

# If I Only Had!—Reflections on "Days of Heaven"!

## TEEN TRAINING TAUGHT ME HOW MUCH I NEED JESUS!



—From Ruth (After returning to her former Home):

Dear Auntie Sara & Uncle Mark,

GBY! ILY! I was reading the new Teen Mag #41 & I wanted to share with you some things I learned from reading it! I was really convicted by it & at first I had the attitude of, "Oh well, I was there for all of it & I don't really need to get as much out of it." But as I was reading it the Lord was showing me a lot of things that I did not see before! The first night when we got it, I just skimmed through it a little bit & that night I went through a big trial. I don't really know why I was crying, but I began to sort of just search my heart & really see if I really did my best with the Teen Training Program. I'm sorry to say I really didn't do my best & didn't give it my all & the Lord convicted me that I hadn't apologised to you or Uncle Mark for acting the way I did.

So I want to apologise to you for really being the toughest one & for really being unyielded & rebellious & I'm really sorry about that. I especially want to apologise to you, Uncle Mark, because I got in a familiar attitude with you & when I went to Grandpa's house I didn't really respect you like I should. So I'm really sorry about that & I know I really made it hard for you & it's all my own fault. It's just because of my pride & my rebelliousness that I didn't yield to you & I didn't like the things you were telling me, because it was really the truth you were telling me & I really didn't like it. So, Lord forgive me & I'm really sorry. If the Lord ever gave me

another chance, I know with the Lord's help I would do better. TYL!

Also to you, Auntie Sara, I know that I was the hardest one to take care of & I'm sorry that I made it hard for you to try to get things through to me. I guess sometimes I have been lamenting now because I didn't listen then & I really didn't take the whole opportunity & learn all I could while I was there. I was just praying about how Naomi & I both came at the same time & I was praying about why I didn't do so good.

The first thing the Lord showed me is that when someone first talked to us about going to visit you, she said to really pray about it & to really see if we were willing to be trained & if we really wanted to change & to pray to make the choices & I believe Naomi did, but I didn't. Plus I thought I could do it pretty good in my own strength & I thought I was doing all right, but really that was just self-righteousness. I was really thinking I could do it all on my own strength, but Naomi really wanted to learn, she really wanted to do things & she knew she couldn't do it & she knew it was only the Lord Who could do it. But I thought, "Well, I can do it & I can learn all the things I need to learn & I can do it myself without asking the Lord." Another thing I saw was that she's really receptive to her lessons & if anyone would slightly almost even just hint to her or suggest something to her, she would really take it to heart. Whereas for me, you almost had to pound it through my head before it would ever even dawn on me that I was even doing anything wrong. See, it's just because I've been very unyielded & I was thinking I could do it & I really couldn't & I can see now I really blew it a lot of times.

One night shortly before I left we were around the dinner table & we were all singing & praying & I just heard the words "Days of Heaven upon the Earth." I just broke down & wept because that's really what it was.—It was just Days of Heaven & I'm really thankful to be one of the very few who have been privileged to have that Teen Training. Sometimes I would get really condemned about it & I was almost wishing could rewind time & go back & try to things over again! But the Lord showed that He had to have me do those things make those mistakes to humble me, & that really something that I've been learning.

The Lord had to show me how nothing

am & how I'm bad, I'm really bad & I'll never be good & I'll always be bad, but how it's just the Lord who can do anything through me. I was just thinking how I've had so much training, & I'm still having it, I'm in a place where there's Teen Training going on. I'm privileged to still be around more training & I can still learn lessons from others & have others point things out to me & to really be supervised & it's really good for me. The other girls probably don't have as much supervision & as close a watch on them as I do.

At first it was really bothering me a little bit because I thought I was going to come back & have this great big glorious ministry & to be "The Teen From Grandpa's House That Got Teen Training." But I think that if I had come back when I was like that & thinking that way I think I would've really been a big flop. I'm really glad I got to come back with Uncle Gabriel & Auntie Mercy so that I wouldn't be able to get proud about the fact that I was there & think that I was so good & I got all the training.

When the "Self-Righteousness" GN came out the Lord let me get sick because I was getting a little off track & getting into my rebellious unresponsive spirit again & so the Lord let me get sick so I could really spend time in His Word. That really helped me because I know I'm really self-righteous! It says in the GN that He fills the hungry with good things but the full He sends empty away, & that really spoke to my heart because if I'm full of my own ideas & if I'm full of my own ways & kind of push my program through & trying to get my way & full of my ideas of what's right & what's wrong He'll send me empty away, but if I'm hungry He'll fill the hungry heart. If I want to learn those things that I need to learn, then He'll help me learn!

So I have to humble myself & really surrender myself to the Lord. Naomi's article on "The Joy of Surrender" really convicted me because I have to surrender every detail to the Lord so He can use me. Another thing in the Self-Righteousness GN was "Whenever the Devil tempts you to get self-righteous about something & proud about something, you've got to fight it." So that really gave me a victory—to know how to hit back & just to say, "Get thee behind me, Satan! It's not me, it's just the Lord! I'm not going to take the credit for this! I'm not better than the others! I give all the glory to Jesus!" Because when I start putting myself on the back & when I start thinking I'm so good then that's really when

I start going down.

I'm really really really thankful for all that you did to help me! Even when it looked like I wasn't doing good at all, you still had faith in me & you still kept on training me & kept trying & it did bear good fruit in my life & did help me! I'm so thankful that you held on to me & you didn't just completely reject me like I was a hopeless case because that's what I really felt like, a hopeless case! GBY! I'll love you forever. I hope this letter really encourages you that the Word never returns void & it didn't return void in my life & it accomplished what it was supposed to do. Words can't say how thankful I am for you & for all you've taught me.

Love, Ruth

(GBY, sweet Ruth! What a wonderful victory that the Lord has continued to teach you & show you more & more! I thought I was the hardest one to work with! See, I too feel like I should & could have done so much better during our TTR time together, so don't feel too bad!—We can still do our best for Him now & only He can do it anyway! Once you've learned that lesson, to let go & let God, then He can have His wonderful way! WLYSVM & always will & you're very precious to us all! We all have fond & sweet memories of you & our time together. "God giveth grace unto the humble." Love, Auntie Sara)

### I Got A Demerit Today!

By Maria, 13 yrs, LA TTC

I got a demerit, my first one, today!  
My tower of works! Oh, it's melting away!  
But correction just hurts me because of my pride  
I need to just learn how to take it in stride!  
I look at that chart hanging on the wall  
And ol'Satan says, "So you see, after all  
They're attacking you, beating you down to the floor!"  
But Jesus, He says, "Just get up one time more!"  
So I picked up my book, the spiritual sword,  
And decided I'd listen this time to the Lord!  
'Cause correction is really a blessing you see!  
If you take it, you're on your way to victory!  
As I read, I began to see clearly the light  
The most wrong I get is insisting I'm right!  
And there's one kind of victory you just cannot beat,  
It's the victory that comes from a seeming defeat!