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For Adults Only! - Private Property

1989, THE NEW

GOOD NEWS!

GOD IS LOVE!

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"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." - Pr.25:25

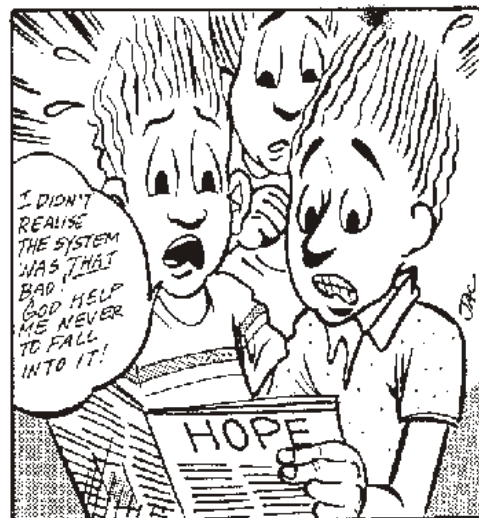
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TRAUMATIC TESTIMONIES FOR TEENS! - "Gory Stories" Needed Now!

-By Maria

Maria #100 DO 2542 6/89



1. Not long ago, we received a report that some of the teens in Latin America were having some problems with a few of the "heavier" teen testimonies that we'd published in the Hope Mag, such as Francis Fisherman's, David Surrender's (formerly Jubilee), Mene's etc. Apparently, they were thinking that since they hadn't gone through such severe trials & problems, they must somehow be missing the boat. Some of them even wished that they were going through those kinds of extreme experiences! Some even began inventing stories in front of their peers, & some who had been really good kids started coming up with wild tales saying, "Oh, that's nothing! When I was backslidden, I did this & that etc., etc.!"

2. Well, first of all, it's certainly completely unnecessary for any of you teens to think like that! If you're trying to be like either Dad or myself, neither of us had any kind of deep dark black backgrounds. We were always considered to be good kids who were brought up in the church & never really rebelled outwardly. So it's obvious that you don't have to have some

kind of a big black background in which you have gone to the depths of sin & evil in order to be successful in the Family!

3. Secondly, you should be very thankful that you have not had to go through such horrible experiences or situations! It's true that the people who have gone through things like that have learned some very good lessons, but they've also suffered a lot while they were going through it all! So you teens should be very thankful you're not having to go through all of that! Of course, if some of you have a big fascination for evil & if you really wish you could go through some of those things, then these testimonies from formerly backslidden teens aren't going to have the right effect on you anyway.

4. We have been very prayerful about the testimonies we put in the Hope Mag. We've tried to make sure they not only give all the gory details of life in the System, but that they also show the very bad effects & damage that yielding to such wrong-doing & wrong attitudes brings about. We've been very careful to try to make sure they're balanced so that they're not merely accounts of all sorts of adventurous-sounding experiences some of our people had when they were backslidden. We've tried to use testimonies that make it clear that "The way of the transgressor is hard!" & "the wages of sin is death," or at least something pretty close to it!

5. Considering the care & prayer we've put into presenting such testimonies, if some of you teens still feel a desire for sin & the System after reading them, then I'd say the problem must be with you, not with the articles! - You must have a fascination for evil or something! If a true testimony of someone else's experience of the Hell they went through when out of God's Will & service doesn't persuade you that backsliding into the Devil's System is definitely not the thing to do, then I don't know what is going to persuade you!

6. The next step is that someone almost has to tell you, "Well, then go experience it for

yourself!—If you are so blind & so fascinated & tempted by evil & the World that you can't learn from others' experiences, if that's not convincing enough for you, then you just might have to learn the hard way & experience it yourself!—And the sooner you get it over with, the better!" "The way of the transgressor is hard" (Pro.13:15), & you'll certainly learn that if you go to the World.—If you survive it!

7. I sent a message to the Hope Mag staff, "Don't worry, you're doing the right thing. Those kids with that attitude are the ones who are off the track!" If testimonies like that don't put the fear of God into you, then you just might have to experience it for yourself!—And the sooner you hurry up & do it, then the sooner you'll realise that that's not the way to go, & hopefully, the sooner you'll come back to the Fold!

8. We can't stop doing what we're supposed to do just because somebody is going to take something the wrong way! In a case like this, if a few teens happen to read those kinds of testimonies & they still have some kind of evil fascination for the World, or a desire to experience all of those things, then they just might have to go ahead & get a belly full of it!

9. I think that if I were a teen & I'd read those testimonies in which we've realistically presented what some of those kids have been through—like Francis Fisherman & David Surrender & Mene etc.—I wouldn't have any attraction for those things after reading all about what those poor kids went through!—Do you? I certainly wouldn't want to have been in their shoes!

10. So it's not the testimonies that are the problem.—It's the wrong way that some of you teens are taking them. Regardless of what articles we put in the Hope, if some of you kids develop a desire for the World after reading them, you have the problem, & you're the ones who have got to change & get over it! And as far as I'm concerned, the sooner you learn for yourselves, the better! Instead of fiddling around & causing trouble for others & spreading that kind of a wrong attitude, just go out in the System & see firsthand what it's like, if that's what you really want!

CAUTION NEEDED IN ADULTS' TESTIMONY PRESENTATION!

11. On the other hand, if you adults are not really thinking or praying about what you're saying, you can almost make it sound like life

in the System was a lot of fun. Some adults do that inadvertently sometimes by sort of joking about all the things they got away with & how they broke the law & didn't get caught, without balancing it with the suffering that it caused them & the damage it wrought in their lives.—Or what it was like when they did get caught!

12. If you don't honestly share about the "wages" of sin, the negative repercussions of the act, & you just sort of joke around about it, such testimonies can actually promote the evil deeds you once did! Such testimonies about your past life should have a point to them, & should serve as an illustration that "crime doesn't pay," that "your sin will find you out!"—Num.32:23. If you're unable to draw such lessons out of your testimony, or you can't seem to balance the more exciting or adventurous aspects of your former life with the resultant damage that your misdeeds brought upon you, then perhaps you should avoid talking about your past altogether.—Especially around our children & teens!

13. I know sometimes you're just recalling some of those things, & it's almost sort of funny to think back that many years ago when you were a completely different kind of person who has now changed so much. It can be sort of innocent, but if you're not real careful, you could inadvertently get the teens' interest aroused in things like that. For example, someone may say, "I used to shoplift all the time & I only got caught once." It's a fairly innocent remark that an adult could make, not meaning any harm by it at all, but some teen could think, "Wow!—If it's that easy, why not try it? If he got away with it, so could I!"

14. Not long ago Peter was telling me about a few of his experiences when he was a drug-taking hippie. Some of the things he went through are almost funny, & we adults can now look back on them in amazement, & can laugh about it. It's sort of funny to realise that here we are dedicating our lives to serve the Lord & follow Jesus fulltime, yet some of us were so extremely off the track, rebellious & defiant before! We're literally amazed at the change! But even though we adults can sort of joke about it amongst ourselves sometimes, it's not at all the kind of thing we should speak lightly of in front of our children.

DETERRENT TESTIMONIES!

15. It was after Peter shared some of these

nitty-gritty details from his past with me that the Lord gave me an idea that I believe could really help our teens. I think it's time to publish some new & different kind of testimonies in the Hope Mag!

16. We've pubbed a lot of people's personal testimonies in the past, but most of them have been an overview of the person's entire life, a summary that just barely touches on all the different events or stages they went through. There usually wasn't enough time or space to go into much detail. But the idea that came to me is how tremendous it would be to have some of our adults write up in detail some of the specific incidents that took place in their lives. —Harrowing experiences they went through either before they joined the Family or—if they ever left—when they were backslidden.

17. They could take a certain incident or series of related incidents & enlarge upon it & tell it like it really was, including all the gory details, to really put the fear of God into our kids! When somebody writes a testimony in the FSM that just matter-of-factly states, "I was a gun runner & I almost got killed," or "I was strung out on drugs & I almost died," what kind of effect does that have on you? It says what happened but it doesn't really move you or sink in.

18. There's no emotional impact to go with it, it's just a bare statement without any feeling because it's usually just one little fact in the middle of all the other facts related to the person's overall testimony. So what I would like to see now are some testimonies in which a certain experience or incident is taken & enlarged upon, with some real emotion put into it, to really show these kids of ours how terrible it actually was, & that the results were very damaging in your life, were very hurtful, & in many cases, almost killed you!

19. It's time to give 'em the raw facts & the awful truth, honestly describing the torture & suffering so many of you adults went through, the mental agony & anguish. I think testimonies like that would be a deterrent that would literally scare our teens out of backsliding or getting off the track!

20. A few testimonies in the Hope Mag like that by some of our adults who have really gone through it out in the System would be very powerful. (See the first testimony in this series in Hope #10!) We've got hundreds of testimonies like that. But hardly any of our teens have really been out in the System enough to

know what life is really like out there. Very few of them have backslidden, thank God, & of those few, even fewer have returned. So we simply don't have that much material along these lines from the teens themselves.

21. Of course, a lot of our teens in the Family have backslidden spiritually in various ways, but such strayings are usually not so obvious or dramatic. It's usually difficult to relate that sort of thing with concrete examples of what happened that would scare their peers to death & throw the fear of the Lord into them. But the kind of things that a lot of our adults went through all their years in the System are really hair-raising! Many of them had very frightening experiences that I think could maybe do the trick & wake some of our kids up to the reality of what a horrible Pit the System really is!

A TIME TO SHARE THE NEGATIVE!

22. I realise that we've usually tried to stay away from that kind of negative thing. We believe in emphasising the positive as much as possible, so we haven't really emphasised the negative. But I think our teens now need to hear it!—The nitty-gritty about how awful it is out there! They have never experienced it & they don't know what it's really like, & like I said, when they hear different adults talking about the System, it's often all so far removed from the adults that it's shared in sort of a light or even humorous way.

23. Maybe our adults haven't spent enough time telling the kids how it really was out there, & what Hell they went through. Of course, not everybody has had super exciting or adventurous experiences, but most of us have gone through some hair-raising times due to our own sins or disobediences or whatever. Many of our folks went through some extremely dangerous & frightening crisis before they found the Lord.

24. If they would testify of some of the traumatic experiences they went through, & tell the results of it all, the damage it did to them, I think it could cause our teens to have serious second thoughts about some things in the System that they might presently think are somewhat appealing, exciting or even fascinating. Whereas when they hear just a light mention of some of the things different adults did, they are tempted to think, "Wow!—Why don't we get to have all that excitement that our parents had when they were teens?!"

25. So even though the teens consider "Hope" their mag, I don't think they'll mind having some of the adults' stories in there if the testimonies are really exciting & true-life. I'm sure we have a lot of really hair-raising stories some of our folks could tell!—It will be tremendous!

HOW GORY A STORY?

26. One question I've considered was, "How gory do we want to get?" Personally, I think we should go the limit! And if some of our teens have a fascination for evil, that's their problem, & they'd better get the victory! But hopefully, most of them aren't like that, & hearing about the horrible effect the System's evil had on many of our adults will give them an absolute revulsion for it! It's time they heard the truth about the System & got a little fear of the Lord about ever getting involved in it!

RID THE REBELS!

27. I think our attitude & dealings with serious problem teens should be the same as Dad has always taught us regarding persistent problem cases: After you've done all you can to help them, & they still desire the System, just tell them, "You want to leave?—You're free to go!" Maybe a lot of them feel that they have a place in the Family no matter what they do, but that's just not so. If they want to go to the System, let 'em go!—Out!

28. These warning testimonies may not always save the ones who leave us. Maybe the World's already too deeply ingrained in them. If they have such a love of the World in their hearts, who knows, maybe they don't even belong with us. (1Jn.2:19) But even if they never come back, they'll serve as a dandy bad example, "that others also may fear!"—1Tim. 5:20. So we may risk losing a few, but as a result, we may be able to save a whole lot more.

29. If we insist on holding on to a few rotten apples, they're just going to cause trouble anyway, so it's better to just let them go, get rid of them! Then the sooner they learn—if they're going to learn—the sooner they'll come back. But if they're not going to learn, then we don't want them anyway. That's always been our policy: People who insist on being problem cases or want to leave, just tell them to go!

OUR TEENS ARE ACCOUNTABLE!

30. If you Family teens wilfully go out into the System, you're not going to be shown as much mercy by the Lord as we were when we were out in the System! Most of us didn't even know Him then. In some respects, He kept us & protected us because He knew we were His children & that we were searching for the Truth. But we hadn't even found it yet, so we weren't nearly as accountable as you teenagers in the Family are. If you leave the Family & wilfully go out there, you're not going to be so protected! You're going to get it & you're going to really be severely chastened & punished by the Lord because you know the Truth & would be rejecting it! (Eze.3:18-21, Heb.6:4-8, 10:24-31.)

31. Most of our adults didn't even have the Truth, so weren't necessarily rejecting it. Most of us were just wandering around lost in our sins. Of course, we did suffer for our sins, but a lot of our suffering was just to help make us turn to the Lord. But you teens are going to suffer a lot more if you turn away from the Lord & toward the World, rejecting all the Truth you know! Our adults who have backslidden can give you some pretty gory stories of just how bad it will be for anyone who does that!

THE THREE PURPOSES FOR SUFFERING!

32. I can think of three basic purposes for suffering: The first & easiest to go through is when you suffer for the Lord, like when you're persecuted for the Gospel. In other words, if you get thrown in jail for witnessing, you're suffering for the Lord's sake, & He is really going to keep you. For instance, no matter how bad conditions were for Italian Angelo when he was imprisoned in Greece, it was almost like he was living in a bubble of protection. The miracles that happened were amazing, the way the police & the criminals left him alone. The Lord's Spirit was surrounding him, & no matter what terrible things he had to see & endure all around him, he was still miraculously protected by the Lord.

33. Even if He doesn't protect & keep you from having to suffer, He will be with you in it & keep you through it, just like He did with the early martyrs. The Lord will give you the grace. He says, "If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you!"—1Pet.4:14. He will even do outright miracles for you, like He did

for the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace & the early Christians who were burned at the stake. They sang songs of praise while the fires burned!—In other words, they didn't even feel the flames! PTL!

34. A lot of our people tend to talk sort of lightly or superficially about "going to jail for Jesus." For those who have been imprisoned for the Lord, it may have been hard on them in some ways, but it usually wasn't that difficult, as they saw that the triumphs & the victories won out of it were so much greater by comparison than the difficulties they had to endure. So that's what we usually emphasise to our kids & to the Family.—And it's true; when you suffer for Jesus, it's relatively easy. But as a result, many of our kids could easily think, "Oh, going to jail isn't really so bad, our parents did, & they didn't seem to suffer that much!" I wouldn't be surprised if that's how many of them may think.

35. Of course, we don't want to go to the opposite extreme & scare our teens so much by all of our tales of when we were in the System & went to prison & all the terrible things that happened, that we freak them out so much that they're afraid to stand any persecution for the Lord! I think the key to it is just to make the distinction clear: "When you love the Lord & you're forced to go to jail or suffer persecution for His sake, He always gives you the grace & strength to endure it & come out of it victoriously."

36. The second kind of suffering is when you don't know the Lord, like when you were in the System. You probably suffered for your sins & even for the sins of your parents, but the Lord was still watching over you & even protecting you to a degree. He had to let most of you suffer a few hard things in order to teach you some needed lessons & to show you that the System wasn't where it was at. But He knew you weren't very accountable, so He mercifully didn't let you suffer any more than was necessary. Although many of you got a taste of Hell, He still spared your lives & preserved you for His Work.

37. Then the third & worst degree of suffering is if you're a backslider, when you know the Truth, but in spite of it all, you reject it & go to the World. Well, you're really going to suffer if you get into that kind of a predicament! Because of your own sins & your own disobedience & your own backsliding, you're out from under the protection of the Lord, & He's going to see that you really get it! (Heb.10:31!)

38. If you wilfully forsake the Lord & His Will, you will really suffer for it!—And the worst thing about it is you're not going to have anyone to turn to! You'll feel all alone.—Guilty, forsaken & frightened, with nothing but "laments" because you refused to "listen" to & heed the Lord's Words & loving warnings! (See "Listening?—Or Lamenting!" ML #320.) So when you teens read about what horror many of your parents went through in the System, take note & realise that what they went through is nothing compared to what you will go through if you deliberately backslide & forsake the Lord's Will & Work!

"OTHERS SAVED BY FEAR!"—Jude 23

39. I really don't think it's going to hurt you teens to have a healthy fear of backsliding into the System. Some of you need to be scared! You don't know what the System's like, & some of you look at it curiously & with a little bit of a fascination & desire to sort of experience some of those things. Well, you'd be a lot better off if you were scared silly about ever going out there!

40. "Others saved by fear" (Jude 23) is the Scripture I got. I think that's what we've got to do with some of you, save you by fear, scare the Hell out of you about the System! That's about the only way we might be able to get some of you to realise how bad things really are out there.

TELL'M WHAT THE SYSTEM'S REALLY LIKE!

41. If our teens want to know what the System's like, let's tell them! That's what our teen backsliders have all said: "We went out there because we didn't know what the System was like, we'd never experienced it & we wanted to see what it's like." Well, let's tell them what it's really like! Let's tell them the truth about the System!—Not just the things they see on videos or on TV, the glorified picture of it with all its glitter & glamour & all the things they see when they go out on the ritzy streets or into people's fancy homes or the sparkling stores & all that.

42. It's time to tell our kids the truth about it, what the System is really like behind its fronts! Most of our adults & parents have experienced it because they grew up in it.

43. I think that would be a very worthwhile project for some of our people, to write up portions of their testimony, specific incidents that they went through. Let's tell'm about the

real rough stuff too, because you know good & well if our kids backslide they're going to get the rough stuff! Thank the Lord we didn't all experience the hellish terrors that some of you have, but if our kids deliberately backslide & go out there & get into it, it's going to be horror for them! So we might as well tell them about the really bad & horrific things we went through in the System.

44. Another thing that they should realise is that when we were young, the World wasn't nearly as bad as it is today. Let's face it, "evil men & seducers have waxed worse & worse" (2Tim 3:13), & the World has completely taken a turn for the worse! Think of what it would be like to be in most prisons nowadays.—Horrific! The worst things we can tell them about what happened to us probably aren't half as bad as what they would encounter if they would go out & get in the same situation today! I'm sure the Lord would really sock it to them. They know better, they really know better!

45. So I don't think it's going to hurt to really throw the fear of God into them with some true terrifying tales about what many of us have been through! Besides, they're exciting testimonies & it would make exciting reading. It'll certainly hold their attention! Of course, I don't think any little kids should hear that sort of thing, our younger ones shouldn't be reading the Hope Mags if they've got these types of testimonies in them. We'll just have to say that the particular Hope issues featuring traumatic testimonies of this sort are only for 12-year-olds & over, & even then they should have adults explain anything they don't understand.

46. But as far as our teens being able to take it, I think they need it! They need to have it really socked to them because many of them are sort of lackadaisical & bored & they don't think we're all that revolutionary because they've grown up in it all their lives so it doesn't seem so different to them.

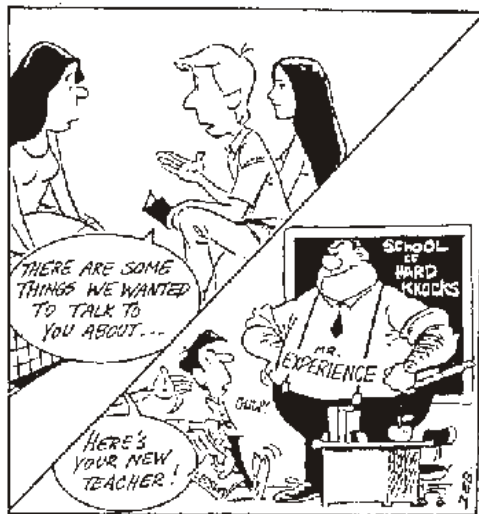
47. They don't hate the System because they hardly know anything about it. They've grown up in the Family so we're just another way of life for them. And when they look at it, it sometimes looks like a pretty hard way of life too. The grass might even look greener to them on the other side, outside in the System.

48. So they need to be shaken up, & I think this just might be a way that will get through to them. Of course, as World conditions get really hot & heavy in the near future, that'll shake

them up too—Endtime events! But until then, if we want to try to do something for them now, I think telling them the raw truth about the System might really help to stir them up out of their lethargy & to help them appreciate the Family! Amen? PTL! (Amen) Shake'm up!—D.)

"A WISE MAN WILL HEAR!"—Pro.1:5.

DO 2543 Comp. 8/89



1. It's been said that a wise man learns from experience, but that a wiser man learns from the experience of others. Well, this is certainly true: If you're really smart, if you have real wisdom, you'll listen to others & learn from them & their experience! "A wise man will hear & will increase learning, & a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels. Give instruction to a wise man, & he will be yet wiser."—Pro.1:5, 9:9.

2. I've often said that one of the main reasons God has put us here on this Earth is to teach us to make decisions, so we can learn to choose between good & evil, to do right or wrong, to serve God or ourselves & the Devil. One way or another, God will teach each of us these major lessons of life that we're here to learn.—How it pays to love & believe & serve & obey Him, & how we will pay if we doubt, disobey & rebel against Him!

3. From the very beginning God has always given Man the opportunity to learn the easy way, by simply believing & obeying His Word & the testimony of His Prophets, even if he

doesn't always understand why. If Adam & Eve had believed God, they would have heeded His Word & warning & therefore known—by faith—that God was right. But they chose not to learn the easy way of faith & obedience, but instead chose the hard way, so God let them go ahead & disobey & learn by bitter experience. They refused to learn the easy way, so they had to learn the hard way!

4. The Lord still works the same way with us today, & He will see to it that we all learn our lessons, one way or the other.—Either by the easy way of simply heeding His Word & the good direction & Godly advice that others pass on to us, or by the hard way of experience, which is the most expensive education you can possibly get, as it usually hurts!

5. When a child is warned by his parents to look both ways before crossing the street, or to go slowly & cautiously through intersections on his bicycle, the easy way for him to learn is for him to listen & believe his parents who are teaching him what to do & what not to do from their experience or others' experience. But if he refuses to heed their warnings & advice & he runs out into the street without looking, or he races through intersections on his bicycle without looking, he will still learn!—But he'll learn the hard way, by bitter experience!—And he may not survive the lesson!—His last!

6. The easy way, the shortcut, is to believe the Truth & what your teachers tell you, & not to have to learn by experience, the school of hard knocks. If you believe God's Word & believe your teachers, then you won't have to learn the bitter lessons taught by the harsh school of experience.

7. What happened to Adam & Eve for their rejection of God's Word & consequent disobedience is the same thing that happens to us when we refuse to heed the Lord's warnings & insist on going our own way. God cracked the whip & let them really suffer for it! But through it all, Adam & Eve & all of their descendants ever since have learned by comparison the difference between disobedience & obedience. We have learned the judgements of God & the horrors that we suffer for disobedience, & we have learned the blessings & rewards of obedience.

8. This is God's standard procedure by which He operates: He gives us His Word & tells us what He wants us to do, & warns us about what not to do. But if we flatly refuse to learn by listening, He has to let us learn by bitter experience. If we

refuse to learn by the shortcut of obedience, then we have to learn by the hard knocks of disobedience, & by His consequent chastisements, spankings & judgements! When we go astray, He is then forced to chasten us with the rod to rescue us from the ruin of our own folly!

9. So when we warn you teens about what a cesspool & slime-pit & stinking Hell of a God-damned mess the System is, if you're really smart, if you're wise, you'll believe God's Word & heed our warnings & learn from the experience that we have gone through! The easy way to learn is via teachers, they are a shortcut to learning. If you listen to your Shepherds & teachers, you can avoid the snares & pitfalls of which they warn you.

10. Although serving the Lord can sometimes be a rough & a rugged road, serving sin, self, Satan & the System is a Hell of a lot rougher! Jesus promised that His yoke is easy & that His burden is light. But "the way of the transgressor is hard!"—Mat.11:30; Pro.13:15. I know that's so true because when I've stepped out of God's Will & left my calling, I had nothing but real trouble, & barely escaped with my life! I've found out by bitter personal experience exactly what happens when you don't heed the Lord's warnings, when you don't stay true to Him & His calling. I'll tell you right now, when you know better & you're accountable, yet you still wilfully go against the Lord, it's a very dangerous business!

11. The worst time for me was when I joined the U.S. Army because I wanted to get out of working for my Mother. I was tired of being in the Lord's Army, I wanted to do something different. I'd never really had a taste of the World, never really gotten out there & seen what it was all about & had "freedom," I always felt like I was tied to my Mother's apron strings. Maybe you kids feel like that sometimes too, "I wish I could just go out there & see what it's like!" Well, all that glitters is not gold. It may look interesting & fascinating, like it might be a lot of fun, but it's a garbage pit, it's filthy, it's a dung-hill!—Just ask any of us who have been out there in it!

12. But the cow is never satisfied & the grass always looks greener on the other side of the fence, & I wanted to try it. So the Lord let me have the desire of my heart, but He sent leanness to my soul!—Psa.106:15. I hadn't been in that Army one day when I knew I was in the wrong place & shouldn't be there! But the Lord let me

sweat it out for months to learn my lesson good before He let me get out of it!—But then He delivered me! And I was sure thankful, even though it took nearly killing me to get me out!

13. I learned that indeed, “the way of the transgressor is hard!” I found out then that experience certainly is a good teacher, but the worst teacher & the hardest & caused me the most pain & suffering & grief! When you go through the cruel school of experience, you know it.—And then you can warn others about it!

14. We’ve had our share of backsliders, people who thought it would be great if they could get out there in the System. They wouldn’t have to follow the dictates of Dad any more, they could go out & have their freedom & not have to be witnesses or missionaries or suffer on the mission field. They thought they could just go into the System & make money & buy gadgets & live in luxury!—But it doesn’t usually work that way, & they always sadly discover that it didn’t pay. They put their money in a bag with holes in it, & God blew upon it & it came to naught! (Hag.1:6).

15. Sooner or later they always realise that having left the Father’s house, like the Prodigal Son, they inevitably wind up in the swine pit under the Enemy & at his mercy, which is none! (See Luk.15:11-16.) “It is happened unto them according to the true proverb, the dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”—2Pet. 2:22. They find out just how hard the way of the transgressor is! Thank God for those who wake up & come to their senses & return to the Lord & His Will & the Family!

16. But those who are still out there in the System, why is it that we hardly ever hear anything from them or about them?—Except for the relatively few outright Judases who have viciously & vocally turned against us. But why don’t we ever hear from the rest of them, the glorious testimonies of how wonderful it is to backslide & how marvellous it is to be back in the System, of how happy they are & how wonderful it would be for others to backslide with them?!

17. What little we do hear from them is almost always nothing but complaints & troubles & problems, & woeful tales of sickness & accidents & all kinds of other troubles! As I said, I know from personal experience what it’s like to get out of God’s Will, & as soon as I saw how bad the World is, how rough it is, I looked

back to my former days in God’s service, in God’s Family, & knew that I had had Heaven on Earth! And that’s how it is with most backsliders! They wind up going through Hell before they appreciate the Heaven they once had!—How sad!

18. I am fully persuaded that you can go through the fires of Hell here & now in this life! You can suffer the flames & the fires of Hell on Earth right here & now for your sins, for the hand of God can be very heavy & His chastening can be very severe, & “it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of an angry God!”—Heb. 10:31.

19. They say that if you run with wolves, you’ll soon learn to howl with them. But if a sheep leaves the Shepherd’s Fold, he may not even have time to howl! If despite all of the Shepherd’s warnings, & in spite of the sheep-dogs yapping at your heels, if you still wilfully wander away from the Fold & wind up in the woods amongst the wolves, then it’s your own fault if you are devoured!—You may not even have time to bleat, only bleed, & that’s usually the end!

20. How can you expect God to protect you or prosper you or bless you in any way if you knowingly leave His Will & are running around outside the secret place & out from under the shadow of His wings, outside of the fortress of perfect fellowship with Him? When you do this, you can no longer claim His protection & defenses outlined in Psalm 91, & He may even allow you to fall prey to the Enemy because you’re playing with fire & living so close to Enemy territory!

21. So why not take God’s & our word for it?—That the System is a Hell-hole & a Pit! For God’s sake & His Eternal Kingdom’s sake & your own sake as well, heed our warnings & stay faithful to the Lord, His Word & His Work!—Be watchful & prayerful & mindful & spiritually attentive to His Words of Truth & Warning!—Amen?

22. “A wise man will hear!”—Are you wisely listening, hearing & heeding God’s loving Voice that calls you to ever-brighter horizons & realms of service for Him & the Salvation of eternal souls? Have you, like Moses, forsaken the Egypt of this World, looking beyond its temporal temptations because you see Jesus & have an eye on Eternity & its great rewards?

23. Moses counted the riches of Christ greater than all the riches of this World, “for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.”

He knew the riches & rewards of Christ were far greater than all the riches of this whole World combined & all of its selfish pleasures & selfish interests. TYJ! So "he chose to suffer affliction with the children of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of this life which are only for a season." Heb.11:25-27.

24. Whatever this life & this World have to offer, it's only for a little while! But Salvation, souls & service for the Lord are forever, they are eternal! "For this World passes away & the fashion thereof, but he that doeth the Will of God abideth forever! For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."—1Jn.2:17; 2Cor.4:18. Hallelujah! So "love not the World, neither the things that

are in the World, for he that loveth the World, the love of the Father is not in him!"—1Jn.2:15.

25. "Only one life, 'twill soon be past!—Only what's done for Christ will last!" What are you doing?—For whom?—Will it last forever for Jesus & others? He's coming soon! Will you be glad?—Or ashamed forever?—Sorry forever! "They that be wise shall shine! And the wise shall inherit glory, but shame shall be the promotion of fools!"—Dan.12:2,3; Pro.3:35.

26. God's called you!—Have you chosen His highest & best?—Or will you disappoint Him & fail Him? May God help you to be faithful to the End! "Be thou faithful unto death, & I will give thee a crown of life!"—Rev.2:10.—In Jesus' name, amen!

URGENT APPEAL FOR TRAUMATIC TESTIMONIES!—We Need Yours Now! 8/89 LNFs #125!—By WS Staff



1. As Mama brings out in her Letter, "Traumatic Testimonies for Teens!", it is now time for us to tell our teens via the "Hope" Mag the raw, unvarnished, naked truth about the System & what a Hell-pit it really is!

2. Due to the startling & "heavy meat" status of many of these "Traumatic Testimonies," we recommend that only teens 12 years of age & over read them. Up until now, most of us have had a tendency to spare our kids the nitty-gritty details of the Hell that we went through in the System before we found the Lord. We usually emphasise the Good News, & make it a point to

think on & speak about "whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely & of good report," & rightly so.—Ph.4:8. We also tend to "forget those things which are behind, & reach forward to those things which are before" (Ph.3:13), which again, is a very good rule to go by most of the time.

3. However, there is a "time to every purpose under Heaven" (Ecc.3:1), & another side to the coin. The Lord even tells us that we sometimes need to "Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, & to the hole of the Pit whence ye are digged!"—Isa.51:1. In other words, there is also a time to remember the "hole of the Pit" that He's rescued us from, to encourage our own hearts to be thankful for His Salvation & deliverance, as well as to enable us to warn others, lest they should fall into the same Pit!

4. "He brought me up also out of an horrible Pit, & out of the miry clay; and hath set my feet upon a Rock & established my goings. And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God; many shall see it (when we testify!), & fear, & shall trust in the Lord! For He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill!"—Psa.40:2,3, 113:7. PTL!

5. The Lord laid this "Traumatic Testimonies" idea on Mama's heart as a means of delivering our souls in our teens in particular. Hopefully such testimonies will open their eyes to the true horrors of the System, & shatter the rather distorted & candy-coated concept of life

in the System that's been presented to them by the Hollywood movie-makers.

6. Another factor which has contributed to many of our teens getting the wrong impression of the System, as Mama brings out in her Letter, is when they have heard us adults speaking rather lightly or even jokingly about some of the things we experienced in our past. A tendency on our part is to sometimes put too much emphasis on the more exciting or adventurous side of some of the things we may have gone through, while neglecting to bring out the fear, loneliness, anguish & absolute spiritual torment that we knew then, which can cause the teens to think that maybe things really aren't so bad out there after all!

7. In the "Psalm of David" Letter, the Lord gave Dad the true picture & description of what our lives were really like in the System: "These are the little ones, the sheep of My pastures & flocks of My folds who have suffered above all generations, & who run after that which I shall give them. (The picture is of them lifting up their hands & crying out in such torment of spirit, worse than being tortured in the flesh—almost like they are in Hell! They are spiritually tortured!—The picture of this generation!)" (ML#152:13)

8. When the Lord used His first Moses to call a New Nation out of the hard bondage & soul-slavery of Egypt of old, He made it very clear that He wanted His people to remember the "Pit from whence they were digged," & to pass their testimonies on to their children. He said, "The Lord hath taken you, & brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

9. "And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, 'What mean the testimonies & the statutes & the judgements which the Lord our God hath commanded you?' Then thou shalt say unto thy son, 'We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand!' And thou shalt rejoice before the Lord thy God, thou & thy son & thy daughter. And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: & thou shalt observe & do these statutes!"—Deut.4:20; 6:20,21, 15:15; 16:11,12.

10. In order to effectively testify to our "sons & daughters" & show them what a wonderful miracle of God's Love & mercy & Salvation it was that He delivered us from the cruel fiery furnaces of today's "Egypt", we need your help!

—So we appeal to you adults to please pray & ask the Lord what parts of your testimony could help open our teens' eyes to what it's really like out there in the pit of this "present evil World!" —Gal.1:4.

11. "For we know that we are of God, & that the whole World lieth in wickedness!"—1Jn.5:19. But sad to say, many of our teens do not fully realise just what an absolutely wicked, perverted, Devil-controlled Hell-hole the System is, because (thank God) most of them have never experienced its horrors first-hand. "A wise man will learn from the experience of others," & if you will share your experiences with them via your testimony in the Hope Mag, your warning could be the "experience of others" that helps them to waken up & absolutely loathe & completely forsake any temptation towards the particular aspects of the System that you expose & debunk!

12. Of course, you who are "prodigals" who backslid out of the Family & experienced not only what it's like to suffer in the Pit, but also what it's like to suffer God's severe chastening because you knowingly & wilfully left the Father's House for the temptations of the "far country" of this World, your testimonies would be especially helpful! You who backslid to "waste your substance in riotous living" & wound up in the System's filthy, sinking swine pit, can tell the teens firsthand what it's like to purposely backslide & fall into the hands of an angry God!—So for God's sake & our teens' sake, tell it like it is!

13. Please pray today about what parts of your testimony could be pubbed as "Traumatic Testimonies" in the Hope Mag! You may literally be saving some of our precious teens' lives!—Or at least their usefulness for the Lord & His Eternal Kingdom! We particularly need testimonies that will expose the true nature of many System roles, positions & experiences that the Devil glorifies & portrays a completely false picture of in the World's movies, magazines, TV shows, news media etc., etc.!

14. For example, any of you who went through the Hell of the Vietnam war should be able to utterly destroy the supposedly "heroic" Rambo image, & expose the heartless horrors of war & the System's war-machines!

15. Details about the brutality & cruelty that are commonplace in military schools & military services could certainly help our teens to be more thankful for how blessed they are to be in

the Lord's Army! Testimonies of life in any such System institutions—boarding schools, orphanages, reformatories, mental institutions, etc. could be very eye-opening for our teens!

16. Jeremy Spencer could tell the truth of what it's like to be one of the System's most glorified idols, a "rock star!" Others who were professional musicians, actors or performers of any kind could share with us the behind-the-scenes backstage problems that plague those who pursue such professions.

17. You who were professional models in the System could reveal the seamer side of the supposedly "glamorous" career of modelling, exposing the cut-throat competition, phoniness, rampant homosexuality, drug-dependency, heartlessness of unscrupulous flesh-marketters etc. Anyone who pursued or was caught up in a so-called "gay" lifestyle could share what spiritual desolation & anguish of soul came upon them as a result.—The painful price they paid for their perversions & Sodomies!

18. Former beauty queens, cheerleaders, dancers etc. no doubt have testimonies that could open our teens' eyes to what these glorified positions or professions really entail. Details of the merciless politics, competition, conniving & soul-slavery that those involved in such professions faced would be greatly appreciated.

19. You who were prostitutes before joining the Family could provide us with testimonies that would expose the horrors & dangers of such a life in the System. You who can portray the horrible emptiness you found in previous lives of materialism, intellectuality or even of being a jet-setting businessman, please detail for us the "hunks" such pursuits brought to your soul!

20. You who have experienced incarceration in the System's prisons could graphically describe the horrors you encountered there. This would give our teens a clear picture of what prison life would be like were they ever to backslide & wind up in one of the System's jails as a chastening from the Lord!—As some have! Of course, due to rapidly deteriorating & degenerating backslidden World conditions, prison life is much worse today than it was 10 to 20 years ago!

21. Those of you who were actively involved in radical politics or guerilla groups, or were committed to political causes or ideologies such as Communism, Socialism, Fascism, etc. could tell us how & why you ultimately became dis-

appointed & disillusioned with this World's politics.

22. Outstanding testimonies of how a love relationship without the Lord usually sours & falls apart could also be enlightening. Teen marriages in the System usually end in disaster, & it would probably help our teens to hear why! It would also be a help to hear about the almost insurmountable obstacles & hardships faced by teens who get pregnant & have children in the System.—Or are forced by their parents to murder their unborn babies through abortion!—Let's tell it like it is!

23. Also, anyone who laboriously pursued a so-called "higher education," only to find that their endless hours of blood, sweat, tears, toil, tests & exams were in vain, your testimony could also be a blessing. The same is true of those of you who underwent rigorous athletic training in school or professionally.—Let's hear what it's really like to be one of the System's "good sports"! What effect did all that scholastic & athletic pressure have on you?

24. Anyone who was involved in a serious auto or motorcycle accident could probably give a vivid picture of where the worship of such high-speed "molten images" leads to! And any of you with testimonies of the Hell of drug addiction & bad drug trips could share these also, outlining the repercussions of such drug usage. Drugs are a greater problem today than they ever were, & we owe it to our teens to tell them the truth of what the Devil's drug world is really like!

25. The same holds true for anyone who delved into the occult or Satanism.—Tell our teens how spiritually "playing with fire" eventually "burned" you & had you on your way to Hell until the Lord mercifully rescued you! Also, if you were caught up in any Eastern Religion such as Hinduism, Buddhism, or even Transcendental Meditation or any other false cult or ism, hearing how it failed to meet your spiritual needs could help reaffirm our teens' conviction that "He that entereth not by the Door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief & a robber!"—Jn. 10:1.

26. And let's help our kids realise how absolutely blessed they are to be in the Family by graphically describing the senseless cruelty that prevails in System schools, social circles & families! How many of you can remember how horrible it was to be constantly picked on, made fun of, bullied or beat up?—How those who are

physically handicapped are ridiculed & even tormented by others in school?—And how those who are simply different from the majority because of their race or their religion or their poverty, or just because of their appearance (the way they dressed, their facial features etc.) are singled out & made a laughing stock by the so-called "in" crowd? If you suffered such senseless cruelty from your peers when you were a teen, write it up & tell our teens what it's really like in the System's schools & social circles!

27. It's easy for our teens to sometimes become critical of their parents & of Family life, so why not tell'm what many of our lives were like in our previous Flatland families? Let's tell'm what real "child abuse" is like!—What it's like to live with parents who epitomise "Who Are the Rebels"!—Many of whom were excessively violent, constantly murmuring & exploding in uncontrolled anger & rage, terrifying their children & forcing them to obey by cruelly abusing & punishing them verbally as well as physically!

28. Our teens might learn to be real thankful real quick if they were to get a clear picture of what it's like to have alcoholic parents who continuously fought & screamed & cursed at each other!—Or what it's like to be an "unwanted child," to be told by your parents that they didn't even want you, & to be treated like a slave by them!—Or how it feels to be constantly compared to a favoured brother or sister whom your parents preferred & spoiled while they derided & despised you!—Or simply neglected you & acted as if you didn't even exist!—Or like they wished you didn't exist!

29. Those from well-to-do wealthy backgrounds could testify how having everything you wanted materially still left an aching emptiness in your heart. Or those who are from poor backgrounds could tell us what it's like to not have enough food on the table. If you were forced to become the "bread winner" in your family at an early age, slaving away to try to make enough money to help make ends meet, or taking care of your younger brothers & sisters fulltime on your own, your story could certainly help our teens to count their blessings!

30. In fact, any of you who can recall other kinds of specific traumatic incidents, experiences, crises or periods that you went through—either before you joined the Family, or if & when you backslid from the Family—please take the

time to write up your testimony & send it in for the Hope Mag right away!—And Shepherds, please encourage your Home members who have such testimonies to write'm up!—And give them time to do so! "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!"—Psa.107:2. Please send in your "Traumatic Testimony" today! Thanks! GBY! WLY!

31. P.S.: Please understand, adult Family members, that this appeal is to encourage you to write up your "Traumatic Testimonies" for publication in the "Hope" Mag.—We are not encouraging everyone to begin verbally bombarding their teens with all kinds of horrific tales from their former lives! As Mama explained in her Letter, all articles published in the Hope Mag are very carefully & prayerfully checked, to make sure that the contents are edifying & suitable for publication.

32. But unwisely sharing testimonies & tales from your former life in the System could have harmful effects on others, particularly if you fail to honestly share the negative repercussions of your previous deeds, the "wages of sin." Also, if someone has a tendency to "glorify" or put too much emphasis on the seemingly "exciting" or "adventurous" aspects of their past lives, they could actually make their former actions & activities seem appealing to young inexperienced listeners!—So beware!

33. Of course, if you have a teen who is having serious problems & is in dire need of a "traumatic testimony" in which you share an experience from your past that will relate to him & help deter him from some specific lure of the System or snare of the Enemy, then by all means, go ahead & share it with him.—However, please thoroughly pray about your presentation before treading upon such sensitive & potentially dangerous ground, counsel with your Home Shepherds, & proceed only if & as the Lord leads!

34.—Remember, we are appealing for written testimonies for publication!—But if you feel you must deliver such a "traumatic testimony" to someone verbally, then why not record it & have it typed up, edited, & send it in to the Hope Mag? Amen? Thanks! WLY!

LETTER FROM PAUL PAPERS TO SINGIN' SAM ABOUT TRAUMATIC TESTIMONIES FOR TEENS!

Dear Sam,
GBY! ILY & pray that all is going well there

July, 1999

at the Japan School, in what I imagine will be your last weeks in Japan before heading back to Latin America! PTL! Are you excited? Anticipating a big change of this sort is always somewhat of an emotional experience, & as Dad has pointed out about moving, it's like "the end of one life & the beginning of another."

In your case, the upcoming move will not only represent the beginning of a new life, but since you've lived in Latin America before & will probably end up working with some of the same people again, others will of course be looking for manifestations of this new life in your personal sample, & specifically in what ways you've changed. This is true of personnel going from the East, especially from the Japan School, as others are aware you've benefited from a time of special training. And, thank the Lord, you have changed, & if you stay close to the Lord & little in your own eyes, He will shine through. TYJ! I'm sure that these are feelings that may have crossed your mind, & we trust you've had a chance to think about the lessons you have learned, which we pray your sample will reflect even if you never open your mouth to actually share a lesson.

Well, believe it or not, the purpose of this letter is not solely to encourage you to ask the Lord to help you be a good sample when you get to Latin America, but I also needed to write you about music, & the projects that are lined up for the studio there. Mama recently asked me to write the Latin American studio musicians asking them to work on a new GP children's tape, which actually started off as the "Bible Character tape" that you're familiar with. We trust that they'll be well underway with this project by the time you arrive in Latin America, so you probably won't need to get too involved in that particular project.

Another new musical assignment that the Folks would like to ask you to help out on is further Memory Book song tapes. Since the first four tapes have come out so well, Mama would like to attempt to do one or two more tapes covering not only further sections of the Memo Book you are familiar with & have been working from, but also from the new Memo Book, "Key Bible Verses," which is about to be published. PTL! As Mama has said, this Memory Book song project is one of our musicians' crowning productions, & the first four tapes are absolutely wonderful! God bless you for your participation in this & the other musical & video

projects there at the School.

If you end up with a brief interlude between projects before your move, we'd appreciate it if you could begin work on composing some new Memory Book songs, the final recording & production of which could be done in Latin America once you're set up there. (Mama's hoping that others like Jeremy, Jerry Paladino, Michael F. & Michael Listen will also be able to help in the composition of songs for this project when their present projects are done in their studio.) We also thought that we'd ask Zeb Gepetto to help as he did on the other tapes. So D.V., if time & talents permit, we hope the Latin American studio will be able to produce both the new DTD children's tape, as well as the new Memory Book songs in the two main languages of Latin America. So how does all that sound for the immediate future?

Actually there's another project we wanted to ask your help on even before you get into composing new songs for the Memory Book tapes: We'd like to ask you to write up a portion of your testimony for the "Hope" Mag along the lines of the kind of testimonies Mama talks about in her "Traumatic Testimonies For Teens" Letter. We'll be asking a number of people to write up similar articles. Although we are no longer teenagers, nevertheless we've not only experienced different things that our teens will also encounter, but we've also gone through experiences which we hope they will never have to! What we had in mind, Sam, was if you could write up a detailed testimony of the time that you backslid from the Family.

Now you may be thinking, "Hey, I've already written up that testimony in full!" Well, the difference in this request is that we'd like you to direct it to our young teen audience, & rather than trying to cover your whole story by just skimming the mountain peaks of experiences, this time just zero-in on one particular experience or era & go into great detail on that, bringing out the full emotion of each related event or episode. Would you mind writing this up for the "Hope"?

Now oftentimes when we tell teens a story from our past life, we "oldsters" have the tendency to recall the "brighter" aspects of it, but by doing so we minimise the more negative elements. When we stop & think about it honestly, in many cases these negative experiences reflect more the truth of the situation than whatever positive aspects we highlight! Of course we

usually try to give our testimonies in such a way that we dwell on the good things & the positive. We've also forgotten many of those things that are behind. But in this particular assignment, we'd like to ask you to recall the past & rub the teens' faces in the reality of what it's really like out there in order to give them a more realistic picture of what they would find should they ever leave the Lord's Work to go out into the Pit to "experience life."

For example, I recently shared my story of being in reform school as a 15-year-old, & went into all the nitty-gritty in order to blow away the rather sweet & inspiring "Boy's Town" image our teens are familiar with from the video circuit. (See Hope #10)—Hopefully, our teens aren't going to end up in Reform Schools or jail (Although many backsliders have!), but if we can paint a realistic picture of what it would entail if they ever did, this would discourage any desires for a System fling for fear of God's judgements if nothing else! The main point is to wake our kids up to the realities of the System, not the Hollywood image that they gain from popular teen videos, but the realities of loneliness, pain, heartbreak, put-downs, frustrations, boredom—in general, life without the Lord—to help them appreciate the wonderful life they've been blessed with. It seems that we owe it to our teens to show them the other side to help them gain a greater thankfulness for what the Lord's done for them, by painting the contrast of the Hell the System offers.

Another advantage of such testimonies is to scare them by showing what would probably happen to them if they were ever to backslide & the Lord had to deal with them by letting them get thrown in jail, or experience some of the things we adults have had to go through. In your case, Sam, please feel free to go into detailed descriptions of the state you found yourself in: Relatively low-paying construction job, drunken hangovers, almost asphyxiating from your own vomit, etc., etc. Mama asked if you could please try & complete this project before you leave Japan, since we would like to begin featuring stories of this sort in upcoming Hope magazines as soon as possible. Thanks so much!

Speaking of backsliding, as you know, the Lord has dealt heavily in (Big) Josh's life, & he's therefore committing himself to return to wholehearted dedication to the Lord. TTL! Actually, as much as Josh has written them & others, the Folks had hoped that he would go

into greater detail of his actual failings, & write up more of the nitty-gritty of all the Lord had to do to rub his nose in it. Unfortunately it seems to be difficult for Josh to go into very much honest detail about this, although he has "preached some good sermons." The reason we bring this up, Sam, is that Josh wrote that your letters & tapes have been a great blessing to him, & we do appreciate the fact that you & others Josh knew from before communicated with him in order to encourage him at a time when he really needed to know he was still loved & remembered. PTL!

On the other hand, it seems that some people are making too big a deal about Josh returning to the Lord's service. Unfortunately, this isn't altogether very good for him, as it seems to have the tendency to promote Josh's weaknesses of pride & self-righteousness, the very things that caused him to leave the Family in the first place. In other words, too much attention seems to make him almost feel obligated to promote the image he once had of "Big Josh" or "General Josh." Therefore, the Folks felt perhaps it's better you & others minimise the amount of correspondence &/or tapes you send him.

The Lord allowed him to hit bottom so he could start all over again as a babe & develop the proper new thought patterns, habits, attitudes etc., all of which he should be able to do in a local Home just as any other returnee. Josh is like a new babe, & as in the case of any other new babe, his local Home is usually able to pull him in & see him through. In other words, when a new disciple joins, the whole World doesn't stop & attempt to minister to him! There's simply too much more to be done. And while the Folks are very happy that Josh has returned to the Family, it's certainly not their policy to have everybody who once knew a backslider make a big fuss about writing him ongoing letters. As I've said, it's fine that you & others did write Josh, as it probably helped him get over his initial tough period. But in Josh's case, it seems that that period is now over, TTL!

Actually, Sam, maybe this is an opportunity to make mention of your pen-pal type mail ministry. I recall you used to regularly communicate with a number of people in order to share news of all that was happening with you, & in your particular location. Back in the "Worldwide Family Newsletters" Dad pointed out how "personal mail ministries" can become a real distraction, that some leaders & per-

sonalities have tried to promote. More recently, Faithy & Magdalene's problems along these same lines were addressed in the FSMs. Perhaps it's important to point out that there's a distinction between a mail ministry to outsiders that actually feeds people or is a means to support a Home, & one that is mainly directed to the Family just for news or inspiration.

That's not to say you can't write someone a note once in awhile, but the Folks don't like to promote writing amongst Family members as a regular & constant thing, when everybody in the Family just has so much else to read & do. Again, it's OK if the Lord lays someone on your heart to write to occasionally, but a steady flow of correspondence being sent out by an individual when it's not really for "business" or administrative reasons shouldn't be too much of a priority. Our time is far too important for us to be spending very much of it on writing lengthy, newsy, personal letters, don't you think?

The Folks love you & are so thankful for how you've so wisely invested your musical talents in the Lord's service over the years, & know you will truly reap a mighty reward for the fruit your songs & music have borne to the Kingdom! Dad & Maria especially wanted to thank you for your recent letter, Sam, & your admitted desire for greater dedication. TYJ!

God bless & keep you! We love you & will certainly be praying for you in these upcoming weeks prior to your departure as well as your continued fruitfulness in your new/old field of Latin America. PTL!

Love, Paul P.

STATS HIGHLIGHTS—FROM THE JULY 1ST, 1989 STATS (COVERING THE MONTH OF JUNE 1989) - By WS Staff
(Underlines & comments by Dad)

(These two pages would do the Family more good than all our stats pages together!—We could pub this instead of the detailed Stats GNs!—Simpler & Smaller!)

POPULATION: Overall population dropped slightly, mostly due to a fluctuation in DF Members, which decreased by 406. We now have a Total Population of 18,803 Members, including 5,980 DF Members & 12,648 TRFers. The DF Members figure sometimes fluctuates

if for example some Members aren't checked up on during the month. TRF Population itself decreased by 72. I think mainly this is possibly due to migrating missionaries in between fields. For example, the India Area TRF pop decreased by 83 as their wind-down continues, SEA decreased by 33, the Pacific decreased by 18, & LA decreased by 28 as they sent some teams to Europe & to NA. Europe itself increased by 93, however NA only increased by 3, so we'll see if these members show up on next month's stats.

EURO reported that they were inspired with the influx of 93 new live-ins arriving from India, the Jumbo, & Macau, & are expecting more! The number of Homes in Europe stayed about the same, which means these transferees are being absorbed into existing Homes, PTL! TRF Homes worldwide only increased by 4, & Home size remains above 18 at 18.3.

MIGRATION: As Family migration continues, we now have 68% of the TRFers in the West, divided 23% in Europe, 10% in NA, & 35% in LA, while 32% of the Family remains in the East. North America now has 1,330 TRFers, making up 10.5% of the Family!

DISTRIBUTION: Lit Distribution decreased by 8% this month, from 8.1 million pages to 7.5 million. Big decreases were felt in LA (Latin America) (down 11%) & the Pacific (down 34%). For a total of 900,000 less pages in these 2 areas. All other areas actually increased in distribution this month (NA [North America] up 19%, Europe up 3%, MEA [Mideast/Africa] up 69%, IA [India Area] up 12%, & SEA [Southeast Asia] up 7%), it's just that LA's & PAC's [Pacific's] decreases caused a net decrease worldwide.

LA reports that with 12% of their TRFers in Argentina, the economic crisis there has really affected their stats, with Tapes Distributed in Argentina, for example, down to 5 per adult. In Brazil, which has 25% of LA's TRFers, distribution went down by about 12% as they had a 3-week basic training course for the national disciples, many of whom were the Home shiners. They are trusting that this training will prove in the long run to have been a worthwhile investment. In the Pacific, distribution was down as the Homes in Japan are moving more into "inside out of sight" ministries, & thus their distribution has declined. Worldwide, Lit Pages per Adult is 1,463. MEA is tops at 2,122, LA

2nd with 2,018, while the Pacific dropped to last with 965. One encouraging note is that in the midst of these changes, SEA has continued to push & make increases in almost all areas, & this month is the World's number 1 rated area. They report that they are getting out as many witnessing teams as possible each day, & compared to 6 months ago they have made tremendous progress & seem to be keeping it up & not letting things slip. They report that they are particularly excited about the video vision.

VIDEOS: Nearly 2,500 videos were distributed this month, & this is the first month that videos were distributed in all areas. LA was at the top with 805 videos, SEA 2nd with 663, & the Pacific 3rd with 635. Europe distributed 265 videos. Though video distribution worldwide is still in the pioneering stages, the areas are beginning to dupe. Japan just pubbed a "Video Fever" advisory with lots of testimonies & tips from shiner distributors to help their area. In the STIMRO area, Singapore was able to dupe videos this month, while Indonesia is working on producing their own there too. Thailand has finished putting Thai subtitles on the Kiddie Viddies, & are expecting the Homes to get out even more this coming month, D.V., now that they are available in the local language. (PTL! TYJ!)

SOULS WON: Over 65,000 souls were won to the Kingdom this month, which came to an average of 12.7 per adult worldwide. This has been a slight decrease for the second straight month now; however, this could tie in with the migration of missionaries to the West, along with the various factors stated above such as the LA economic crisis, training programs in Brazil, & "inside out of sight" vision in Japan. It just seems that the Family in general is going through a lot of changes now in moving back to the West & getting set up & mobilized & reorganized there, & in stabilizing their ministries in the East. Considering all these factors, the Family still witnessed to 7.5 million people this month, won 65,000 souls, distributed 7.5 million pages of lit, 341,000 Posters, 62,000 Tapes, & 2,500 videos!—Personally witnessing to 630,000 people! This averaged 123 people personally witnessed to by each adult (4.1 a day), over 1,400 pages of lit per adult (49 pages a day), & 12.7 souls per adult (3 a week!). The Family is still on the move & seems to be

consolidating & reorganizing in both the Home Fields & the Mission Fields at the same time. It's amazing that in the midst of all this, actual Tithes from the Family increased by 5%! PTL!

PRINTING: It seems that the Homes may be gearing up for distribution, as Printing for GP went up by 26% this month to 10.8 Million pages! Printing for Members was half a million with mainly just the weekly pubs getting out, although we have several Books lined up.

AGE OF MEMBERS/TIME IN FAMILY: We have the new quarterly Age & Time Stats in this month, showing that 55% of us are Children under 12, 8% are Teens, & 37% are Adults. The Adults are 11% in their 20s, 22% in their 30s, & 4% over 40! In the Time in Family Stats, 37% of us have been in the Family under 5 years, 29% from 5 to 10 years, & 34% 10 years & over! It was interesting to note that of the 21 years of the Family's existence since 1968, the largest slice on the pie was for those joining just this last year (8.4%). The next largest slice was the year previous to that (8.0%).—Which seems to show that we are continually injecting new blood into the Family, with the largest percentages being the most recent years. (PTL! GB'M!)

NAT STATS: We have 97 nationalities this quarter, the top 5 being: USAs (19.8%), Brazilians (9.1%), Japanese (5.0%), Mexicans (4.7%), & English (3.9%), with Canadians & Argentinians tying for 6th at 3.7% each. (This counts all population, TRFers plus DF) We have 118 Poles, & 49 Hungarians. 76% of us are Westerners, & 24% Easterners. 32% of the Family are in the East, & 24% of the Family are Easterners, which means about 2/3rds of us in the East are Easterners. Of the Westerners, 55% are No. & So. Americans, & 21% are W. Europeans.

MINISTRIES: The top ministry is DTD, scoring 18.5% of the tickmarks. Provisioning is 2nd with 16.9%, "Other" 3rd with 12.4%, & Personal Witnessing 4th with 12.1%. Street Distribution is now 5th with 11% of the tickmarks.

(PTL! TYJ! GRY!—The kind of Stats I always wanted!—And the kind of Analysis! GRY! Terrific!—Tx!—ILY!—D.)