

Fish Brother Fisherman!

A New Life in Jesus - thru 'FFing'!

From Donato; U.S.A. (written on his 54th birthday):
Dearest Dad & Maria,
GOD BLESS YOU! MY HEART IS OVERFLOWING WITH SO MUCH LOVE! It is truly a miracle what has happened in my life since meeting the Family back in June '78! At that time, after having been FF'd by Senaah in Europe, I wrote you & expressed my hope of becoming a full-time member of your loving Family. Hallelujah! PTL! It has come to pass! His rewards are a hundred-fold! He has answered my prayers beyond my wildest dreams!

TO RECAP: After visiting Senaah again in April '79 a year went by before I could get back to Europe. During that time Senaah kept faithfully encouraging me thru' the mail to stay in the World & keep reading the Letters, & PTL, it kept me close to the Family.

IN THE U.S. SOME BRETHREN CONTACTED ME & I was able to have fellowship. Tho' hesitant to share sexually at first with anyone else, because of my love for Senaah, it was the true love that a sister showed me & her reading "Raul's Knife" with me that made me realise even more how unified in love thru' the Letters is this true Family of Love!

ONE YEAR AGO I VISITED THE HOME IN SPAIN where Senaah was staying. (She & her previous mate had split up 6 months earlier). While there I completely immersed myself in the Family life & even had an experience with faith healing for which I really thanked the Lord! It was then that I really began to see how the brethren had dedicated their lives fully to the Lord & how they were trying to live the Letters.

I COULD ALSO SENSE THAT



Donato: A new life at 54!

SENAAH'S LOVE FOR ME was truly from the Lord & that I never did & never will have a claim on her. It was good to have that settled in my mind for from then on I felt much more like a brother.

SENAAH TOLD ME OF HER EVENTUAL PLANS TO GO TO SOUTH AMERICA, having just read "Americans Abroad". She said she would first land in Central America because she'd met an influential Fish who was going to help her get set-up there. During this visit I met Arthur & Becky & was so inspired by their sample. (Senaah told me later that their sample had given her the faith to make the move of mating up with me & helping me to become a full-timer!)

DURING THAT VISIT A YEAR AGO I BEGAN TO MAKE PLANS AS TO HOW TO FORSAKE ALL & maybe find a mate & a home to team up with in South America. Once back home in the U.S. I began Fishing & found a sheepy woman whom I led to the Lord. It was the first time I had ever shared Jesus with a systemite while making love! So wonderful, & she loved it! And it was so gratifying to be there for her sake & not merely for my own needs for a relationship.

THEN IN AUGUST I RECEIVED A PHONE CALL & LETTER FROM SENAAH. What a bomb! She asked if I still had the faith to mate with her, forsake all & go to Central America with her! She had prayed & had been led to see that my

forsaking her & being willing to put Him first & be in the Family for Him & not only because of her, gave her the burden & the faith. She told me to read the Letter "The Bait That Fell in Love With a Fish" (No. 552). I cried!

IN SEPT. SENAAH & HER TWO BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS ARRIVED & we were betrothed before the Lord & had a communion with the children & made plans to leave my job & city, selling the house & heading for Central America. We even told my parents & children who are 29, 23 & 20.

THE LORD HAS REALLY BLESSED US during this time that we are waiting to leave the States. We have established a DTD ministry. Senaah has been able to get out witnessing & we have been going out FF'ing once a week at least. We have good potential for a Church of Love.

NOW, ANOTHER MIRACLE! Senaah's Fish, the one mentioned earlier, invited her to Central America & introduced her to people that would be able to help us when we get there. She fed him the Word & watched him grow to be almost like a brother! He came to visit us here, staying in our home, & it has now come full-circle. By God's grace I have made the metamorphosis from Fish to brother helping my mate with a big Fish! I assure you, it was a bottle-breaker for me, but PTL for your Letters, Dad, I was able to have so much love for him that I cried when he left to return to his home in Europe.

AGAIN, GBY DAD & MARIA, for your visions & constant guidance thru' your Letters. It is your taking on His yoke that makes the burden light. Love in Jesus & David, Donato. (GBY!)

SIMON PETER'S TESTIMONY! --Given on Video at Loveville!



(Mariame: Well, for our special birthday celebration we were thinking that we could hear somebody's testimony. What about Simon Peter's? Did anybody hear Simon Peter's testimony before?)

WELL, I GUESS IT STARTED WITH MY QUITE INTERESTING ANCESTORS. One side of the family on my father's side were descendants from a long line of seafaring captains--my very old ancestors. My great, great, great grandfather captained the first ship that went over to India.

IN FACT, THAT SIDE OF THE FAMILY STAYED AS SEA CAPTAINS all the way up until my great-grandfather who I can still remember. He lived to be very old, about 97, & he sailed on one of the last of the old sailing ships.

THEN MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER WAS WHERE I GOT MY ACTING TALENTS FROM. She was a very famous musical artist in Wales. They're all Welsh; that's where I got my middle name, Jones. There's at least a few million Joneses in Wales so it's a very common name--Jones.

SHE WAS VERY TALENTED ON THE STAGE & quite a famous musical artist in Wales. When she had my grandmother she gave up the stage because then she got married to my great-grandfather, the sea captain. Then my grandfather, the sea captain, then my grandmother had tremendous dramatic talents also but she never had the chance to be an actress herself. So it was kind of something that she encouraged me to do. She was the first

person to really encourage me to go into the stage.

SHE WAS THE GREAT INFLUENCE ON MY LIFE; she was the mother to me after my mother died when I was very young, about three & she was like an angel in my life; I never ever saw her angry or out of the spirit in any way.

IF I WAS BAD, SHE'D ALWAYS LOVE ME THROUGH ALL THE CHANGES I went through. She always had tremendous faith in me & loved me & I think she was the closest person to me, my grandmother. And my father had dramatic talent too but he was a lawyer; he became a lawyer in the Forces. He had tremendous talents along that line.

SO THAT'S ONE SIDE OF MY FAMILY--WELSH: I'm not really English at all. But the other side of my family are Polish, yes, originally from Austria actually where they were nobility in Austria & they moved to Poland. I'm not sure how many generations back.

MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER WAS A GUNRUNNER IN THE LAST WAR AT THE AGE OF 90, quite a legend in Warsaw. Because my grandfather, Emil, on that side was the leader, or one of the leaders I think--I'm not quite sure whether one of the leaders or the leader.

--BUT HE'S A VERY FAMOUS MAN IN POLAND OF THE UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE DURING THE LAST WAR. He was decorated with the Victoria Cross & a number of all the equivalent medals of that side in Poland. And in fact, I remember when I was a child we had all kinds of different gadgets that they used to use during the last war--a desk that had secret compartments; if you knew where to press, different things shot out. You know, secret drawers & little cigarette cases where you have a little pinhole & you poke it in & a thing on a spring would come out--they're all gadgets.

NEVER KNEW HIM PERSONALLY because he died but he's always been a tremendous factor in my life, also because he wrote a book about his exploits during the last war. It's in Polish but a Polish person read it & found it was incredible, the exploits he did--things that make the "Great Train Robbery" look like nothing. He had an underground press & printed up counterfeit money to buy guns & he was a very brave man.

AFTER THE WAR WHEN THE COMMUNISTS TOOK OVER, HE WAS OFFERED A GENERALSHIP in the Communist army or whatever, the new order, but he turned it down because he didn't want to be a Communist; he was a Catholic, a godly man. And so he got sent to prison where he wrote his book. And my mother & grandmother got sent to Siberia. They weren't there long; they were quickly released under an amnesty & they went to Israel.

MY MOTHER WENT TO A CONVENT IN NAZARETH where my father met her just after the war. He was in the Arab Legion in the same outfit that Lawrence of Arabia was earlier. He was actually fighting against the Jews, when the Jews were fighting against Britain for Israel.

HE DID A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT EXPLOITS THERE but whilst he was there he met my mother who was in a convent in Nazareth & then they fell in love & got married. My grandfather wrote a book whilst he was in jail & when there was a change in Communist leadership they liked his book because it was kind of anti-German & so he was released & they published it.

HE DEDICATED THE BOOK TO ME IN THE FRONT --TO HIS GRANDSON, CHRISTOPHER. So I got my name Christopher, 'cause his name was Chris; that was his code name in the underground--Chris. So he called me Christopher & he dedicated to me the dedication in the front--that I would always fight for freedom. He died shortly after I was born so I never knew him.

I WAS BORN JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY OF HAMELIN in Germany where the PIED PIPER CAME FROM. Well, I never really knew this for certain, it was one of these things that I kept with me as a child. I used to say, "oh, I was born in Hamelin where the Pied Piper came from!" It was like a big thing.

I REMEMBER SOME VAGUE MEMORIES when I was young of the Pied Piper & seeing the festivity there when every Sunday they dress up as rats & acted the whole thing. I never knew for certain that I was actually born in Hamelin or very close by, but I kind of made it up as a story. But actually just about a couple of months ago I was telling people I was born near Hamelin & I thought, "Now wait a minute. I don't really know that for certain."

I KNEW I WAS BORN IN THIS SMALL PLACE CALLED RHEINTEL with an area hospital in Germany so I thought, "OK, I'll look it up on a map". So I looked it up on the map & there's Rheintel. It's just a few kilometers outside of Hamelin. I was born near Hamelin where the Pied Piper came from & so I kind of related to him.

THE PIED PIPER WAS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE CHARACTERS & I actually learned to play the flute, the recorder. They're a different type of flute. When I was at Prep school, at that point I was going to go into music actually & become a musician. So I really liked it; I was really very good at these pipes but then they said "You can't take it."

I WANTED TO TAKE A MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP IN THE RECORDER and it's kind of a simple instrument. They said, "You can't, however good you are you need to take something else, the violin or..." I tried to graduate to the clarinet but it didn't really interest me; I didn't have the patience for it.

SO I KIND OF GAVE UP MUSIC THEN & WENT INTO DRAMATICS. I had my first part in a school play & guess what it was? It was "Julius Caesar" & I played, not Caesar. I played Caesar's wife. Hal Well, it was in a boy's school & all the boys had to take female parts as they did in Shakespeare's day, of course. They didn't have women actors then.

BUT ANYWAY, I GOT VERY INVOLVED WITH DRAMATICS & IT BECAME THE REAL LOVE OF MY LIFE. school plays & school productions. I went on to public school. In England we call them public schools, but they're not public schools, they're private schools. I spent all my education in these expensive schools a bit like the school you saw in that movie "Good-bye Mr. Chips".

I EXCELLED SCHOLASTICALLY; I got 14, 15 "O" levels, which is a lot. You know maybe out of all England five is good. I needed five "O" levels to go to drama schools. I had already set my mind that I wanted to go to drama school; everybody wanted me to go on to university & become a scholar, but...

I DIDN'T SEE THE POINT OF ANY FURTHER EDUCATION because I had the O levels needed to go to drama school. I forsook my education to really go into drama & concentrate on school plays, which infuriated my parents & everybody. So I kind of dropped out then in scholastic things. It was the time of the hippies & everything else so I got into that.

I BECAME A REBEL AT SCHOOL & I REALLY HATED THE SYSTEM THERE, so I became a bit of a naughty boy but more in an intellectual way. The masters really kind of liked me. They liked me also because I was good for the school, the dramatics. I helped them win with the drama awards, you know, when the school was at the plays & competition.

SO THEY WERE KIND OF PROUD OF ME, I was editor of the school magazine & excelled in that field. So they put up with me but they eventually expelled me, in my last term. It was like a token thing. But after school I got accepted to all the top Drama schools in London, the different ones that were auditioned for & against very stiff competition.

I KNEW--I THOUGHT I KNEW--THAT I HAD A CALLING IN LIFE & I THOUGHT IT WAS TO BE A GREAT ACTOR. I thought that was what it was. So because that was my field that I was really good at, acting, I chose to go to this school, Rosebrough, because it was nice in the country & relaxed, & the other ones were right in the centre of London.

I HAD TIME TO SPEND BETWEEN SCHOOL & DRAMA SCHOOL so I went to Israel to work on a kibbutz & I hated it! It was so boring, picking fruit everyday & so I went out. It was the first time I really saw the World outside of school as I had had a very sheltered life in many ways. Israel was very interesting but I really disliked the Israelis. I had Jewish friends before that who wanted me

to go, but there they were just the most terrible people I've ever met in my life. I mean, they'd kick dogs & smash bottles!

I GOT INTO THE HIPPIE THING THERE & went down to a place called Elat by the Red Sea, & kind of became a hippie there. If I didn't have the drama I would have probably become a hippie because I really liked it at that time. But I really wanted to be an actor so I went to drama school, where I became very interested in spiritual things.

IN FACT ALL MY LIFE I HAD A DEEP DESIRE TO KNOW WHAT THE TRUTH WAS & what the meaning of existence was. I couldn't stand really to live without knowing why I was living & what life was all about. The same time I was doing my dramatics studies I became increasingly involved in studies of the spiritual & tried different types of meditation & read a lot of spiritual books & knew that there was a spiritual World that existed. It's hard to put this briefly because it's kind of a long thing but...

IT GOT TO A POINT WHEREBY I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE SPIRITUAL & THE DRAMATIC. I had to decide whether I wanted to really go out & look for the real meaning & purpose in life or just become an actor. It was my third year &

I'D JUST BEEN CHOSEN TO PLAY THE MAIN PART IN THE MAIN SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTION. I was going to play King John in the play of the same name. If you get the main part in a play it means that you're made, in a way, because all the main producers & theatrical agents come down from London to see the new talent. If you have the star part then you're snatched up like that. So it was a very exciting thing.

JUST TO REST BEFORE STARTING REHEARSALS I WENT DOWN TO MY FRIEND'S FARM, with my two close friends & my girl-friend. We were talking about the spiritual World & how real it was & we smoked a bit of the stars.

AND IT WAS LIKE THE LORD REACHED DOWN & LIFTED US UP SO HIGH INTO THE SPIRIT. It wasn't the drugs, we knew that. And as we looked we saw about ten shooting stars, zoom, zoom, zoom--like that. We were about ten miles high. We came back to the farmhouse & we looked back at the drama school & standing around on stage with make-up on your face & spouting lines that didn't mean anything & all the weird characters there, the thing & it just seemed like Hell.

AT THAT MOMENT WE WERE IN SUCH A KIND OF BLISS IN THE SPIRIT OR A SPIRIT, we said, "There's nothing to it. We just have to go back & say, 'Sorry we can't, you know. We're dropping out.' The next day was the same; we just never came down. Didn't take any more drugs, nothing. But we were up here; it was like being very very much in the Spirit. Very very high & spaced out but without hav-

ing your feet on the ground, not having the Lord. We went back & were trying to convert everybody else to this.

WE HANDED IN OUR RESIGNATIONS & COMPLETELY FREAKED OUT THE SCHOOL because we were their star students. One minute, here I was star pupil, worked hard for two years to attain this & the next minute I just completely flipped out & gave it all up. We didn't know what to do.

WE THOUGHT, "WELL, WE'LL GO TO INDIA. WE'LL BECOME MONKS." But we just knew that we'd go along because we'd come out of the material World & we were headed for somewhere spiritual. And so we cut our bridges behind us & everything was good for awhile. But then we started to get involved with having to get our passports together & our whole room became like a junk heap.

WE ALL MOVED INTO MY ONE ROOM & IT ALL WAS VERY NICE UNTIL ONE NIGHT. We were all asleep together in the room, but suddenly there was this scream & I woke up & there was my friend Harry & he was standing in the room just in front of me with his hands like that. (Hands outstretched ready to choke him.)

IT WAS LIKE A THUNDERCLAP IN THE ROOM. IT WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT. Up until now it'd been so nice. We said, "Harry, what's the matter?" He was freaking out, & everybody matter? He was freaking out & said, "What's the matter?" He said, "I can't tell you." I said, "Well, you know we all tell each other everything we have to tell. Why'd you do that? Why'd you freak out like that?"

AND HE SAID, "WELL, I HAD A DREAM JUST NOW & THE DEVIL CAME TO ME & SAID THAT I COULD HAVE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD IF I COULD HAVE & STRANGLED YOU." And he said, "I accepted. And I came over & I woke up & I was completely on my feet like this." So we were completely freaked out.

WE WERE LIKE NAKED IN THE SPIRIT, DEFENSELESS. We didn't have the Lord & the Devil like a roaring lion came around & it's like he just entered that room & wanted to pounce on us & kind of devour us, you know. It was a tremendous thing in the spirit. We all felt the presence of just evil in that room trying to get us. We were completely freaked out.

SO I INSTINCTIVELY STARTED PRAYING THE LORD'S PRAYER & I just said, "Our Father which art in Heaven" & we all did. It's like when the Enemy comes in like a flood the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against him & that's exactly what happened. It was instinctive. I hadn't prayed the Lord's Prayer since school & I didn't believe in Jesus, or anything.

I BELIEVED IN GOD, NOT AS AN ABSOLUTE, BUT SOMETHING FAR AWAY. And I remember that kind of calmed us down a bit & I went into the bathroom to go to the toilet & it was the first time I think I ever prayed to God per-