"COMING OF AGE!"— By Father David 5 January 1979

1. IN YOUR AVERAGE CHURCH IN THE SYSTEM, how many in the church are able to serve the Lord full time & don't have to have a System job?— about the only guy in the church who doesn't is the preacher!

2. SOME HAVE A FEW WHO WILL MAKE GOOD PASTORS & who can check on the sheep & keep the flock together, keep them worshipping the Lord, serving the Lord, studying the Word, fellowshipping & witnessing & winning souls etc. But he may be one of a dozen, & you others may have to help support him to keep us driving along from the streets, & they will be able to do it. Because the system is our job to get us & their homes--not only to homes, but to jobs, too.

3. WE MAY HAVE TO HAVE A DOZEN FAMILIES SET-UP & GET JOBS AND HOMES TO ONE FAMILY TO BE ABLE TO SHEPHERD THEM & provide spiritual food & fellowship & care for them—one out of a dozen, do you understand? Now, this particular stage that we are going through right now, this is it: it's ten years since you were teenagers.

4. IT'S TEN YEARS SINCE YOU WERE TEENAGERS, & YOU PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ESTABLISHING MORE PERMANENT HOMES.

5. BUT NOW YOU'VE GOT A WIFE & SMALL CHILDREN TO TAKE CARE OF, & you've got to have some kind of decent place for them to sleep & food for them to eat, & the vast majority of our kids are going to have to settle in or out of homes--not only to homes, but to jobs, too.

6. BECAUSE THE SYSTEM IS OUT TO GET US & THEY ARE DRIVING US FROM THE STREETS, & they will drive us from everything they can, to keep us from doing what we've been doing. You may not have to go back to your country, you may be able to settle down where you are.

7. BUT I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT ON THE STREET. You are either going to try to get a job where you are--which is difficult if you're a foreigner--or you are going to have to go back home & go back home & get a job but we are passing through that stage. And you are going to have to go back home & get a job but we are passing through that stage. You are going to have to go back home & do what they have to do.

8. YOU PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT ESTABLISHING MORE PERMANENT HOMES.
The "recession" is already on! The dollar is
every economist who is honest!—All except for
tering~Borlwide depression days ahead & I
diving & leaner times are predicted by nearly
who are getting discouraged & giving up & going
mean, it's obvious! We've got little families
think that is going to play a part.) Definitely!
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STay out on the field fulltime & do
Can
mechanic or a brick layer or a house builder or
home because they can't make it on the field.
are passing through this stage right now.--I
a salesman or something that's in their area.
A little bit more accepted type of ministry!
You can't do the job, fork over some of that
dough to help me stay out here to do the job for
port on the field!—They can't! They have to
support you. or you write home & beg the home
atives of the denominations have had to do it.
missionaries of the churches--where do they
get their support? They don't get it on for-
xie fields!—They wouldn't think of getting
it on the field!
10. WE ARE AN AMAZING OUTFIT! We have gone
into scores of foreign fields & we have lived off
the land & gotten our support right on the
field where we were working—a little bit like
the apostle Paul & some of the first mission-
aries of the church.
11. BUT EVEN PAUL HAD TO SETTLE DOWN TO A JOB
Paul's time, or he had to scold the churches back
home for not supporting him! He as good as said,
"Now listen, if you want me to stay out here,
you've got to support me! Look! I had to go to
work to make tents! I had to go to work with my
hands because you failed me, because you didn't
send me enough to live on out here!"
12. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A CHOICE, just
like Paul did: Either settle down & get a job &
"make tents" to support yourselves, or you're
going to have to sock it to the home folks & say,
"Now, listen: Do you want me to stay out here as you're
your missionary? I'm doing your job for you. I'm back in the System,
out here preaching the Gospel in all the world
to every creature. (Mk.16:15.)
13. "You send me the money & support me!—
That's the least you can do. You're staying home
living selfishly & comfortably in luxury, so if
you can't do the job, fork over some of that
dough to help me stay out here to do the job for
you. You're going to have to do it—just like
the churches have had to do it & the mission-
aries of denominations have had to do it.
14. CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES DON'T GET THIS SUP-
PORT ON THE FIELD!—They can't! They have to
ask the home base & the Home folks to do it. The
settled-down families or homes are going to have
to get jobs & have incomes to support those
still on the field—however you get it—whether
you go door-to-door or still street listness etc.
15. THE SUPPORT MINISTRY IS GOING TO HAVE TO
make tents! That was probably a pretty humiliating job for a
guy who was a real brain & a scholar & a
teacher & a rabbi & what amounted to a preach-
ing company & start sewing canvas!
16. EARN MONEY TO HELP SUPPORT THE PEOPLE WHO
can still stay out on the field fulltime &
nothing but witness & listness etc. So I think we
are passing through this stage right now.—I
mean, it's obvious! We've got little families
who are getting discouraged & giving up & going
home because they can't make it on the field.
17. (Timothy: Another thing is that we are en-
tering worldwide depression days ahead, & I
think that is going to play a part.) Definitely!
The "recession" is already on! The dollar is
diving, & leaner times are predicted by nearly
every economist who is honest!—All except for
the governments.
18. GOVERNMENTS ALWAYS LIE TO THE PEOPLE & SAY
things are going to be better! The U.S. Presi-
dent even prohibited this one poor guy to use
the word "recession", so now he calls it a "ba-
nana"!—The chief U.S. economic advisor! He says
"We're bound to have a "banana" if so- & so
doesn't happen—if you don't conserve the oil,
if you don't stop this rise in prices & wages,
if we don't stop inflation—we're going to have
a banana this year—in '79!"—A banana!—And
it's going to be a slippery one at that!
19. SO, IF YOU CAN'T SUPPORT YOURSELVES ON THE
field, if you're driven off the field & have to
go home, & if you can't even get a job at home,
at least you will be at home, & most Western
countries have very good social security pro-
grammes to support the unemployed, especially
if you have a wife & children.
20. YOU CAN GO ON THE WELFARE OR THE SOCIAL
security & at least get your food & rent. You
can exist, you can survive, even if you have to
go to parents, relatives, friends or the
Government for help. You're unemployed & can't
help it.—The System drove you off the streets!
21. BUT THERE ARE STILL MANY WAYS OF MINIS-
TERING THAT WE CAN STILL USE—and a lot of
them we have not plumbed the depths of by any
means. For example, even if you go home & have
nothing but just kind of exist in the same old
real backsliders who are not going to do any-
thing but just kind of exist in the same old
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r: I believe, if you go have to go to a job & put the kids in school, you are going to at least witness, whether in church or on the job or in the school or to your neighbours.

28. YOU ARE GOING TO CONTINUE TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST & be faithful witnesses & soul winners. I don't doubt that. You will probably have several options: You can just do it in person that way in your local community.

29. OR YOU CAN KEEP UP A GOOD SOLID MAIL MINISTRY to friends & relatives & contacts that you have made, even contacts maybe you made clear back in Europe or Timbucktu or wherever it was when you were on the field. Keep up with them by mail & continue to minister to them & feed them.

30. OR YOU COULD START A DOOR-TO-DOOR MINISTRY IN YOUR SPARE TIME, like the Jehovah's Witnesses, the 7th Day Adventists & the Mormons & all the rest!—Go door-to-door & witness & distribute literature & win souls & start Bible studies & little prayer meeting groups & "Churches in the Home", "Churches of Love", gathered together as the Lord's little families & neighbours.

31. HAVE A SOLID GROUP OF BELEIVERS WHO MEET TOGETHER, FELLOWSHIP, STUDY THE WORD, PRAY, GIVE & SUPPORT THE MISSIONARIES STILL ON THE FIELD: You who started the thing locally, maybe you've got a job & don't need their support. But urge them to try to help people you know & used to work with, whom you know on the field. You know those still on the field, & know they're doing a good job. You know you can give to them, you know it is going to be well used & they need it.

32. RAISE SUPPORT FOR THE MISSIONARIES STILL ON THE FIELD—AND FOR US TO KEEP THE WORD FLOWING as well!—And if you still want to get the Letters, you are going to have to pay the cost, if you're going to be driven back to settle down with families & children & some kind of support. mean you either had to walk it or ride a burro:

33. NOT ALL ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO MAKE IT ON THE FIELD. Some people still have the faith & will still be able to stay on the field & live by faith. But even those are going to have to spend less & less time on the streets witnessing & cafe-singing, pied-pipering & public witnessing, & you are going to have to do more writing letters home for support, or going house-to-house in a more clandestine type of personal witnessing.

34. THERE WILL BE A FEW who I think have got the faith, ingenuity & the drive & the wisdom to be able to stick it out on the field. But they are going to need help from home.

35. QUITE A FEW ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO HOME OR SETTLE DOWN SOMEWHERE WITH A JOB & a living & a family: serve the Lord in your spare time & with your gifts, & support those who still stay on the field: as well. You'll also have to continue to support us who keep ministering the Word to you. It's just a stage we are going to have to pass through, that is all there is to it!

36. WE CAN NO LONGER HIT THE STREETS LIKE A BOMB TOTE we used to with a hundred red-sack clothes-clothed prophets carrying signs & warnings & staves etc.: How they're going to kill us if they can: We're going to have to go under-
GOING TO BE DRIVEN OFF THE MOST OBVIOUS FIELDS & ministries & off the streets. But that does not mean we are going to be stopped! There are other fields & ministries which we can use to continue to serve the Lord.

47. THE MAIL MINISTRY WILL BE A VERY BIG ONE if we put the drive on now to get you people to stop being so careless about getting contacts & addresses. Make it very important that you get names & addresses to add to the mailing list to send literature to & all—and make it pay, Lord willing, so we can afford it!—And

48. HOUSE-TO-HOUSE WITNESSING IS GOING TO BE A REAL BIG VERY FRUITFUL FIELD, & MUCH LESS OBVIOUS! You don't have to stand on the main corner of the street walking literature. You are out of sight most of the time. It's a little harder to hit a target that doesn't show up very often, but stays out of sight most of the time—and that's what you do in house-to-house witnessing.

49. THOSE ARE THE TWO MAJOR MINISTRIES WHICH WE HAVE NEGLECTED & which can be & will be very fruitful—both the Mail Ministry & the House-to-House Ministry.—And God only knows how many other things He'll turn up!—Lots of new ways of witnessing & ministering that we can besides FFing, which we have already pioneered & is going great! Thank You, Lord!

50. BECAUSE OF THE CULTS PERSECUTION, WE ARE GOING TO BE DRIVEN OFF A LOT OF STREETS & have to go underground, which means a lot of you are not going to be able to make it in the field anymore, & are going to have to go home. I think you can make house-to-house witnessing pay, especially at home in your rich Western countries.

51. OR YOU CAN HAVE SUCH AN ACTIVE MAIL MINISTRY WITH THE HOME FOLKS YOU CAN GET THEM TO PAY! Try to keep on the field with a Mail Ministry or House-to-House Ministry that will support you. But if you have to go home to support yourselves, also help send support to the people still in the field who can stay.

52. YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME OF THESE OTHER THINGS: Either write home & get the support, or go house-to-house & get the support, or do enough FFing to get the support.—Or go home & support yourselves & the missionaries: PTU!

53. THE QUESTION IS: ARE YOU GOING HOME AS "EUR-" for the sake of the mission? Or are you "Coming of Age", having to move from one ministry to another, to pass through this crisis stage of our growth & change & maturity, as we grow & as we mature to more solid families & more solid & stable ministries that are not & cannot be stopped by the System!

54. PRAYS:) AMEN, LOR Figure out what's best. Give each of our folks the faith that they need, the vision they need, to catch a vision for whatever ministry they are best suited, the faith to exercise it & do it, Lord, & the willingness to take the initiative to do differently now, other things we haven't done before & still have to do.

55. SINCE SOME DOORS ARE CLOSING, YOU WILL HAVE TO OPEN OTHERS. You will have to open them, Lord, & give us the courage to make this transition from one ministry to another, to pass through this crisis stage of our growth & change & maturity, as we grow & as we mature to more solid families & more solid & stable ministries that are not & cannot be stopped by the System!