The VS responsibility would then remain of counselling the Homes according to the Letters with this overall vision—which they get in travelling to all the Homes—instead of trying to solve the problems of 50 Homes of their whole area.

The FN testimonies would be sufficient as well in bringing the "world vision" to the local Home!

SO, WE HAVE FELT THAT THE VS ENCOURAGING THE stronger Homes to help out a little more the other surrounding Homes, that this could be the partial solution to the need for fellowship, sharing & inspiration that the Homes have.

WE REALLY FEEL THAT ENCOURAGING MORE UNI-

TY IN THE LOCAL WORKS still leaves a lot of room for indigency, personal burden, initiative & vision & fully enables each one to be used to the fullest of his ability.

AT FIRST IN ONE LARGE CITY, to cure selfishness, we even put the finances of all the Homes together & the Lord wonderfully blessed it by giving us even over our needs!

PTL! So we do feel that a lot of problems, lack of personnel, even financial crises that the Homes go to their VS for, could be solved by applying "Getting Organised" & "The Wise Leader" amongst the few nearest Homes & really helping each other as brothers & sisters, uncles & aunts would if they lived in the same area!

"LET'S GET IT TOGETHER

& work together & enjoy together! The only way we're going to win this war is to fight it together, & not against each other, but together with each other against the enemy!" (263:83)

WELL, SORRY TO HAVE MADE THIS SO LENGTHY, but we have been really burdened about it, & torn between the heart of the Homes & the limitation of the VS's. This local unity is how we have felt we could help the local works. We have seen it working in a lot of places & bearing a lot of good fruits as "God always seems to bless people living at peace with each other & helping each other & showing a large measure of Love" (No. 530:43). (Amen! I agree! Let's do it!—Dad!)

Childcare Jewels!

TEACHING WHILE TRAVELLING!

Tips from Adam & Patience; on the road:

LONG STRETCHES OF DRIVING I found good for having "schooltime" as then the kids are open for something to do. Workbooks are really handy, & we do a lot of cutting & pasting & drawing & colouring.

IT IS A HELP TO HAVE SCHOOL ITEMS ORGANISED. I keep all kinds of things like scissors, cello tape, glue, rubberbands etc. in one box, pieces of cloth etc. in another & crayons in another. We put up large clips on strings where the curtains are hung, one for each child, where we put up their drawings or use it for new words they're learning.

WHEN THE CHILDREN PICK UP ALL SORTS OF ITEMS during our rest stops

such as leaves, stones, flowers, sticks & shells, we use them for gluing, pressing & read about them in our nature books. (I made sure we had handy the books on those subjects likely to arise during the trip.)

TRAVEL BROCHURES & ADVERTISEMENTS are hand-

y to use for the colourful pictures. We also used them as wallpaper for a simple dollhouse we made out of milk cartons & for pressing leaves between the pages or wrapping paper for something they found. I found they really like it if we take time to do something with the items they find along the way.

FLANNELGRAPHS ON TAPE!

From Norwegian Martha; Denmark:

A FEW WEEKS AGO WE ORDERED THE 'MUSIC WITH MEANING' TAPE from India. On that tape are 2 radio-plays—"The Rock in the Road" & "Change the World". Using the Flannelgraph by Zeb from Family Care, I put on the tape & show the kids the flannelgraph. They love it! To illustrate the beginning of the story where the king & queen have a conversation I just use 2 persons



Bedtime in the van on the road! Emmanuel-1½ & Eleanor-3½ of Adam & Patience.