

## Tips On How We Do Our Visiting Mobile Style!

From a Travelling VS Family With 5 Children!

From Arthur & Becky: WE ARE SO THANKFUL FOR ALL THE EXPERIENCE & LESSONS learned, both in England & the Benelux as regular VSs & now in other parts of Europe more as inspirationalists. There is such a difference, & we really love being on the positive, inspirational side of things much more!

WE HAD A WONDERFUL VISIT FROM FAITHY & JUAN, PAUL & MARIANNE, from whom we learned some invaluable lessons. They were such a positive, encouraging, loving, uplifting sample. And their love & good news, pictures & testimonies really revived & strengthened us. We'll never forget these times they spent encouraging us. We sure needed the love & inspiration & were so thankful for it & we know we all need it. FAITHY & JUAN SHARED WITH US TO BE NOT JUST HEARERS of the Word only but doers also, & that really helped us to get on the ball in many areas that lacked in our own lives. A sample is better than a sermon, so we started to work on our own little family's sample, & little by little we all started to change & grow together.

WE WERE ALSO REMINDED BY P&M HOW IMPORTANT A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR IS, & they showed us how to laugh at ourselves & not take everything so seriously, & their positive, loving fellowship really fed us & helped us relax & we could become ourselves much more. And as Dad says in "Be So Happy", "It's this very joy & happiness & obviously loving fellowship which is so attractive

to others." SO FROM OUR WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE WITH THESE 4 BEAUTIFUL "DISCIPLES OF DAVID", we know what a faith builder & inspiration love is & sharing news, pics & testimonies of other countries feeds & is such a unifying force. And this is what we try to keep in mind when we visit the Homes.

WE WANT TO REMAIN A BLESSING & GOOD TESTIMONY wherever we visit with our large family of 5 children, so we try to keep a few things in mind so as not to be a burden in any way:

1. We always try to visit with our caravan & van clean & neat & a good testimony. It's a big job & we have to really work at it.
2. We always try not to park right on top of the Homes initially, as this could put extra pressure on them.
3. We always try to dress neatly & be clean, & remember that we are representatives of our King of kings as well as our own King & Queen. Paul & Marianne also reminded us that we are still in the Age of Pisces & have

to be a good sample in our appearance & that we still need to be good bait!

4. When we first arrive in a new city we try to go out & get to know the town & situation & maybe sing with the kids & litness a little, meet people etc., so we are a good testimony to the brothers & sisters & have testimonies to share too about their own area. That really helps the Homes to feel at one with us. We try to do this when possible before we even contact the Home.

5. Our initial contact with the Home is important, whether it be by phone or a brief visit if they can't be reached by phone, especially as the Homes we've been visiting we've never been to before. Most of the Homes have been notified previously by the KOS that we are travelling & visiting & so they are expecting us at some time or other. But our first contact & conversation tells a lot about how receptive they are to having us in their area, & then we proceed from there.

6. We know ourselves that 5 kids & 2 adults is quite a handful to be invited to a Home, & so we usually suggest a picnic at the beach or a park where everyone can have fun & relax, & the children are free & happy too. This takes the pressure off the Home

so they don't have to be concerned about cooking a special meal, cleaning up or any extra work.

7. We've found from experience that it's very hard to keep 5 active kids happy, a good testimony & out of trouble when visiting in someone else's home, as they are so excited with the new surroundings, toys & the running water in the bathroom, ha! It usually keeps one of us occupied full-time to make sure they are behaving themselves, which leaves the other one free to share testimonies & pictures etc., but this is not a very good situation. So we have come to the conclusion that an outdoor free-for-all & picnic is much, much better in which we are both free to fellowship & share & get to know the brothers & sisters. Everyone brings their own picnic, which makes it easier on everyone.

8. We try to pick a time & place that is convenient for the Home & we try to be sensitive to their needs, & respect their time & schedule. Inviting them out for a picnic together & to visit our "home" really turns them on, so we try to find a place where we can take the caravan along.

9. Many Homes have invited us for meals, which of course is always a blessing, but we feel things are much more fruitful when we can first have a picnic together & share before accepting a Home invitation.

10. We try to keep on a high inspirational plane, so we limit our visits as far as actual time is concerned, depending on each situation of course, so that we can remain a good testimony & not wear out our welcome & so that the children can be a good sample during that time. We usually give the 3 youngest children naps, & this time is always good for sharing testimonies & pics, & getting to know each other better. Picnics have lasted

4-5 hours & even 6 or more some times, but Home visits are usually shorter & usually last about 3-4 hours. This is usually enough time to have fellowship with every individual & get to know them a little.

11. It's important to know everyone & give each the same time when possible, as some will try to take more of your time than others, & the quieter ones could feel left out.

12. We also try to have the kids share some songs with everyone which is lots of fun & very inspiring. Everyone loves music, & it soon gets others involved playing & singing in turn around the circle. We have had really good inspirational times together doing skits, singing, sharing testimonies, taking photos too & showing how the caravan works & sharing how we do it with the children.

13. Homes with children are often more appreciative & more aware of our needs too for help with laundry, showers, food etc. So many Homes have said how encouraging it is to see us together & still going for the Lord with our big family. So many are amazed & ask all the time how we manage it. The fact that we are a big family & were able to get our rig together so quickly with the help of Family, Fish & of course the Lord & that we support ourselves too by singing, litness, mail ministry etc. in just the same way as they do, also makes them feel close to us & able to relate to us more. They are often amazed that we travel by faith, & this is such an encouragement to us because we know only too well our own shortcomings & failures & know we still have a long way to go ourselves.

14. One important factor that has had a very big effect & in fact has made our ministry possible is that we are already known intimately thru' the Letters. The

Family really love Dad & Maria with a special love for sharing everything with them about themselves in the Letters, & in the same sort of way they already feel they know us thru' our testimonies & our baring our souls to everyone already.

15. We don't get involved with the problems of the Home as that isn't our job, but we just try to encourage & love & inspire the Homes, as love is the greatest force in the world & what everybody needs is love, it's positive & it's faith-building & it's creative. It's good to forget about our problems & just stop & praise the Lord & share all the great things He has done for us. Let's talk about Jesus!

17. Remembering the names of everyone is important too, & we always try to write down everyone's names so that later when we send them a thank-you note we can mention them by name, as the personal touch means so much more & it shows you love & care.

18. We always write thank-you notes & when possible we send photos of our picnic or other times together.

19. We are working on a slide show too, which is really inspiring. Also, slides are a lot cheaper to develop than photos. We also have Bible slides in colour which we plan to show while playing the "Story of Love" tapes. This will really be good for the children & we're thinking of teaching Gabriel, 10, to show the slides to the children while we share with the big people.

PTL! WE COUNT IT SUCH A PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT the different Homes, & we realize what a great responsibility it is. Hope these tips are a help, not only to other VS teams, but an inspiration & blessing to all our mobile families too! WLY! Hope to see you soon! Love, Becky & Arthur.



Picnic in a mountain meadow in Spain!—(back) Julio, Pandita, Marie, Luz, Josue, Becky with Artie. (front) Gabriel, Knight, Sharon, Pablo & Lazarus. Photo by Arthur.

### The mobile life is the greatest life on earth!

From Ezra & Rose Guitier; Europe: WE'VE BEEN LIVING IN A TRAILER NOW FOR 5 MOS. & think it's the greatest life there is on this earth & wouldn't go back to living any other way! We've found such a freedom in serving the Lord & we're free to go wherever He leads!

WE'VE SPENT THE PAST 3 MONTHS IN A CITY the Family has hardly reached before as it was always kind of out of the way & nobody thought of trying to establish anything permanent there. First of all, housing has been no problem in our pioneering, as we live in a trailer, so there was no need to spend a lot of time finding a house, furniture, utilities etc.—What a blessing! We always find good places to park, usually out in the country on a farm of people we meet litnessing or witnessing.

### Out of nothing—all our needs supplied!

From Jonathan & Saphir; Eur.:

IT ALL STARTED WHEN WE GOT FED UP PAYING HUGE BILLS & rent for a house we couldn't keep up. In the paper we found a Mercedes diesel van for sale for 15,000 Francs. After trying to raise the funds for about 2 months, we were still short 2,000 Francs. So we put it to the Lord that if the guy would not let us have it with a 2,000 F. discount, it wasn't the Lord's will. We grabbed the phone & told the man we'd take his van for 13,000 F. only. He didn't even discuss or argue with us. So the next day it was ours!

THE NEXT MIRACLE WAS

OUTFITTING THE VAN as it was just an empty shell, & we were now broke. We decided to provision the wood to make a bed & seat with storage underneath. Saphir phoned a wood factory & the boss told us to come down the next day with all the measurements we needed. They cut all the wood for us too. We didn't have any windows either, so we phoned a glass factory where they told us the same thing as at the wood factory, & we went to pick up our windows. Then we provisioned a garage mechanic to put them in for us.

SO WE HAD OUR VAN READY, BUT NO CARAVAN —& we were broke. We received together the vision of Dad on a tree sawing off the branch by faith, so we decided to give a due date for leaving our house —3 months. With 15 more days to go, one morning I passed by an old mailbox & there was an old wet newspaper, 1 month old. The Lord told me to open it.

So I did & read, "FOR SALE: CARAVAN, 5½ meters, bunk beds..."—everything we needed. So I ran to the phone & said, "I'll buy it!" We arranged a date to pay for it & phoned all our friends & kings, but no one could afford to help us! At that time Saphir went to the hospital to have our 3rd child. I phoned her father asking for help but he couldn't help either. WE HAD ONE MORE WEEK LEFT IN OUR HOUSE, but as Dad says, "Faith is positive, faith is sure, faith is knowing" & the next day Saphir's father sent a telegram saying he wanted to see the caravan & advanced us the money to buy it, GBH! So 3 days before we were due to leave our house we had a big caravan, big enough for our family of 5! PTL! He never fails in one of all His precious promises, & thanks to Dad for his faith-building words! We sure claimed them to the Lord & out of nothing all our needs were supplied! —Jonathan.



Saphir framed by the doorway of their "miracle caravan"!

### Full-time, thanks to Mobility!

From Rafael & Pleiades; Europe: WE ARE REALLY EXCITED TO LIVE A MOBILE LIFE!

We never dreamed we would ever live like this. Since we started 2½ months ago in a caravan & van the Lord has taught us a lot. We work now closer with our children & have learned how to witness with them as a family. We have found a new outreach in old folks homes & hospitals where the children sing & litness too. We now have 4 children—Teresa-6, Neshe-4, Stephen-3 & Heidi-4 months.

IN OUR TRAVELS THE LORD HAS DONE MANY LITTLE MIRACLES. For example, our laundry & how to wash it was one of the things we feared about getting mobile. The Lord has really encouraged us & sent people who offered to wash it. In one town the priest did it for us. In another town, the old folks home, in another a woman we hadn't even met sent her daughter to ask us for our dirty laundry so she could wash it! In the same place we found breakfast in a basket outside our door on 3 different days also! In the last 2½ months since being mobile we haven't paid more than \$4 on diesel, because the Lord has supplied free fuel!

THIS CHANGE HAS RE-NEWED US SO MUCH, & each day we're so excited to see what will happen next. And the kids love it too! We are able to reach areas that are virtually untouched, which is a big encouragement, especially to the children, since we were in one big city for the last 3½ years. In the past we had made faith trips when we had only 2 children, but as our family grew we found it was too difficult without a caravan. We're so happy & thankful for the Mobile Ministry Letters to enable us to keep going & serving the Lord full-time!

### EAST BLOC TRAVEL TIPS!



Lots of new places to discover!—Gabriella Gypsy enjoys the view from an old monastery outside Sofia, during a trip thru' Bulgaria! Photo by Jeremiah Gypsy.

Compiled by Thaddeus, W.S. researcher:

**BULGARIA & ROMANIA:** An Int'l. Driving Permit is essential for these countries. Americans can officially obtain one only in the U.S., altho' I know of some who have gotten it in Europe.

**DIESEL FUEL** is very difficult if not impossible to obtain, due to a desperate shortage.

**PETROL** is usually very low octaine—maximum of 86. Ignition would need to be retarded to cope & care taken in driving due to the consequent loss of

power. **PETROL STATIONS ARE FEW** & far between, so care must be taken not to let fuel drop below ½ tank. Queues of one hour for petrol are usual.

**ENGINE OIL** is of poorer quality, & Western oil should be taken in to avoid overheating problems.

**PETROL COUPONS** must be bought at the border & paid for in Western currency.

**SPARE PARTS** for Western cars are not available at all in these countries. If you break down, getting spares is an ardu-

ous business, but the inevitable bureaucracy can be helped along with a greased palm! Patience & persistence are the keys.

**ROADS** are not too good & signs appear in Cyrillic Script (like Russian) in Yugoslavia & Bulgaria. (Yugoslavia & Bulgaria are both Slavic countries, but Rumania has more in common with French, & French-speakers should be able to make themselves understood without much difficulty.) All writing in Rumania is Roman.

**THE BLACK MARKET** flourishes in these countries as there is a shortage of everything, & queues for what there is.

Whilst the Black Market is illegal & frowned upon by the government, it is a tolerated institution as it brings in much needed foreign currency. You can normally get 3 times as much as at the bank, so take as much in as possible.

**CAMPsites**, altho' basic & rudimentary, are very cheap.

**VISAS** should be obtained at the Embassy before beginning the trip & not obtained at the border.