



NEWS —BY YOU!

Vol. 1, No. 7

D.O.

Edited by Maria & the Zs.

REACTIONS TO THE “RNR”

—by Hannah, German National.

**“I FELT LIKE WE WERE
DROPPING OUT OF
THE SYSTEM ALL
OVER AGAIN!”**

After getting over the first shock and wondering how this one was going to work and starting to think what it really meant, I felt so very, very well cared for by Dad. It really blew my mind to see how concerned he is with the real state of the flock. It just really makes me want to learn to have the same love and compassion unto others.

I feel sure that this Letter will be a super encouragement to every single little person in each colony, because it was to me. With it, Dad expresses so much faith in the little people, which it seems there has been such a lack of, that it really gave me the feeling of just wanting to go out by faith and just do something to help others!

With this Letter it will be



Hannah, when she was in Hamburg, Germany. Photo by Barak.

impossible for us to look to the Chain of Cooperation, which we have been doing much more than just following the Letters. I felt like we were dropping out of the system all over again! I think we had been so accustomed to looking to our leadership and to their sample of how we were supposed to live the Letters, instead of just living the Letters ourselves—trying to live an individual's interpretation of it rather than just doing what it says and really being open and talking about it.

We had gotten so tangled up in respecting others, respecting their opinion and respecting what they thought the Letters said that it had almost turned into fear of men rather than the Lord. So obviously it had been a real hindrance in serving the Lord and winning souls and following Him, really accepting the freedoms that He has given us so as to be able to be happier and freer and getting closer to the Lord and each other and accomplishing more. I feel like we had really gotten away from living by faith and being really radical and free and just traded it in for following another little system that we had set up.

From the things that I've seen in Germany and experienced myself, we were so reluctant to do something different that we always waited for the permission of some leader, or even for some leader to come around and suggest that we follow the Letters. We were so afraid that we could possibly make a mistake, that we just almost didn't do anything along the lines

of FF'ing or helping each other out sexually. I feel so ashamed to say how long Dad has been putting these Letters out and how long we have been so "spiritual" and "waiting on the Lord", trying not to jump the gun, that we've hardly done anything. Whereas I've seen so many people that would have needed it and even situations where I could have done it personally. And being the Ministry secretary, I could also see that in almost every single colony there were people who needed help.

I don't necessarily feel it is all the individual leader's fault, because I know that at least some of them were not exactly trying to be tyrants or very authoritarian, but really do love the Lord and their sheep. Yet it seems they had gotten so caught up in our administrative system, all the little rules and restrictions that we've made, that the whole operation is more or less missing the point. Also the leaders had a tendency to try to just run the whole show themselves instead of really training people.

I think this Letter is going to throw people into a position where they're going to have to rely on the Lord and not just be able to look to their leaders anymore, which in turn is really going to inspire faith in people and bring out good qualities and talents that individuals have which nobody ever thought of. I know in Germany we were not very used to sitting down and discussing problems or listening to people's opinions, but we were so much on a works trip trying to be spiritual and good, that we hardly

ever openly or honestly said our opinions or confessed our needs, which I think this Letter is going to change. TYL!

Possibly giving new people and different people chances to be SCS's or Sprint Center Servants or Visiting Servants will really generally inspire their faith and give them the courage to speak up. Through that, I think a lot of hidden talent should really come out.

"Nationalisation": After my experience in Germany, I have to admit that this Letter is really right on, as there are very few nationals in leadership positions or in positions of any kind of responsibility outside of publications. We do have a few bishops and a few colony Shepherds, but all in all, the foreigners, and especially the Americans, have really been dominant. As Dad said, it's really hard to believe that there are no nationals who could do anything!

I think some of the reasons are probably that a lot of the American leadership has not really had the attitude of taking people into their personal lives as Dad describes in the Letter, like getting married to natives or listening to their counsel, etc.

Personally myself, and I think it's true for quite a few Germans, we have developed such a fear of the stereotype of being hardheaded, dictatorial and authoritarian little Hitlers and like the "rest of the Germans", that now we don't even think we can stand up for what we believe. We're so afraid that it's going to come out wrong, we don't

want to be looked at as "typical Germans". And usually the main thing you hear from anyone in the Family about Germany is pretty negative, "Oh they're so hard" and this, that and the other.

I have to say at this point, though, that some of the American leadership doesn't think that way. Some have been encouraging and really trying to help us and find the potential in Germany.

Also, I think if we could just junk the whole legal association, as Dad suggests in the Letters, and forget all about the "Children of God" and just move into new places, just be called something else, I think it would really help cut down on a lot of work and a lot of energy, nerves and time. I believe that if more people could be trusted with at least being trained in some kind of position of responsibility, that it would really encourage people's faith and bring people out of themselves and get them to forget about the "problems" they used to have, and even give them back their burden for Germany. As it stands now, just about every German national that I know personally just wants to leave the country.

It's hard to do anything if you feel nobody has faith in you, which feeling has resulted through trying to uphold this chain of cooperation, which was so totally incomplete in Germany that it was not even functioning very well. We were so concerned in keeping it up and not letting it fall apart that I think we really missed the point—so busy with administrative work that it took away a lot of time from train-

ing people and helping people to overcome their weaknesses. Instead of taking more time for a person like that, less time was taken. I can see how some would feel like they're no good, sitting in a field colony for years and years on end and doing nothing but litnessing when there were so many other positions they could have had, so many jobs that needed filling.

I think with the "RNR" and "Nationalisation" we're going to be forced to take time to find out where the little people are at and find out what they can really do. Personally, I feel that an area can only go as far as the little people in that area are really willing to go, from their heart.

This Letter has completely changed my attitude towards Germany and it's given me some faith back that we can really do something there. I think if we're going to start living these Letters that things are really going to change. The only other thing I have to say is that I feel very ashamed that we have not done this any earlier, because I feel it's not something new. I feel we've really been failing to do what God has been showing us in Letters years ago. So I really hope and pray that this time we're going to catch on, and I do think we will.

"Colony Rules": As far as colony size and division, I believe this has generally been practised, because it's one of the smallest requirements that we can meet and the easiest one to keep. As far as the new disciples go, I think this has been one of the main points where colonies

have been re-classified. But I think with some more faith in the Germans and Germany, we could improve this a lot. Also, I think that an FF Report and Colony Checklist should be a real blessing in helping everyone to do more along these lines. Another thing on new disciples, I feel that we have not really been following what Dad said about checking out new disciples with the whole colony council. I think too little emphasis has been given to the opinion of the whole council, but rather more to the shepherd. Also I don't think we have been publishing pictures of people that have been put out of the Family for incorrigible bad behaviour.

Also the suggestions Dad makes about marriages: I don't think they've been followed at all. I don't think people feel the freedom to just go into a trial marriage and do it just with the consent of the people involved and with local leadership, but they always wait for consent from higher up. Also I think people have not really been involved in the major colony decisions.

Many colonies do not have mated couples as their shepherds, and I think this has really de-emphasised the family and turned it much rather into just a work team or something. I think when we have mated couples heading each colony that it will really change the atmosphere and spirit of the colony, and therefore also change the way of approaching the public and winning people into our families. I also don't think we've taken Dad's sug-

gestions on ordination seriously.

Concerning reporting: I think it's going to be a real blessing to have every colony council member sign the reports, and I think it's going to really give a change away from things being really secretive with the big leader image, to a much more open and honest atmosphere.

Income and finances: I really think it's just going to flip everyone out that they're only going to have to give their 10% to WS and then also get to know where the money goes! Generally I think this is really going to make people feel like they're really participating and really taking part in reaching the world and knowing what's going on.

Quotas: People have been forced to get out certain amounts of lit

that they had not agreed on with their colony council, and I doubt that we have all followed what Dad said about everybody getting out one or two hours a day at least, simply because we'd gotten involved with so many things that we thought were emergencies, which actually I don't think were sometimes, especially considering the new Letters.

Publications & Mail Ministry: I know that we have been getting letters addressed to Dad, but I think we failed to forward them on, as well as forward on the answers. All in all, it sure looks like we still have a long way to go to even put the New R and its ideas into effect. The new Letters are going to be a real help in doing it.

Hannah's Reactions to -- "WHERE ARE THE SHEPHERDS?"

I don't think I have been so touched by a MO Letter ("Where Are the Shepherds?", No. 662) in a while as this one, in a very particular way. It is a little hard to express, but it almost felt like ointment on sores. In a way, the Letter does not express anything new, when it talks about shepherds, hirelings, etc., but still I feel we have gotten so far away from it out on the field that it was the most beautiful thing I have read in some time.

It reassured me of the things I joined the Family for, that they are still the same, that the real Jesus is still the guy who gets beaten, belittled, spit in the face and so forth, with real love for the people and not someone "cool", "with it" and "on top" of things.

I was actually shocked to see how much closer Dad is to the people than our leadership is, and how we have been brought up the wrong way and direction. It has been such a deep experience for me to be able to be here with Dad and Maria and see the "unrefined" hard work and love and labour of everyone here, which this Letter is an example of.

It is one thing to hear people talk about love, laying down your life, etc. and another thing to see it. I am shocked even by the simplicity and concern for the little things I have read in this Letter, because I can see every single one of them practised, while before it was the same words, but the actual works presented quite a different interpretation.

Most of all, I feel so convicted by these words myself, that I am very, very ashamed of not following the Lord and Dad better and feel like I have been a hindrance, much, much rather than a help. But, D.V., I really hope to be able to catch on to the real Revolution, as all this has certainly caused quite a revolution in me. I feel at a new point, a new birth, and pray I can in some way or another do something to better the situation and pass on some of the blessings I have been getting here.

The Letter has so much to say about being honest and open for the work's sake, the sheep's sake, and how that is the only thing we are here for, and it has blown my mind to see it work! It has created such a relief for me, that I feel like I have come into the sunshine again after being in the rain and cold for a long time.

Out on the field, I think the kids at the bottom are probably some of the only ones trying to obey the Letters—especially the New R Letters. They have to in order to survive, as opposed to the leaders who live on budgets. So many times I have wondered why we again made excuses for not everyone being “the same” and the severe difference in living conditions and standards, but being satisfied with explanations like, “we need to raise the standard”, which was outright ridiculous, because the only thing we were doing was to create a more severe difference in “class” and not going in to help everyone raise their standards.

So, because we all have been so

used to looking to our “leadership” it should be a real solution if we just get rid of our chain of cooperation so that people will naturally seek counsel from the Letters much more and then find people that live the principles of the New R and will help in drawing the kids closer to the Word and win their confidence by being right there, visiting and really helping without applying rules and creating laws.

Hearing this also gave me more faith just to be honest about things, in hopes that it will help to portray the picture as it is, something which I feel is not commonly taught and practised.

I believe that the most disastrous thing of all was the way we were practically being brainwashed into thinking that things are supposed to be the way they are and not really daring to take the Bible and Letters as the measure for everything.

Thereby, we were completely getting away from what God is doing and saying today, which is what we are actually living in this outfit for, so we can pass it on to others. So, thank God for Dad, who seems to be doing the work on both ends—hearing from God at the top and speaking up from the bottom!

So all in all, it was so good to hear the truth about some rules and procedures as well as people. Even though I sometimes felt wrong, as I am sure others did too, about things like too much emphasis on the actual figures of statistics, hard money and the de-emphasis of the Word and care for the sheep, I wasn't sure who was to blame, me or my leaders.

Letters to the Family News

—MORE FROM HANNAH!

We received the "Family News", Vol. 1, No. 2 while I was still in Germany, and I must say we all were very surprised as to the difference in this one compared to the "old" ones. After skimming through, we all started to read the article on Germany first, of course. I have to say we were quite "hit" by the truths in it and the openness and honesty with which it was presented. For some reason or other we had felt quite liberal (ha!), but after reading what Lee and Sabina said, we had to admit to it completely and felt so happy because it gave us a new goal to strive for, and gave us a better picture of the situation than we had created in our imagination—Lord help us!

Personally, I feel that this is one of the best internal publications I have ever seen, because it is so open and honest and offers a lot of very valuable information, which if heeded could do very much. So my opinion is that once everyone gets more geared to taking the Letters and publications as their leaders, this "Family News" could be a very big help and tool in sharing suggestions, bringing out faults and pointing out things that need change or improvement.

It was also such an encouragement to see Miguel's letter in there, just after everyone had read "Prodigal Son". The publishing of his story has been such an example of how we can all learn from each other and through the various things

God lets each of us go through, if we would only share more. This holds true also for the report from Portugal. Thank God we are a family and can share these things. Now we only need to do it, so I am glad for this start!

I really pray that we can all work together and supply material for it, so that coming issues will be as packed as this one.—Hannah.

In Vol. 1, No. 3 it was so great to see more about the fruit that FF'ing is bearing and how it really works from the "practical" side. Heinz' testimony is so good in that it also shows that it lasts, that they become true disciples, and what an influence they have through witnessing their testimony where they are.

I was thinking that the Visiting Servants could write the FF testimonies, or compile them, as well as other news articles, or help the kids do it right with them at our homes.

So far, writing into Rome with materials and suggestions was more like a dictated order and from what I can tell it was rather uninspiring. But I feel if the Visiting Servants could help in this, maybe everyone would feel more a part of it and apt to share things.—Also considering that the grassroots is where it's at and happening from now on. That way our Family News and NNN would be better supplied with news.

One more thing: I felt very relieved and much more free after I read Dad and Maria's attitude about bachelor men and women, because

for a long time our attitude had been that a permanent set marriage was the thing, which honestly to me looked always so stale.

From the attitude of my leaders also, I had gotten the feeling that I was "out of it" and "doing my own thing", since I was not yet permanently attached. So I had been a little confused, I have to confess, about what I was supposed to do,

while now I am finding out how love is what it's all about, and I can find the closeness I have longed and looked for in a "marriage" with many more people than just one, and I am finding out the Letters are what they say. So thank God!!! I feel so much more free and relieved and that I can simply trust God for all the rest and anything else He may choose to do or not to do.

♥ A LOVE LETTER TO DAD FROM A NEW VISITING SERVANT! ♥

“Taking Heaven to others”

Dear Dad & Maria 16 Jan. 78

I don't think that I can express in words all of the love that I have for you and how happy I am at your service; my heart is here filling itself up continually with your loving spirit, and wanting to always please you in everything. I love you!

Last night when you shared with me about my decision concerning my new ministry as Visiting Servant, my first reaction was, "No, I want to be with Dad," but little by little, I began to see my great pride, and my heart was broken completely; this signifies that it is time to overflow the water to refresh the people with the Spirit of my Father David. I love you, and I want to be with you, love you, see you, feel you, feel your spirit and give myself to you completely.

Since yesterday, I have had a big spiritual fight; I have cried and prayed a lot and it costs me a lot to decide between living in "heaven" (with you), or taking the heaven to

others; but I think that the decision of a servant must be to give the same as you are giving your life for the sheep and your sheep love you.

You are the servant of all servants and your sample encourages me and makes me want to show you to the rest, that not only I can love you more but that the whole world can love you more and more and more because you deserve all the love in the world.

But it doesn't matter what happens, if the Lord takes me from you all or not, my heart is with you, filling up here and overflowing there; when you want something from me or need someone for anything, know that I am always ready, but meanwhile, I'll fight with my whole heart so that all will have the Spirit of David.

Much, much love—

Carmen (Spanish national).

P.S. After making the decision, I feel at peace and much happier. Praise the Lord!

Compiled, typed & layed out by Zebedee & Zorah Rabbit.
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