

Heaven's Special Child!

Pioneering a Ministry to the Deaf!

From Uriah & Sharai Shondo;
U.S.A.:

WE WANTED TO SHARE SOME OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS THE LORD IS DOING in our lives & in the life of our son Zion-5½ who is deaf. We've been back in the States now for 4 mo. & Zion is going to a very good school for deaf children & making tremendous progress, TTI!

HIS SIGN LANGUAGE VOCABULARY is rapidly expanding & he presently has about 400 words which he can understand & perhaps 200 which he himself can sign. His teacher is a real sweetheart & has developed a special burden to help him & so he daily gets a lot of individual attention, something which he sorely needs as he is really behind the other deaf children his age, as he didn't have much formal training until now as opposed to the others who began at age 3.

OF COURSE ZION SURE KNOWS A LOT MORE ABOUT THE SPIRIT & Jesus & prayer than these other children. In talking with Christian parents of deaf children, this has always been one of their main concerns, teaching these difficult symbolic principles.

WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SHARE WITH SOME PARENTS some of our artists' work which so graphically



Zion-5½, oldest child of Uriah & Sharai Shondo, with his new hearing aid. (School photo)

depicts some of these things & makes it easy for the children to understand. The pictures in the "Set Card Books" are particularly good. I reprinted many different children's material (cutting & rearranging many of the Mo Lion Reader pictures & Set Card pictures & arranging them in a more concise book pictorially explaining Jesus & prayer) to give to many of the parents we talk with. Also, our other 3 children (ages 4, 3 & 1) are learning sign language as their second language! ZION IS FINALLY BEGINNING TO REALLY UNDERSTAND the story of Jesus which we've been trying to teach him for years now. He is really beginning to comprehend & internalize it. He now prays in sign language with understanding, & this morning he pointed to a picture of the Nativity & told me all by himself that Mary was Jesus' mother & he even finger-spelled

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Mary's name!! Then he did his own little skit of how the mean soldiers crucified Jesus on the cross. We were flabbergasted as our eyes filled with tears of joy to see all of our efforts to teach him about the Lord beginning to pay off!! TYJ! Seeing him make such progress & increasing daily "in stature & wisdom" makes it worth every sacrifice we had to make in leaving the mission field & returning to the U.S. (altho' we have been very busy witnessing in this, our new field!).

BEING CITIZENS, WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE of the special programs & benefits which the government allows for handicapped children (especially in this state), something which we had a very difficult time doing as guests in a foreign country.

WE WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN A FREE HEARING AID that normally costs \$500! Also free speech therapy out side of school, plus various other financial assistance. This is a tremendous help which we continually found to be almost impossible to obtain before, as most countries take care of their own but are reluctant to do likewise for foreigners.

SO WE ARE "USING IT" TO THE MAXIMUM to build a strong foundation in Zion & preparing ourselves to continue his teaching ourselves when

the whole system collapses, which is soon coming. Thank God for this little bit of time! ZION IS GETTING GREAT VICTORIES IN LITNISSING, an area that has always been hard for him & been a frustrating experience for him & us both. We have always instilled in him that it is part of his responsibility to the Lord & even if he goes to school all week that at least on Saturday &/or Sunday he needs to go litnissing. Well, finally after 3 years of seeming failure, tantrums & frustration & often general disinterest or even lack of understanding as to why he should do it, he is finally catching on & is inspired to litness for short periods of time. To us this is a real miracle, as so often in the past it seemed like a hopeless effort. We know he's got some spirit helps fighting for him. Helen Keller is one (he really loved the Lord & God has used her to be a standard bearer for many other handicapped people).

ALSO, WE FINALLY MADE PERSONAL CONTACT WITH ABIATHAR SILENT. (He is deaf & crippled, joined in L.A. in '71 & left the Family in '74.) He recently spent 2 weeks with us & we were able to share about the changes in the Family & meet some of his physical & spiritual needs. We really pray that it will help renew his conviction to serve the Lord full-time. With his help we are starting a mail ministry to the deaf! The Komix are just perfect for them, as the vivid illustrations make the concepts so easy for the deaf to understand. Please pray for him & us in this!

SHARAI HAS BEEN GOING OUT FF'ING QUITE A LOT. We've found that, in contrast to some of the statements about Moms with fam-



Wanda & Mario with 2-week-old baby Colonia. They are both totally deaf. Mario used to be in the Hell's Angels, but now they love Jesus & Mo Letters! Photo by Uriah.

ilies having a hard time getting out, for us it has been a real salvation! Often, after a busy day with the children or business etc., the night-time affords us a real outlet to do some witnessing. So for us, FF'ing is one of our major outreaches. We try to work it out for Sharai to get out at least 2 nights a week. It is often a battle, but it's almost like we get pressed in the Spirit if we don't do it, so the Lord makes a way! Often our load gets pretty heavy, but we've found that during trying times if at least one of us can be strong & stay in the Spirit it serves to strengthen & lift up the other.

THE LETTERS ON "GOD'S GIFT IS GOD'S WORK" said exactly what the Lord has been trying to teach us for the past 5 years, but we were often "too busy" to learn, GHUI! But in fact, our no. 1 priority these past years has always been to make sure we were meeting Zion's needs for special training whether by ourselves or with outside help, & whenever we weren't faithful to do this, God never blessed it.

SOMETIMES THE FRUSTRATION & DISCOURAGEMENT we've experienced has broken us so very much (TGI). But the Lord is so faithful to give us even greater victories & to help us keep fighting. Thru' the Letters we have been continually kept & comforted & thus have been able to keep on keeping on!

TO SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER EXPERIENCED THE BARRIER OF SILENCE, to someone who has never watched the simplest everyday situations turn into tantrums of frustration, or to someone who's never been awakened in the middle of the night longing to know what their child wanted but unable to find out—then perhaps telling me that Mary is Jesus' mother or passing out a few Mo Letters & even getting a donation might seem trivial accomplishments in communication, but to us they are Mountains of Miracles! PTL!

IT IS LIKE PIONEERING A WHOLE NEW FACET of God's Kingdom & we really feel a burden to do this. We have more

communication with others who have experienced the heartbreak & challenge of raising a handicapped child, as one of the greatest helps for us has always been to share with others who have had similar experiences with their children (2 Cor. 1:4.)

THE LORD HAS USED ZION to make us the loving parents we never could have been otherwise, & we have truly been kept close to Him thru' this "Heaven's Special Child". Love, Uriah & Sharai Shondo.

HEAVEN'S SPECIAL CHILD!

A meeting was held quite far from Earth!
It's time again for another birth.
Said the Angels to the Lord above,
"This Special Child will need much love."

"His progress may be very slow
Accomplishment he may not show
And he'll require extra care
From all the folks he meets down there."

"He may not run or laugh or play;
His thoughts may seem quite far away.
In many ways he won't adapt
And he'll be known as handicapped."

So let's be careful where he's sent.
We want his life to be content.
Please, Lord, find the parents who
Will do a special job for You!!

They will not realize right away
The leading role they're asked to play.
But with this child sent from above
Comes stronger Faith and richer Love!

"And soon they'll know the privilege given
In caring for their gift from Heaven.
Their precious charge so meek and mild
"Is HEAVEN'S VERY SPECIAL CHILD!!!"

—by Edna Massimilla
(Courtesy "San Juan Star", Puerto Rico)

Zion (back center) surrounded by his brother & sisters!—Jesse-4, Gracie-2 and Shalom-1. (PG! Wonderful! CBY!—Please send us a sample xerox of that lit for the deaf!—Dad.)

Intercession

by Grandmother

Say not I do not understand the fierceness of your fight,
For I was with you many times in the darkness of your night.
Though you were many miles away and we were years apart,
I felt oft-times your agony, the pain within your heart.

Say not you fought the battle grim in darkness all alone,
For I was with you there in PRAYER, stood by you at the Throne.
With shield of faith and Spirit's sword I answered at His word,
And came to battle by your side when first your call I heard.

Say not, "'Tis fantasy that one should hear such distant cry."
For we are one in Him we love. His Spirit draws us nigh.
And oft He whispers to my heart the call to "QUICKLY PRAY",
So I have reached you there in prayer though you are far away..

She Taught Me The Language of Love!

One Look of Love Melts Heart of Intellectual!

From Pedro, lawyer & university professor:

WHEN AS THE YEARS GO BY, the time comes to contemplate in perspective the passing of our lives, it shocks us & makes us tremble to think how one can walk thru' this world without the Lord's loving guidance.

WE MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND MONEY, glory, fame etc. but all that isn't worth anything if we are incapable of offering to others the only true & everlasting thing humanity has, something that, as the Bible says & Father David has reminded us, never fails: Love.

I WAS A PROUD MAN, having managed to graduate from University at a young age, with all that symbolizes the System. God for me was only a fantasy unworthy of serious consideration. For me the Bible was a hoax to which of course I thought I oughtn't to pay the slightest attention. I declared myself to be, naturally, a staunch atheist & in front of anybody who wanted to hear me I would proclaim a thousand & one times that God only existed in sick & feverish minds.

HOWEVER ON A COLD & RAINY EVENING I was walking towards my apartment, when without knowing how, a young girl appeared in front of me offering me a pamphlet I was unfamiliar with while at the same time she said with the sweetest of smiles: "Jesus loves you & I love you."

RECOVERING FROM MY SURPRISE, I told her that that meant nothing to me, that I



Pedro—happy in his new life for Jesus & others!

was an intellectual & ridiculous stuff like that was very much beneath me etc. She insisted I read the pamphlet, so only out of an elementary principle of courtesy I accepted it, thinking, as I later did, that I would get rid of it as soon as I was sure the young girl wouldn't see me.

EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE ENDED THERE, if, as Dad says, there hadn't been Somebody at the Controls who didn't want it to end that way. A few days later, more or less in the same spot & perhaps at the same time, I met the same girl again. This time I was able to see her a few paces before I came up to where she was, & I was about to hide so she wouldn't see me, but it was all in vain.

THERE SHE WAS COMING TOWARD ME WITH THE SAME SMILE as the first time, a smile which at that time I couldn't explain why, but that filled me with happiness. Again she told me that she & Jesus loved me, after which she asked me if I'd read the pamphlet. I tried to lie, telling her that I had, but letting her know that it didn't interest me.

BUT THERE WAS SOME-

THING IN THAT YOUNG GIRL that attracted me, & for that reason I agreed to talk about God with her, something that was very strange for me! I don't know if it was her smile, or look, or that certain inner peace all our girls have, but what is certain is that that young, blonde, simple, ingenious & delicate girl had something special.

WE TALKED FOR A LONG TIME THAT DAY. She spoke to me in a different language, a language I had forgotten or that perhaps I never knew. She spoke to me of Love, she spoke to me about Jesus, how He loved me, about how easy salvation is.

I LEFT VERY IMPRESSED, feeling I had discovered something new, something unknown to me. He wasn't the God I had been taught in my childhood, a God with a club in His hand. I now knew a God who loved me, a Jesus who also loved me & furthermore I had found some brothers who also loved me. Now I have Jesus, I have a Family, I know you all love me & I love you. TYLI TYJI—Pedro.

P.S. FROM ANTONIO & MARIA: God bless Pedro & guide him in His Path forever! Our faithful Catscomber, now IRF'er, Pedro is helping us in every way possible, with food, legal advice & great inspiration as he is one of our hungriest brothers regarding the Word, especially Dad's Letters which he loves more & more every day. He is also a faithful witness everywhere he goes. He recently left his professorship so he can better serve the Lord & have more time to suck from the Word. Thank God for FF'ing!—It works & saves souls like Pedro's, souls which would be very difficult for us to reach in any other way!