

cause the parents are not consulting the Lord before they make their separations.

The children's needs are considered last, after the parents' personal happiness. But I remember reading clearly in the Letters several times that Dad stuck with Mother Eve until the kids were grown and then God supplied him with another mate.

Then he made sure Mom was well taken care of before she went on her own! (SARA: Amen!) I know that we are "One-Wife", but I think that the separating couple should still have a responsibility to each other and to the children to make sure that everyone is taken care of and that the children's needs are being considered first. Then they can separate, if it is according to the Lord's leading and the Law of Love, to the good of all concerned: 1. Good for God's work. 2. Good for the Body. 3. Good for you.

I read the Letter "Divorce", expecting it to be pretty out of date, but actually I found it very timely. I think that anyone with children thinking of separating should read it. Here are some quotes I thought pertinent:

"As written before in 'One Wife' and elsewhere, in our communal co-operative tribal form of society, the larger family unit comes first, and is far more important than the tiny private selfish family unit of two and their own children. So that which is best for the Colony or the Family is the primary consideration and not merely the individuals."

About the children, Dad says: "For the sake of the psychological effects on the children of such a separation of a father and a mother and the division of their smaller family unit, I would not advise it unless there is no other solution and such a solution is agreed upon by all concerned." (359:16.)

"We have found all too often that people who can't get along with their mates, frequently can't get along with any mate!" (359:20.) "Too often a mate is simply bored and wants a little variety or a change, but it is not sufficient excuse for breaking up a marriage." (359:21.) "Real love...can survive almost any difficulty, difference, weakness, shortcoming, failures, faults, sins, or obstacles...see if you can't make it work if you try!" (359:26,35.)

I wouldn't write this if it weren't for the children involved, as surely it is none of my business what personal decisions people make in their lives, but I think that it is affecting the work and our children and we have to learn to take "all things" into consideration. (SARA: GBY, Delia! We surely agree!)

"TEMPORARY PARENTS"

Since having two of Matthew and Renee's children with me for the past few months, I've learned some good lessons for "temporary parents", or those with children who seem to need some extra security.

When Isabelle (age 4½) came, I was litnessing daily and often FF'ing at night. I made sure that all her needs were met, but I personally

homesick, I knew it was my fault for not giving her a "Mom's love".

Then when her sister Sara (age 6) came and Isabelle went back to her parents, I found out that just the act of polishing Sara's shoes, mending and ironing her clothes, sending her off to school, etc., gave her security. It made her more aware that I was the one she could count on since Mommy and Daddy weren't there. Of course, she received a lot of love from all the brethren.

But she had a definite need for someone special to rely on. Funny how those little things could be so important! Sleeping in the bed with me every once in a while gave us a special time together to share heart to heart, also.

LITNESSING!

When Isabelle returned, we started litnessing together and pioneering a new field—waiting lounges where people are "sitting ducks", ha! It's perfect for children. I let her go by her own leading and she picks a sheepy person to give her first piece of lit to. When they take it, she says, in Spanish, "I'm going to give you a kiss—on the nose!" When she gives the kiss, everyone cracks up and then all those around begin to pull out donations and wait for their kisses! It works well in cafes too, anywhere where people are sitting and can see your child in action.

This is all her own idea. She likes to skip from person to person and only goes to those she gets a check on, and she's amazingly in tune. Also, knowing the language helps

to understand and answer questions that people ask. This is just to inspire you that your children can be such an asset that you'll hate to go without them! The answer is to find the method that turns their key!

Lil' Sara, age 6, likes to litness in buses. She puts the Letters in a basket and walks down the aisle saying, "Take one!" She looks just like a flight hostess! They immediately take one, put a donation in the basket and begin reading. This also was completely her own idea, and I think it would work well on trains, too.

The Holy Spirit can really inspire our children with new bottle ideas, as they aren't so aware of "how we've always done it!" I think they do best when they work according to their own faith and initiative, just like we do! On other occasions, I have taken them out to where I wanted to litness the way I wanted to litness and it hasn't always borne the same fruit as when they take the lead!

One more suggestion: Keep a pocket atlas handy when out. When you meet someone from another country, pull out the map and show the place to the child you are with. It makes the foreigner feel so important, and your child at a very early age begins to be more aware of people and places! God bless you with some happy litnessing! Love, Delia.

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FAMILY NEWS OF LOVE —BY YOU!

Vol. 9, No. 2 D.O.

Edited by The Zs.

BIRTH TESTIMONY:

Miracle of Creation!

by Shelayne & Jim; Mideast

ON SEPTEMBER 7th, 1978, MY WATERBAG BROKE at 8:00 p.m. We were at Home getting ready to eat. Because there was so little water and it was 28 days before my due date, Rachel and I dismissed the idea, thinking maybe it was just a loss of bladder control. Five minutes later, however, my waterbag emptied all over the kitchen floor! Hallelujah! My husband Jim left to telephone the mid-wife.

THIS BEING MY FIRST BABY, I wasn't sure what to expect so I returned to the table to eat. But I was so excited, I only drank a glass of milk with vitamins. Around 8:30, I decided to lie down and get some rest, and at 9:00 I started having a severe backache. Gary came into my room, telling me I was in labour—to my surprise!

THEN JIM CAME BACK AND SAID THE MID-WIFE WAS NOT HOME and no one knew where she was. At 9:15 p.m. my contractions were 30 seconds long every 90 seconds, but by 9:45 they were 90 seconds long every 30 seconds! Jim left several times to try and reach the mid-wife, but to no avail.



Shelayne, Jim and little Jennifer, born September 7th!

FINALLY, AT 10:00 p.m. WE DECIDED TO GO TO THE NEARBY CLINIC, which seemed like a defeat, as we had prayed for a Home delivery. When we arrived at the clinic, it was closed for the night, but at last the nurse on duty let us in.

WE EXPLAINED I WAS ABOUT

TO HAVE A BABY, so they gave me a room and left to locate the doctor. After a few minutes, she returned and said she couldn't find the doctor and had no idea where he was. She didn't seem to believe I was having contractions as often as I was, so she wasn't trying very hard to locate him!

I CRIED OUT TO THE LORD: "What should I do? Do You want me to have the baby here without a doctor or mid-wife?" As thoughts of how to deliver the baby myself passed through my mind, someone

LOVE LETTER TO MO & MARIA:

Dearest Dad and Maria, I love you! I just finished reading Stern and Burne and wanted to write you a little note. Please don't get discouraged by the God-damned lies!

We're all behind you 1000% and love you dearly. We're God's sheep and we know the Voice of the Shepherd and that's why we follow.

Your words have spoken the truth and have changed the lives of many.—I know because I am one. Thanks for keeping on in spite of all

the lies they tell.

All your children need you and love you and believe in you! Dad, of all the many things I've learned lately, I believe your sample of true 100% dedication and love to Jesus has been the thing that has moved me the most.

"All who will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution!" (2 Tim. 3:12.) So we must be hitting the dog, because it sure is howling! Ha! Keep it up! Much love and appreciation, Your Son—Peter.

I Love You~

because you first loved me!

by BECKY

Dearest David and Maria, God bless you both and greetings in Jesus' Precious Name! I love you so much and am so thankful for you! The Letters have been ever so encouraging and keep inspiring

us all daily to greater things for the Lord! Hallelujah!

"Greater Victories" was so beautiful! I read it all the time! Thanks so much for sharing your trials and testings with us, as it gives me much more faith to know that God can use me in spite of my many weaknesses and shortcomings and daily boggling mistakes. Oh, thank You Jesus! Thanks for keeping our eyes