

FAMILY NEWS

-BY YOU!

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ITALY:

Changing our part of the world!

by Josiah & Jewel Shepherdson



Josiah, Jewel & family—Eva-4½, Angela-2 & Francesca-4 mos.—going for God! Photo by Phillip.

WE WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE EXCITING TESTIMONIES & miracles that have happened to us recently. The Lord has encouraged us so much with His many blessings as we do our part to share His love & words with others. "Little is much if God is in it!" Amen!

IT ALL STARTED WHEN WE BEGAN TAKING THE CHILDREN (Eva-4 & Angela-2) out singing in nearby restaurants. In this way we met a precious couple who took our pictures & did an article on us for a national art magazine. Later to our surprise we found out that this same couple owned the house right next door to our little apartment. So when Archippus (Josiah's brother), wife Sharon & family came to Italy to prepare for pioneering, our friends offered the use of their house rent-free for several months!—A beautiful house completely furnished, right on the Riviera!

WHEN SUMMER CAME, WE HAD TO MOVE as our rent quad-

ruped during the busy tourist season. In fact moving almost became our ministry!—Ha! In the month of July (7th month of the year), Jewel was 7 months pregnant & we moved 7 times! Your moving testimonies really encouraged us, Dad!

THE LORD DIDN'T FAIL US & we found a nice quiet little house up in the mountains that only cost us \$10 for the rest of the summer! The Lord really blessed our dear landlady as later when she was sick in the hospital, Josiah was able to pray with her to receive Jesus! PTL!

BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, OUR NEW BABY WAS DUE so we were looking for better accommodations. Our neighbour's house was vacant again so we asked if we could rent it. But the landlord had a better idea!—He said he'd let us have it rent-free if he could use it too for the holidays! Hallelujah! It's like the Lord really tested us with that which was least before giving us something really great.

WE SPENT THE ENTIRE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH OUR LANDLORD & family. Our greatest witness has been our sample of love, not only for them but for the community. We spent the week before Christmas singing with the children in all the local hospitals & old folks homes. It was such a witness, as little Angela who had just turned 2 could barely sing but really melted hearts as a little miniature "Mary". About 50 people received Jesus!

NOW WE'RE LEARNING A NEW WAY TO WITNESS & become one as Eva started going to a little Catholic kindergarten near our house. Not only have we been able to witness to the school children, but we've discovered that PTA meetings are a great place to reach the parents by sharing childcare tips & how we do things. Having three children really carries more weight that what we say works! It's so exciting learning to witness in so many ways, sharing His love & changing our part of the world day by day!

Love, Josiah & Jewel & family. ■

Dedicating Their Lives To Reach China!



Chinese Rebecca & Johanan at their Chinese wedding reception!

MY NAME IS JOHANAN, I'm American & have now been serving Jesus for over five years—three of those in the Pacific & Asia. I also have 2 brothers & 2 sisters in the Family, all on mission fields! PTL! For over a year now, I have been overwhelmed with the vision of reaching China! I was able to enroll as a student & learn Mandarin Chinese, the unifying language of Chinese people all over the world.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, I MET REBECCA, the sweetest sister I had ever known & with whom I am now excitedly & happily married! (See the photo of our wedding.) Rebecca has an unusually great knowledge of English, having graduated from a University in the U.S. with a Master's Degree in Library Science. Since we've been together, her main ministry & burden has been for translating the Wonder Working Words into Chinese!—Mine too! So we have together dedicated our lives to Jesus in reaching China!

NOW IS CHINA'S HOUR as it is opening up to the rest of the world. Japanese nationals are entering China by the thousands to train the Chinese in industry, as are many Americans. We're working on translating & printing & it's so exciting! God bless Rebecca's father whom she led to the Lord & who helps us with donations for the work! Please keep the China Pioneers in your prayers! The fol-

lowing note to Dad by Rebecca sums up how we feel:

Our Dear Dad:

GBY! ILY SOOO MUCH! Lately I've been thinking about, really, where would I be without you & the Family! I want to serve Jesus forever & I'm so happy & feel honoured that I can be in this Family! **LOVE WON ME** to the Family,

but the Lord & the Words of David keep me, because they are the truth! **GBY** Dad & Maria for your faithful working for us & the whole world. Jo & I are determined to dedicate our lives to the work of reaching the Chinese. So right now we are working as a team in the Chinese TCC, TYJ! We really need your prayers, so things can really get rolling! We

need you & your words & there are millions more who are waiting to hear! Love, Rebecca.

(Ed.: If you would like to help Johanan & Rebecca with their work of translating & printing the Words of David in Chinese, please send donations designated for "Chinese TCC" to: K.G. Love, Box 241, 8021 Zurich, Switzerland. **GBY!**) ■

Changed by Love!

THE MIRACULOUS FRUIT OF THE MAIL MINISTRY!

From Asaph & Julia; Geneva,
Switzerland:

GBY! HERE'S AN INSPIRING MAIL MINISTRY TESTIMONY!

For a few months now we had wanted to start a mail ministry for this city but had only received a handful of letters from people who had been contacted or had received literature on the street. We were pretty discouraged & thought it wasn't worth it to continue. We were also trying to revive an old mailing list from three years ago, but without much success except for a meager one or two people who were writing.

THAT'S WHEN THE LORD REMINDED US that "he that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much" & that if you're faithful with what God gives you, no matter how small it is, He'll give you more. So we claimed His promises & continued writing to those one or two contacts.

AND GUESS WHAT! SOON WE STARTED RECEIVING MORE & MORE letters from interested people & we now get lots of letters each week. **PTL!** Here is one we just received:

"I AM AFRICAN & live here, far away from anything that can give me this treasure we are all seeking for: Love. Nevertheless, three days ago I met a girl in front of the train station who gave me a pamphlet & asked if I could give a donation for love. I took the paper & gave her something. When I read the paper, I was surprised to find the most truthful words ever written: 'The

biggest gift men could ever have is to give & receive love'.

"WHEN I READ ON THIS PIECE OF PAPER THE WORD LOVE in capital letters & the life stories of people who have been changed by love, I am writing to you to ask you to contact me & tell me how I can also be part of your Family. I want to thank with all my heart the girl who gave me real hope for the truth to be found again.—A.N."

I HOPE THIS LITTLE TESTIMONY will inspire others who are working on setting up a mail ministry. Love never fails! Love, Julia.

From Galilea in Caracas, Venezuela:

I MET T. WHEN HE WAS IN CARACAS ON BUSINESS. I saw him four times & he received the Holy Spirit. He is 26 years old & is from the U.S. When he left, I gave him a copy of the New Testament & Psalms as well as several MO Letters.

WHEN I WROTE TO HIM THE FIRST TIME, he wrote back so thankful that I had written as I'd promised. It was a long, long letter in which he really poured out his heart & even little details of his daily life which helped me to see what a really needy person T. is! It's such an inspiration to receive T.'s letters & see how much he's grown since we met six months ago. Thank God for the mails! The following are excerpts from his most recent letter:

"**DEAR GALILEA,** if I could just have a week off I would rush myself to see you & we could trip over near Tucupita where a good friend lives. He has showed me pictures & it looks like paradise to me. But between seeing you & being in paradise, I am afraid that my father & the Board of Directors would send wild horses & the marines after my week was up. But they'd never take me alive! I'd shave my beard & we could go underground, preaching God's Love & taking sanctuary in God's churches to escape the

relentless pursuit of that notorious band of persecutors. —I know I've got an incredible imagination, but dreaming is what keeps me going, & I do believe in miracles! I wish you were here or I was there.

"...LET'S PRAY FOR THE BABIES in Iran & Kuwait & Bangladesh & all over the world where there is suffering. Pray with me every night that every time a baby cries & is hungry or hurt or lonely that our Saviour, Jesus, will come to them in a vision & let them know that it's only for a little while & there's a purpose to it & some day we'll all be warm & happy & in love with each other & with God really smiling with us because we've made Him happy. And I'll still be hugging & kissing & adoring you as I have since I met you.

"AFTER THAT LAST PARAGRAPH, I could only repeat these two themes over & over: My love for you & God's love for all His children... If you can, call me collect, so I can hear your voice. God bless you & take care of you & guide you every minute. Remember to pray with me every night for all the children. I love you—T."

AND HERE'S A POEM WRITTEN BY D. after he received Jesus. He is 36-years-old & was contemplating suicide before he found the Lord's Love & Letters!—

THE GOLDEN ANGEL

*There was I
Surrounded by a multitude
And then suddenly
She appeared—
The golden angel!*

*I was so lonely
But the golden angel
Made me fly into Space City
And
From there*

*My loneliness has vanished,
My fear,
And anger.*

*Now, I'm happy.
—From D., with love.* ■

CHILDCARE

Tip & Testimony



USING LOCAL LIBRARIES

by Paulus Ittai; W. Germany:
THRU' OUR RECENT CONTACTS WITH THE IYL ("International Youth Library"), our vision for the use of libraries has been greatly increased. Our suggestions would be, if some of the needed books or materials are not available or possible to acquire by our many Homes throughout the world, that they not forget to check their local libraries.

IN LARGER CITIES, LIBRARIES USUALLY HAVE ENGLISH SECTIONS where books can be checked out for a time period long enough for our children to benefit thereby. Libraries also offer opportunities for interaction with other youth & parents, as they usually have programmes for children which may include puppet shows, educational movies, art projects, special outings etc. Of help also to our teachers & parents are the good reference materials & anthologies that most libraries have.

IT'S EXCITING TO NOTE THAT THE COMING BOOK FAIR to be held in Bologna, Italy from March

31st to April 3rd will have as its theme "The Year of the Child"! Many pamphlets & brochures on children's materials are already being distributed by publishing companies for this event.
 (Editor: Check your local newspaper for exhibitions on this year's United Nations theme "The Year of the Child".)

THE GOOD FRUITS OF BIBLE MEMORISATION IN YOUNG CHILDREN!

From Mahela; Mallorca, Spain:

I WANTED TO SHARE AN INSPIRING EXPERIENCE I had with my oldest child, Brian-3½. Brian has a younger brother who is 1½ with whom he had a lot of trials about sharing, as well as with others, be it toys, a treat, books etc.

SO FOR THE NEW YEAR'S EVE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY I gave Brian the verse to memorise & claim for the New Year: "God loveth a cheerful giver" (2Cor. 9:7.) He memorised it quickly & about a week later I saw him give something to his little brother & say, "You know, the Lord loveth a cheerful giver." PTL! Since then he has quoted this verse many times & his whole attitude about sharing & giving has changed so much. I was so amazed & pleased to see this happen!

IT REALLY SHOWED ME HOW POWERFUL GOD'S WORD CAN BE even in such young lives & how He can really guide even a little child by His Spirit. TYJ! Also, thanks so much to MO, Maria & Sara Davidito who gave me the vision & courage to try to memorise the Word with my little children! God bless you! Love, Mahela.

Gn. 4:1—KNEW DISCIPLES!

GIRL—Esther Maria, to Dave & Carmen; Madrid, Spain—6/1.

BOY—Samuel Quijote, to Debora Bronilda & Het Quijote; Logrono, Spain—4/1.

BOY—Daniel, second child for Samson & Cancion; Murcia, Spain—9/1. (Daniel was born only 10½ months after our first son David who was born on Dad's birthday, Feb. 18, 1978! Could that be a Family record? PTL!)

BOY—Philip, to Lucas & Jessica Trouvador; Cascais, Portugal—21/1.

GIRL—Margarida Rosa, to Marcos & Miriam; Rio Tinto, Portugal—20/1.

BOY—Gabriel, to Martha; Carcavelos, Portugal—27/1. (Compiled by Adar.)

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