

The Supreme Court!

GRY: We wanted to share with you some of the events & victories which took place in the final weeks before the Supreme Court trial, after 3 hard weeks of testings & trials in the "furnace of affliction" while the trial was being delayed time & time again.

MONDAY - MAY 3rd. Well, when we went to see Angelo today, he told us that he had decided to stay & fight it out here in Greece after all! PTL! Well, the devil must have really been mad at all that was happening. — Up until that day we were passing through rooms of letters every visit in Emanuele & Gabrielle's pockets wadded up into little 2-inch squares. They allowed the children to sit on Angelo's lap on the prisoner's side of the table, & he took that opportunity to load & unload their pockets. At the last moment, the prison authorities saw him putting a letter into Gabrielle's pocket & confiscated it & handed it over to the director of the prison. The ol' boy had lost the big battle, so he kicked back & tried to cut off our communications. PTL — it didn't seem to cause us any serious problems as we went up to see the director later to apologize & explain that it was only a love letter, & the director let it pass but kept the letter in Angelo's file. He seemed touched that we had taken the time to apologize. And TG we did not lose our visits and Angelo was not put in solitary confinement, as could have happened. (TG for his protection!) From that moment on, they wouldn't allow us to put the children on Angelo's lap & we had to pass our communications the normal way through the prison censors.

PTL! AFTER ANGELO MADE HIS FINAL DECISION TO "SCHTICK" AND NOT TO GO BACK TO ITALY, THINGS BEGAN TO TAKE A POSITIVE TURN. Much like Dad shared in his own testimony in "Millions of Miles of Miracles": "Suddenly that Scripture came to me, 'Therefore endure hardness'....It was just the answer I needed!...And you know, that morning I really got the victory to quit worrying about it being so hard! I got the victory & I really fought & it just

seemed like everything just sort of began to be better!" (897:82-83) — and it did! Angelo began having two classes daily at the prisoners' request! — 1 1/2 hours of Bible study on the life of Jesus & Revelation, & 1 1/2 hours of MO Letters! Plus fellowship & Communion twice a week! The Word took such effect in their lives that for the 1st time one of the catacomb disciples won a soul! People began coming to Angelo's room for prayer, such as two Iranian Muslims who had heard testimonies of others who had been miraculously freed from their sentences through united prayer! — Both of them received Jesus! — And asked Angelo to write out the Salvation prayer so that they could translate it into their language to share with their other friends. Angelo's room-mate, André — a Muslim from Zaïre, who was also the catacomb lit deacon & had been a very good sample to the other prisoners, went to trial facing probable 15 years in jail for drug charges. — And was miraculously liberated the very day of his trial! Two of the others with him got 15 years in prison. — Please pray for them as they're also brothers in bonds. Since André's deliverance he's been a faithful visitor & brings along his friend Frank who is the Zaïre student association president here in Athens & a real labour leader. André really gives the glory to God for his liberation! TYJ!

AT THE SAME TIME, THE LORD MIRACULOUSLY RAISED UP A SOCIAL WORKER IN THE PRISON, A, who began faithfully passing on literature to Angelo & the other prisoners, & who is now a life-line to continue to supply the WMA to the prisoners! She's very receptive to the Words, & we've been to visit her several times for fellowship & witnessing & she's also attended our Sunday Fellowship! So the Lord was really pouring out his blessings because of these spiritual victories!

OUR LAWYER, K, HAD ALREADY TALKED TO US ABOUT THE MENTALITY OF THE GREEK COURTS and how important it is to have a man of influence to impress the judges. So he strongly advised us to ask N, a very

well-known lawyer & a member of parliament, & also a former prosecuting attorney in the Supreme Court, to handle our case with K as his aide. K had worked under him in the Junta days & felt he was the man for the job. GB K for taking the humble seat & not wanting the glory for himself, but doing what would be best for Angelo. PTL! And through N's influence in the Supreme Court, he was able to move the court date up again to the 18th of May! And during the trial itself, everyone was truly amazed at N's anointed defense of our case! TTL — it was a real miracle in itself that he was even willing to take on a case such as ours at all. That very weekend, we also received the LFN #1204 with a prayer request for Angelo, & encouraging words from our dear ones, so we knew that the whole family would be praying for us right when we would be going into the trial the following Tuesday morning!

FOR MANY WEEKS WE'D BEEN INVITING K OUT TO THE HOUSE as we wanted to have a chance to witness & fellowship with him in a more personal atmosphere. So finally, a few days before the trial, he came out with his 3 daughters & his sweet secretary P. It really united our hearts all together, sharing family Pubs, & the beautiful new "School Days" book which he flipped over and wanted to use in court as a sample of the type of literature that we produce! The children also sang for him & he joined right in & got up & danced with them, & even sang "Into My Heart" with all of us! He remarked that this was what he needed, to see us in a personal way like this, which gave him even more conviction for our cause! After seeing the sample of our happy children, he later asked us "what do you really think of my children", as he was so concerned for their discipline & education. GBH!

TUESDAY MORNING, WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE COURT HOUSE, Angelo had such peace & gave such an anointed testimony & witness, that we finally understood why the Lord had allowed those postponements & delays, as it was during those times that we went through the real breakings that we needed to go through, to bring out the gold and spiritual strength that was needed for this trial. It was almost as if Angelo didn't care whether he won or lost, his

face was that of an angel, all he wanted to do was tell people about Jesus! And into the court-room we went!!

"YOU'LL FIND THAT REAL GOLD — NO MATTER HOW HOT THE FIRE OR HOW LONG THE FIRE, HOW HOT THE TEST OR HOW LONG IT LASTS — WILL STILL COME OUT GOLD — EVEN FINER GOLD!" (But If Not, 313:31)

"BUT THIS PERSECUTION HAS BEEN GOOD FOR US BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN DETERMINED TO KNOW HIM AS NEVER BEFORE, & WITH POWERS NEVER BEFORE FULLY POSSESSED WE HAVE WITNESSED WITH BOLDNESS WHICH WE'D NEVER DARED DO BEFORE!"...The greater cross, the greater glory, hallelujah! (End Time Whispering Vision 334:56)

Love, Abel & Sarah

PS. THE LORD REALLY SPOKE TO US POWERFULLY AND CLEARLY WITH ENCOURAGING PROPHECIES how, "It's not the Lord's will to lose one upon whom I have bestowed so much care & labour", how "He came not to destroy life but to save life", & "Behold I come quickly, hold fast that which thou hast", & how He "would not let His seed pass through the fire." And many wonderful promises that made real how the "sufferings of this present time are not even worthy to be compared with the glory coming". PTL! He is faithful! The Lord really showed us how the bondage was primarily spiritual, as well as physical, & that the Lord was really freeing not only Angelo but all of us, giving us greater victories of honesty & faith & love, & a greater desperation in our lives. "He longs for that sweet communion, that union of heart with heart."

The Day of Final Decision!

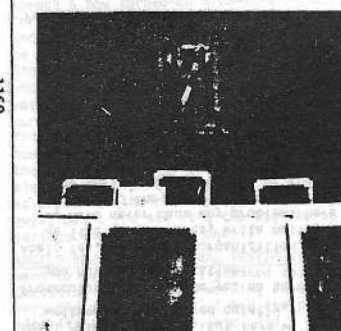
TUESDAY, MAY 18TH — after 99 days in prison, Angelo was called to stand before the highest court in the land, the men whose decisions affect the course of this entire country. The court-room itself was quite awesome, the precedents normally held in utmost calm and quiet, with three elevated tiers of polished wooden chairs for the judges overshadowing the witness stand & the lawyer's booths below. Directly behind the seat of the President of the Supreme Court was a gorgeous masterpiece of Christ on the judgement seat!



Dear Angelo entering the court with police escort.



Here is Abel in the Supreme Court. You can see the two tiers of chairs--the judges sit on the top row beneath the large picture of Jesus.



The painting of Jesus on the throne hangs above the seat of the President, who seemed to be very kind & was slightly crippled--hunchbacked.



Outside the courtroom on the day of final decision. Abel, André (Angelo's prison roommate from Zaïre. He was set free two to three weeks before Angelo), Angelo & Sarah! Our "team" at the Supreme Court!

ing this lower court, as the dull conservative judges are known to fall asleep otherwise! But the journalists were completely barred from the Supreme Court, which helped maintain a calmer atmosphere. Even though the Supreme Court at first seemed much stricter, we were soon to find out we had much greater freedom to pour out all of our hearts & with judges who listened to our whole story without cutting us off in a middle of a thought — PTL!

QUITE A FEW MEMBERS OF OUR PRECIOUS LOCAL FAMILY WERE GATHERED AT THE COURT-ROOM TO UPHOLD ANGELO, including Uriah & Shaphan, our faithful photographers; Sarah & Rose with 4 of our children; English Adrian who helped us with the kids; Spiros, a Greek disciple; & Julia, a close Greek friend; as well as Abel & our doctor Piro, who were witnesses.

SO THE PROCEEDINGS BEGAN. The judge first called on Angelo, asking him his name, father's name, mother's name, birthplace & age, present address & address in Italy, job, & whether he understood the accusations. After this the lawyer presented a list of the names of the witnesses we had there to speak in Angelo's defense.

ABEL WAS FIRST CALLED TO THE WITNESS STAND, & made the customary pledge to tell the truth on the Bible. And then the judge began his questions. We were able to capture the full court-room dialogue that followed on a micro tape recorder in Abel's pocket & also with someone taking it down in shorthand. (We were very cautious with the micro as it's not generally permitted.) In the 1st court trial, we had our precious brother Greek Jacob translating for us. But since he had already left for the foreign field by this time, the court provided a translator. Abel gave his testimony in Greek to try to get the point across better — maybe not the best Greek, however, but hopefully with more conviction than through a translator.

ABEL SEAMAN'S TESTIMONY IN COURT

Judge: Your birthplace?

Abel: U.S.A.

Judge: Are you a Christian?

Abel: Yes.

Judge: What do you want to say?

Abel: I have known Angelo since 1975 in Italy. He's a song writer. And about the accusations here, I believe they are lies. Because Angelo is a well-known musician & has his own magazine.

(The judge asks about prostitution.)

Abel: It's all lies. He has his own radio show on 80 stations, every week, called "Musica 'Al Noima", & Angelo is the disc jockey. Now, today, on 80 stations in Italy from Milano to Sicily!

(At this time A pulled out an MCM Mag with Angelo on the cover & an MCM tape to try to illustrate the point!)

Abel: Can I say a little more?

Judge: Yes! Yes, yes.

Abel: About the pornography, it is lies. We don't do that.

(Shows a violent porno terror book to the judges)

Abel: But this is what Italy & Greece make on the streets. This should be here in the Supreme Court, this is what teaches children to do bad. But we do not do this. Our lawyer has a large book for teaching children. (School Days Part 2) Nothing in it is pornography. We don't have anything like this pornobook that you can find on the streets of Athens. Why is Angelo accused? Because one time in Italy (shows the cover of the "Church and Political System - Is There a Difference?" (#333) to the judges). The Church here, the Vatican, & here is the poor, & the church does not help the poor as they should, & it is an indifferent church. And the same Vatican, the Pope, blesses Begin when Begin persecutes the Palestinians. (Shows Sam Warner's "Warning Tract" comic with a priest blessing Begin while he strangles Arafat.) We distribute these (11c) one million every month all over Italy. (Shows other political lit) & Angelo is a well-known musician, & every night many young people come to us, they leave Communism & they leave the Church, because we have a socialism of love, showing love one to another. In many languages we have this "Begin the Terrorist" TK. We don't have persecution for this in Greece because Greece is the friend of the Palestinians, not like Italy. And we are very

THE COURT-ROOM MANNERS REQUIRE UTMOST ORDER as even if one speaks out of turn, the offender could be jailed for several days! Our lawyers warned us of this, as during the lower court an incident occurred when the prosecuting attorney slyly questioned Angelo — "Why don't you return to Italy because Jesus went & faced His enemies at Jerusalem?" And someone called out:

"Jesus said, 'When they persecute you in one city flee to another.'" — Much to the shock of everyone in the whole courtroom! The 1st trial itself was quite a raucous atmosphere, with journalists & photographers everywhere, & one judge even mockingly asked Sarah if she wears clothes when she plays the violin! It's commonly known that everyone screams & yells their case dur-