

A TEEN RELATIONSHIP!

MISSIONARY TEENS LEARN YIELDEDNESS, & TO PUT JESUS FIRST!



From Maria, 14 yrs., & Laz, 15 yrs., Mex.:
Dear Family & Teens,

Our names are Maria (14) & Lazarus (15). We would like to share some of the lessons that the Lord has been showing us through our relationship.

First of all, to kind of explain our situation—we were both born in the Family. Maria of parents Belte & Ruth Shazzar & my (Laz) mother's name is Patara, later mated to Galilee. Growing up in the Family really is a blessing & a privilege, but like it was brought out in FSM 25, pg. 33, "For Those on the Teen Team Today", you kind of tend to take it for granted & sometimes don't even know why you're in the Family in the first place. In my case, it's because my mother joined 6 months pregnant. But as we've found, you can't really have an "on-fire" dedicated 110% attitude until you join of your own accord & forsake all.

Before we met I had been in Mexico for about a year working in different Homes. Maria had returned from the field & had been travelling & working with her parents in the States. I had just come up for a visit with my family & found she was there. Naturally I was excited because I had known her previously when we were kids, we had worked together in Mexico. Anyway, when I saw her it was strange because I didn't feel any attraction for her physically, which is by no means normal for a person like me. We started fellowshiping. This was at the time when there were a lot of changes in the Family & everyone was learning many lessons, including our parents. Maria had been having some pretty bad problems with her parents,

particularly with her mother. Therefore I felt obligated to help her, so we started seeing each other. The Lord really gave us a love for each other. I guess part of it was that we were the only Teens in that area. I started to once a week go over & spend the night at her house since mine was quite crowded.

After a while with some confirmation from the Word, we decided that we would like to get mated or at least go on a trial period—to which the area shepherd & our parents agreed. A week later we attended the 2nd YAFM in Mexico which was the first time Maria & I had been in contact with so many other people our own age.

This is where a lot of our problems surfaced—Me with my relentless Scorpio pride & quick temper, not to mention being inexperienced in relationships, especially marriage, & both of us being very outgoing & independent by nature created a rough beginning to our trial period. We would frequently have flare-ups over things like her talking to somebody & saying something embarrassing to me, or saying something that would just crush my pride or make me get extremely jealous & I'd then go off in a rage or say something back to hurt her. We would just fight or argue like children & be a terrible sample of a child of God & especially a relationship. Even though we fought, we still loved each other & believed it was the Lord's will for us to be together.

After the YAFM we went to stay with Servant (Secundus) & Seek where we had a lot closer supervision, which really helped us see the roots of a lot of our problems. Even when we were there we were a real burden on the rest of the teens & we just couldn't seem to get it together. We found that one of the reasons was that we had allowed ourselves to get very familiar with each other, which made it almost impossible for us to communicate without some kind of argument.

Later we realized that it was a lot of self-righteousness on my behalf & me just pointing the finger & wanting her to change & not concentrating on me changing. She felt the same way. But the truth of the matter is we were both wrong. It wasn't just her doing this or that, being insensitive & bossy that caused it, or just me being untruthful or insensitive & stubborn-headed, not being considerate of her feelings that caused the

problems. It was both of us not being willing, yielded or humbled enough to just not look at the other one's faults, but to get our own hearts right with the Lord & trust Him to work it out & change the other. I'm really seeing how putting the Lord first is so important & especially getting your priorities straight. A good Letter on the subject is "One Wife". Also the MOP sections on "Love", "Marriage", "Forgiveness & Mercy", "First Love", "Relations with People" & "Faith & Trust" were & are such a help to us.

A major event that has really drawn us closer to the Lord was the new rules laid out by Dad about teen sex. The fact that she was 14 meant that we could no longer share the way we used to, which at first was really hard for me to accept, but after I realized that it was just the hand of the Lord, I quit fighting against it & it became easy, PTL!

A very important factor in strengthening our relationship & for anyone having to learn a lesson or make certain changes in their lives is to just yield. Yield to the hand of the Lord. Don't fight His Spirit, don't try to manipulate the situation but yield everything. The Lord can only use broken men & women.

Another thing that is still very hard to do, but getting easier is sharing each other. When we first got together, we each had each other's undivided attention, but after we came in contact with other teens & began wanting to spend time with other people, we had quite a few battles with jealousy. But sharing is just one thing the Lord requires of us.

It seems the Lord has been putting us through a crash course to learn the lessons He wants us to & to grow & mature in the Spirit. TTL He will not tempt us above that which we are able. The Teen Letters are such a blessing. It's so convicting & really made us stop & check our hearts & make sure our priorities were straight. I don't think I ever really read the Revolutionary Rules. They really set the standard & for sure they apply just as much today as they did then, if not more. The Lord is showing us how we should really appreciate our freedoms, (the ones we have now) as long as they are just in second place & the Lord & His Word & souls are first.

P.S. from Seek:

Since Laz wrote this article, the Lord has called him & Maria to do a lot of forsaking all, which they are handling like

real soldiers. They came to our Home mated, but soon realized that being so preoccupied with having a relationship stood in their way of learning a lot of lessons the Lord knew they needed to learn before they could be trusted with the added responsibility of a mate. This soon became clear to both of them & they each became more a part of the Home & enlarged their circle to include all the teens & Home members. Freeing them from the daily battles they were going through in trying to work so close together helped them to grow in the Spirit much faster & helped them also learn to enjoy the fellowship of everyone else in the Home & also be a greater blessing. These lessons Laz shared show how the Lord is working in his life step by step. It is not that they have to forsake their relationship forever, but that if it is the Lord, they will be drawn together again & if so, with a greater maturity & ability to make it work through the lessons they are learning! GBT!

AN EXCITING HOLY GHOST SKIT!

From John David (15), Mexico:

After reading the new "Heaven's Children!" & everyone getting excited, Seek suggested we could do skits on different chapters. So the teens & Uncle Stephen picked out characters, parts & scenes. We decided to do the "Cafe Encounter".

We really learned to work together adding different ideas to make the skit more interesting & fun as well as to portray all the important lessons & points. We were really careful not to get into a shallow or foolish spirit, but most of all to portray the spirit of each scene.

One thing that we discovered was how different each one of the spirits' personalities was & how really praying for the Lord to give you an anointing for your particular part really helps! It really taught us how much prayer & counselling it took on the behalf of the spirits & how much team work it took to make every message or meeting work out! It really made us appreciate our spirit helpers so much more! TYJ! It also reminded us how we should always thank the Lord for all the ideas we get, as we know that they are probably from our spirit helpers!

Speaking clearly makes everything more understandable. And the costumes always make it so much fun & everyone got into the characters & their different personalities & mannerisms. It was a lot of fun & maybe you'd like to try it. You can learn a lot & even make up new episodes! GBT!