

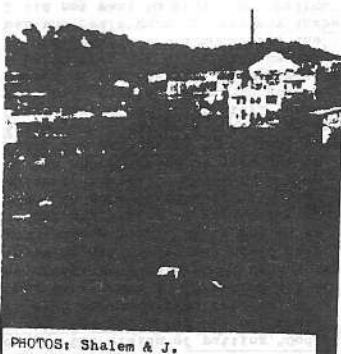
was escorting foreign businessmen all through Peking, Shanghai, etc. They were all very flirty and joked with me even though I was with 9. He gave me his card and invited me to call him in Hong Kong. So God knows

the possibilities! My heart is open, the call of China! How about you? Just one day there was so exciting and we are really thankful that the Lord gave us this priceless chance to take a look behind the scenes in China.

When we arrived back home with our video equipment, we actually left the airport with only about \$5 left between us. So we know the Lord can provide you with video equipment and make the trip to get it exciting and full of miracles. We want to add that the videos have really changed our lives and have made us feel closer to the brethren, even in our area as everyone really bares their hearts on the videos. Thanks to Dad for the faith to pioneer this. It seemed impossible for us at first, but with God, nothing is impossible! Much love, Shalem

LATE NEWS FLASH!!: Over Easter B. was able to witness to workers who work in his company resulting in over 500 souls saved! He has also won souls by personal witnessing and wants to witness more. TJJ! Love, Shalem

LEFT: One of the beautiful scenes, a co-operative farm.



PHOTOS: Shalem & J.

PEARL OF THE ORIENT

The Story Of Michael, A Family Teenager!

By Fay Grace, Sub-Continent:

I never felt qualified to write anything about teenagers before in spite of having a teenage son, mainly because I was always baffled about his behavior and was constantly having to ask the Lord just what to do! Then the thought struck me that being baffled was simply par for the course and I'd "joined the club" of millions of other parents who scratch their heads in seeming wonderment over the odd young person in the upstairs bedroom! We've learned many different lessons while living with our teenager Michael. While admittedly his background and experiences are quite unique, really all our teenagers are unique individuals. So while many things we've learned with Michael may not apply to your kids the main thing we've learned is: Be led of the spirit!—and that can be applied to anybody! We adopted Michael 4½ yrs. ago when we were district shepherds in this Asian country before the RNR. Michael had lived 5½ mo. on the street begging as his mother had deserted him and his father was simply too poor and overworked to care for a young boy. Michael was about 10 but was so small from malnutrition we thought he was about 7 or so.

needn't be ashamed but rather proud that he's a Christian now. It was the first time that it totally sunk in. That was 3 yrs. ago and now at 15 he has a real awareness of the darkness out of which the Lord has delivered him and has become a real radical, almost a fanatic about it. GGH! He's gone almost to the opposite extreme though and at times we have to remind him that we win through love. But I'll say one thing for him, he's certainly aware of the enemies devices now, PTL!

Another thing I've seen Michael go thru is growing out of that 'cute stage'. When kids are still young and seemingly innocent people are so impressed with their boldness and conviction about the Lord. Then as they hit their teens and begin to look more like a young man or woman their witnessing tactics have to change too. So have compassion on your child and the changes he's going thru.

The little old lady on the bus may pinch his cheeks and take the lift one day but seemingly overnight begin to act with suspicion as your now lanky teen plops himself down on the seat next to her to witness. She might think he's a young hood or a wise guy! Michael was always small for his age so only recently went thru this. Have a heart and remember possibly one reason your child's fire is cooling is because he is confused about the reactions he is now getting from people. The answer? Encourage him or her that they're maturing and need to adopt more of an adult shepherd's role with those they witness to. Once they see this works as well or even better they'll be back on the front lines!

One real blessing in dealing with teenagers is the sexual liberty we have in our family. I really believe this is the key to a young boy's heart—give him love and his needs and he'll be much more willing and considerate. So many times I've seen if he's not pitching in and helping around the house maybe it's because we girls aren't pitching in and helping him out! I can't say it enough— it works wonders! Sometimes others in the home may not know exactly how to deal with a mature adult and the next a silly child. Just remember it's a normal natural part of growing up. Young people need to try out roles to find out just who and what they want to be. Teenagers need guidance and direction just like everybody else.

We've found that if our son is shirking his responsibilities and not doing household chores and pitching in at home those with the actual complaint, not just Mom and Dad need to put on the Green Shirt and share their hearts with him. Honesty always pays and we've found if little grudges are allowed to build up they can become real mountains.

Let's face it— your teenager can be pretty annoying at times! The cassette player is going 24 hrs. a day, he's constantly humming off key, left his dirty socks on the kitchen counter (yes folks, it's happened) and is usually a million miles away when you try to talk to him (our son is an Aquarius). But if things he's doing are annoying others in the home encourage them to go directly to your teen and lovingly talk it out. Don't let walls build up! They can be very difficult to tear down! This doesn't mean you should shirk your own responsibilities of being your child's spiritual shepherd but he or she needs to

We prayed really desperately about adopting him as we both had an overwhelming desire to take him in, and God spoke to us through a real direct specific revelation that he was ours. He is really an exceptional case as most street children in this part of the world are hardened in heart and spirit at an early age, so adoption is not something we would casually recommend. It's a miracle Michael was so open and receptive after fending for himself and we know it was just the Lord protecting him!

After his adoption we went back to Europe for 15 mo. which proved a real valuable time in our growing closer to Michael. He was in a strange place with a strange language and customs and he really turned to us and began to really trust and depend on us. He spoke no English when we adopted him so we communicated through pictures, acting things out and a small language dictionary.

He got saved in France 2 mo. after we adopted him after constantly showing him pictures and telling simple Bible stories about Jesus. He got filled with the spirit 5 mo. later in Spain and then really had a change in his life. Before he was so shy but suddenly he had a real boldness and would whip out his picture books on a crowded bus and show them to people around him telling them he had Jesus in his heart!

When we finally came back to Asia after the RNR (where our hearts had stayed all along) Michael went through some real conflicts. In Europe Christianity could almost appear as a "white man's religion"— everybody he witnessed to was white and came from a Christian background. But suddenly he was back amongst his own people and being from a Hindu background he began to lose some of his conviction.

It was sort of a spirit of compromise like, "I know Jesus is right but after all these people have their own religion so maybe it's O.K. for them." It was never anything he put directly in words but was very apparent in the spirit.

We really prayed desperately and always got the verse in which Jesus said "If I be lifted up I will draw all men unto me". So we tried to lift up Jesus and feed Michael the Word, telling him the truth and then just trusting the Lord. That's alot easier than it sounds by the way, as when your kids are going through it spiritually it really puts your own faith to the test too! But sometimes you just have to leave it to the Lord to get them to fully receive a spiritual lesson.

In Michael's case the lesson was learned shortly after because of his caste. The Hindu religion is based on the caste system, lower castes being considered inferior in every way. Michael was low caste and it was something he was secretly ashamed about. We were eating in a restaurant once where a young boy was serving as waiter and the trouble began. Michael is quite dark-skinned as are many low caste people and the young boy was watching Michael with increasing resentment and jealousy. Michael was sitting with foreigners, wearing nice clothes, eating a good meal, etc. So when the boy was clearing the table he narrowed his eyes at Michael and snapped "What's your caste, huh?" under his breath, Michael looked down and was obviously very embarrassed.

I got rid of the boy and shared with Michael then and there how in Jesus there is no caste, neither Jew nor Greek, bond nor free but we are saved thru grace. Also I stressed that he

learn to become an adult member of the body. We all had to learn to deal openly and honestly with our brothers and sisters when we joined the family and teenagers in a similar way are learning to deal with others in an adult responsible manner.

Another thing to emphasise is to really look for and encourage your child to develop his talents. Michael definitely has a 'mad scientist' streak and an absolute fascination with anything electrical. So have patience when your kid keeps blowing the fuses and you find he's turned your kitchen into a sound studio! Put him to work fixing the broken heater and give the Lord thanks He's given your child a gift! (And try not to get too annoyed because you keep finding hammers and screw drivers in amongst the cutlery-hal)

We really had to learn to have patience and understanding in Michael's weaker areas. Having started so late in life Michael really had alot of trouble learning to read and write. Whenever I'd get discouraged about it tho the Lord would always check me with the verse Acts 4:13— "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled and took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."

I came from a very scholastically oriented background so it was a bit of a bottle breaker to have a son who could barely read! But God made him and God's using him and in so many ways he's had much less to 'unlearn' than I did!

Michael may 'butcher the King's English' as Dad said of the prophet William Branham, but Michael has a real loving missionary's heart pitching in on Open the Door for the Children, witnessing heart pitching to friends. We once got a prophecy that he was a 'pearl of the orient'— and we love him dearly! The main thing to emphasize again is: Love Never Fails! It can be pretty frustrating at times and we have made many, many (!) mistakes along the way, but that's how you learn! It'll help keep you humble as you constantly keep apologizing to your teen for all the blow-it's you make in their up-bringing. Hal So "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not to thine own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all ways and he shall direct thy paths." (Pv.3:5,6) Amen?

THANKS TO DAD!

When my life is finished, through
And my race is run,
Somewhere in Heaven I'll come up to
you
With thanks for all you've done!

When my body's strength is gone
And the earth has claimed its due,
I'll run, nol-FLY to see you there,

And be full of thanks to you!

And when my Spirit's at last set free
To roam in Heaven's domain,
As I count my blessings, more than the
stars

Among them I'll utter your name.
Much love to you in Jesus, Shaul.