

THE FAMILY NEWS OF LOVE! — BY YOU!

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D.C.

Edited by Maria & the Zs.

THE NEW KQS's of NORTH AMERICA

SPEAK OUT!

By Andrew & Miriam Bochim (with comments & underlinings by DAD!)

Dear Dad & Maria, Feb. 9, 78

As we already told you at dinner last night, we really thought that the Letter "Where Are the Shepherds" is just what is needed. It was very convicting and we had to ask ourselves the same question, because we certainly weren't any shining examples of what a real shepherd is supposed to be! God help us! We really wanted to be good shepherds, but we made a lot of mistakes. Thank God for your obedience to the Lord and your sample. We're sure you've heard this before, but we have to say how thankful we are for the new "RNR"! Thank God, we are doing away with the bureaucratic monster and making way for the little people!

Last night at dinner when you suggested that we would assume some very important responsibilities, we almost cried because we just don't feel we deserve it. We can say now though, that if it does work out this way, we are going to really do our best to be sure that the bleats of the poor little sheep are heard and not only heard, but

answered and taken care of!

We don't want to leave any stone unturned, so this may be quite a lengthy letter. Many things the Lord is bringing back to our memories that we hadn't thought of for quite some time, because we, like many others, just tended to overlook things, which we see is definitely not what true shepherds should do! We really wanted what was best for the sheep, but because we were so concerned about what our overshepherds would say, we finally lost the conviction to say anything. We feel so bad now, and we know that being sorry is not enough. So, Lord helping us, we are going to show our faith by our works and we are really going to do our best for the Lord, you and all the kids!

HISTORY OF PAST PROBLEMS IN NORTH AMERICA

Before the "New R" Letters came out in 1975, I was a full-time litnesser and Miriam worked around the colony cooking, cleaning, taking care of children, as well as litnessing for 3-4 hours a day, 4-5

Also, there was no solid Childcare oversight, which was a real sad thing, because the children were so neglected, as well as the Moms and Dads. None of the families were reporting, and as a result, a lot of the children in the States are really behind in their training both physically and spiritually. (They are making some progress now.)

The first thing we did was send out a Childcare Checklist, along with reports for the families to fill out each month. It seemed to help quite a bit, thank God, but it still wasn't enough.

We still had not heard a word from Caleb and Lydia about FF'ing and why we weren't doing it, etc. And we realise now that the visitation and reports etc. that we initiated to improve the overall standard, did not work as well as they should have, because we were not obeying the Lord, and He just cannot bless disobedience, and that's why things couldn't pull together. In a letter they wrote to us, they said something to the effect that, "when we actually start FF'ing in the States we should do so and so..." which led us to believe that they knew we weren't FF'ing, but that it was okay.

After Faithy's inspiring visit in New York, we did receive some counsel from Caleb and Lydia concerning FF'ing. But again, it was very restrictive in that they indicated that their feelings were that it would be best if none of the colonies went FF'ing without top leadership there to help them, but of course not to prohibit anyone from going if they wanted to, but

days each week. (DAD: GBY!) I then did some right-hand man work and was kept really busy. In April of '75 after the receipt of the "New R" Letters, we went to New York to be District Shepherds for about 3 months when we went to D.C. as Regional Shepherds for 6 weeks. We then went to Atlanta to work as Bishops for one month.

This was during the time that Rodent's and Corny's bad sample had quite an influence on a lot of people. However, we feel that regardless of what their spiritual conditions were like at the time and although a lot of the shepherds were getting into a very materialistic spirit, a lot of the colonies were starting to up their standards, which had been needed for so long.

We then went to New York to work as AB's. "Hamburger Boat" had just come out, thank the Lord, because it was sure needed to get all of us "bigshots" shot down. This Letter was followed by a visit from Caleb and Lydia. Their visit helped a lot of leaders, but didn't leave a lot of room for really following the Letters.

Every situation was dealt with the same, regardless of the fruits. For example, there were some kids who did have a genuine desire to up the standard of their homes, but with the dealing sessions, everyone had to forsake their nice clothes and even nice housing! We even heard of a few people who were going to help out each other sexually because of a need in their lives, but it was prohibited through counsel by Caleb and Lydia. We're not saying that all of the sessions

were wrong, because some were needed, but what we felt was wrong was that everything was placed all in the same category and judged exactly the same, with no alternative but to obey what leadership said in every situation. (DAD: God help us!)

They came, supposedly, as representing you (DAD: Ha!), so it was hard to argue against what they said. Also, this is the first time we had ever seen a "mini MO Letter", when Caleb showed them to us and encouraged us to start printing them. Of course, everyone really liked them and encouraged the printing of them too, so it wasn't all his fault, that's for sure! Most of their visit was really a blessing, but in some ways it really hindered the growth and progress that was being made.

A few months later we had the Great Escape and then the FF Letters started coming out. The thought of past problems and how they were dealt with was always in mind, which made it rather difficult to step out by faith. We were always told that because of America's problems that we were not mature enough to handle this new freedom.

Well, we did start going out, until "Little Dog Dream" came out, and with the thought of the past dealings concerning any freedoms, along with some personal problems Nathanael (our former overseer) was having in his own marriage, he interpreted this Letter to mean that we should not do any FF'ing. We fell for it, God help us! We followed a man and not the Letters!! (DAD:

and dealt with. He was absolutely shocked, because he was one of the people who was denied sex help from another sister by Caleb and Lydia when they had visited. (DAD: God help us!)

So this was the phone message, and all phone messages had to be passed up two levels in the Chain. So we were kind of scared about passing it up, because we had given counsel for this situation contrary to what the past policy had been. So, we sent it in expecting to hear word back that we had blown it! From this point on, more sexual freedom was being allowed, but we were going at it slow because we didn't want to do the wrong thing.

Then we left for the Philippines. We were so thankful that we were finally going to be able to have a meeting with our leadership, which included Faithy, Hosea and Esther. These three were a tremendous blessing and inspiration to us! We counselled with them quite a bit about FF'ing and sexual freedom, which really helped us to have a clearer picture that the Letters say what they mean! (DAD: Amen!)

However, when counselling with Caleb and Lydia, we were again given a slow-down type attitude concerning sexual freedom within the Family, which really confused us again. We even asked them about being able to encourage liberties in some specific cases where we personally knew there was a real need, but we were cautioned to go very, very slow. They even told us that they didn't agree with Ho's liberal counsel on helping out the single brethren! One thing that was kind

God help us! We were so deceived, we don't know!

The whole time we were in leadership positions, we never saw Nathanael ever visit more than a half dozen colonies. He never showed us how to do it or gave us much instruction of any kind. He only told us that we had to get out and visit ourselves. Well, that's what we did. We only had three colonies in New York that I visited pretty regularly, and we were Regionals for only a about one month in D.C. and were unable to visit any at that time, but we did visit every colony in the Southeast when we were Bishops there. So up until Nathanael left for the Philippines, I think that he only visited six colonies at the most and there was also little or no childcare oversight to speak of. Nathanael left in October '76 for the Philippines, which was one year after Caleb and Lydia's visit.

During the time that Nathanael and Talitha were gone, we wrote him for counsel but never really heard any word from him. So we started directing most of our letters to Caleb and Lydia, instead, who were a lot more faithful to write us back on most things. We kept hearing that both Nathanael and Caleb would be coming for a visit soon, but they never came and we didn't see them until one year later when we went to the Philippines.

During this time, without much oversight, we spent eight months on the road visiting the colonies, some of which had not been visited in nearly two years by top leadership. The colonies were in a horrible mess, and some of them still are.