

eon's band" but we can see now that the Lord knew we would never have the unity to do it had there been more of us.

SINCE THAT FIRST NIGHT NOW IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR US TO BE INVITED TO SIT DOWN at the main table & spend the evening witnessing to all those around. The vision of "The Shepherdess" is coming true! We've been learning to really stand in the gap for each other & respect each other, seeking the Lord together for answers to our questions. The Lord has blessed us in these last few weeks by bringing back three different men whom we thought were completely off the line. It's so wonderful when we can see the fruit of our prayers & tears! TYJ!

THERE'S ANOTHER LESSON WE LEARN FROM TIME TO TIME—in every situation in which we have to deal with someone or make a decision: Love & mercy are the only valid measures to go by. One friend of ours was behaving so badly!—He would come to visit at all hours, demand our full attention, interrupt everyone in the Church of Love, & even tried to force one of us when he got her alone.

YET WE KNEW HE WAS A SHEEP IN HIS HEART. But we didn't know how to deal with him to teach him a lesson. But one day the Lord did! We found out that his business had gone bankrupt, his wife & five daughters left him & he had a case of kidney stones which is very painful—all this in one week!

THE LORD SHOWED US THAT HE IS THE FAITHFUL FATHER & carries the rod. We are to be mothers, there with love & mercy when they fall, as only love will give them the strength to make it in the end. Please pray for us, that we can do a "job well done" before it's time to leave.

(GBAKY!—Dad.)

"You have to love them, Honey. You have to love them with all your heart & with all your soul." (293:110.)

FF FRUITS!

From R.:
I MET X. IN A HOTEL ALMOST 2 YEARS AGO. He's older & works in a nuclear power company, as well as being part of a secret government agency. He's been involved in a lot of dirty work which has been quite violent.

WHEN I FIRST MET HIM, I COULD FEEL SO MUCH FEAR IN HIM, & that the spirits of hate, war & violence totally overwhelmed him. He had a tremendous feeling of guilt about having been responsible for many people losing their lives, & always lived in fear of being a target of someone's revenge.

HE HAD SUCH A DESPERATE NEED FOR LOVE & such a deep spiritual hunger that from the beginning he was very receptive to the love & the Spirit. Despite the fact that it was very hard for him to accept simple faith because he was so complicated & analytical in his mind, only a few days later he prayed to ask the Lord & His Spirit into his heart, PTL! He held my hands very tightly & was crying. The Spirit was very heavy & I could feel something was breaking inside him as we prayed, like the Lord was really beginning to free him (Is. 61:1). Later that night he gave me an envelope with a large donation inside for the birth of a baby of one of the sisters in our Home. On the front he wrote, "From a newborn to the new baby".

SINCE THEN I'VE SEEN HIM EVERY FEW MONTHS & it's been a constant battle to help him become free from the dark spirits which still attack him

as he continues in his world, mostly to help him to trust more in the Lord than in the power of force & violence which makes him very aggressive.

RECENTLY HE WAS VERY ANGRY NOT TO BE ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME, as I'd gone to another city. He was ready to find me at all costs. But he said he decided to pray instead, & the next time he visited he found me here, which really encouraged his faith, Hallelujah!

AT THIS TIME HE WAS AT A VERY CRITICAL POINT OF DECISION in his life. In these two years he'd been slowly pulling away from the dirty work & wanting to live a normal life. But the agency wanted him back again, offering him a very high position with a lot of money. **HE FELT TRAPPED,** but he told me that he feels the Lord's voice speaking to him, & whereas before he would have made the decision without praying, it was very hard for him this time. He was having a very deep conflict in his heart & knew the Lord was testing him. "Please pray for X., that the Lord gives him the wisdom & the faith to be able to make the right decision, because it's a heavy spiritual battle as well as the system which is fighting very hard to keep a hold on him."

VERY OFTEN I WOULD GO THRU' MANY BATTLES before seeing X., especially because it was very hard for me to be with him more intimately. Sometimes I felt afraid of how he would act. Also I could feel all the horrors & fears he was going thru'. But I know I have to take on these things that trouble him so that he can be freed.

THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM THE DEVIL WAS FIGHTING ME, especially because it was such an important moment in X.'s life. But the Lord gave me a huge victory, answering me with the Letter "Priestesses of

Love": "How much God expects us to be willing to go as far as we can to try to show them love" (No. 561:12).

THIS IS REALLY ONE OF THE DEEPEST & MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS for me in Fishing, that if I really go in love & with all my heart & I am concerned for their souls, it will always bear fruit. Like with X., how deeply the Lord's love & His Spirit have worked in his heart & changed his life. "He came in contact with the Spirit of God & love of God & I believe it changed his life" (No. 561:30).

From R., about a very precious friend:

WE MET Y. AT OUR NEW FISHING SPOT where the Lord has been opening the doors for us to meet the top people here. He is from a noble family & works at making TV & radio commercials & movies. Because of the emptiness he saw in his rich family's life & social circle & his complete disillusionment with the church in his search for something real to believe in,

HE HAD GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH MANY VERY DARK SPIRITUAL THINGS (so much like Ludwig in "The Almond Tree"). At the time we met him he was obsessed with death, always talking about it & had even been contemplating suicide.

YET, DESPITE THE DARKNESS ABOUT HIM, we could feel that he was very hungry spiritually, & right from the start we were able to openly witness to him. The Lord spoke to us clearly about Y., showing us that he was definitely one of His children & very important to us. He also showed us that Y. was having so many problems because he really wasn't part of this world, & therefore was so lost.

FROM THE BEGINNING HE WAS DRAWN IRRESISTIBLY TO GOD'S SPIRIT. Whenever we saw him, he wanted to be

"Whatever is done in His love will not fail. It's going to bear some kind of fruit! It doesn't always happen right away: You have to keep loving & helping them." (DM4:30.)

with us. The Lord has also used him as a key to this closed circle of people. When I first began to have a more intimate & personal relationship with him, I could feel so strongly the darkness & spiritual violence about him. After being in touch with the Lord's Spirit he seemed happier.

ONE NIGHT WHEN I WAS TO GO OUT WITH HIM, all of us could feel a huge battle in the Spirit going on to keep me from seeing him. When we were together praying desperately we received the story of the Archangel Michael fighting with the Prince of Persia, & the verse "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer & fasting" (Mt. 17:21).

THAT NIGHT WITH Y. WAS AN INCREDIBLE BATTLE, but the Lord had spoken to us so clearly about him, that he is one of His, I knew the Devil was fighting like mad. The whole time I was with him I felt in danger & kept in desperate prayer. The sisters at home also woke up during the night unable to sleep, feeling the need to pray for me, Lord bless ml! There was also a huge thunderstorm going on at the time, ha!

THE NEXT DAY WE FASTED & PRAYED & in the evening had a communion for Y., claiming the Bread & Wine over his body & spirit. The other night I was with him again after not seeing him for over a month & a half. He was so different! Hall The Lord had been showing him many things & he was very receptive to the Spirit. We were able

to share for hours about the world situation & spiritual things & the Lord, & he was more receptive than ever, & I could see that his time away from the Lord's Spirit had made him feel the desert he lives in & appreciate the love & truth.

BECAUSE HE WAS SO RECEPTIVE, I KNEW IT WAS THE MOMENT TO BRING HIM TO A DECISION. Later that night I shared with him more about having a personal relationship with the Lord & about Salvation. He said he felt he didn't deserve it but asked me several times how he could have a new spiritual life & faith, admitting he needed it.

AFTER A LITTLE WHILE HE PRAYED & RECEIVED JESUS! TTI! Then I began to tell him verses about how it will be when we are with the Lord, & a beautiful light came over his face; he was completely changed! The light chased away the darkness! What a miracle!

WHEN I THINK OF HIS CONFUSED LIFE & the total darkness he lived in, it seemed impossible to be able to reach his heart. But the Lord kept reminding me of what He had shown me about him in the Spirit, & very often it was just blind faith without seeing any results. But the Lord brought the victory, & now our prayers for Y. are to see the seed that has been planted in his heart grow & draw him closer to the Lord every day.

From Sofia:
I'VE BEEN FISHING HERE FOR OVER 3 YEARS NOW, & I want to write about one of our most faithful & lasting friends, Luis, who has made it thru' thick & thin, always at our side in times of trouble & encouraging us with his love & friendship, a true soldier for the Lord.

HE'S 43 YEARS OLD. AN ARIES, works for an American chemical company & has other

businesses going for him as well. I met him the very first day I went out witnessing when I arrived 3 years ago, & he's been a great part of our lives since that day.

LUIS WAS USED TO A LIFE OF TRAVEL & ADVENTURE, enjoying the best this world has to offer, having a lot of success with women & living as free from attachments as possible. But behind the appearance of a frivolous life, I found a very sensitive & noble spirit. I realized that his carefree way of life was only an escape from the monotony & hypocrisy of the System.

HIS SPIRITUAL DEPTH & CAPACITY TO LOVE first showed up about 2 years ago when I decided to return to the States to visit my family after 8 years of being away. My father, a retired Congressman, was one of a small minority in Congress fighting against the war in Vietnam & standing up for his high ideals for peace in the world.

He still does what he can to speak his mind at 75 years old but realizes that his country is headed for disaster & suffers because he can't do anything about it. My brother, 9 years older than I, committed suicide after a long & horrible mental illness (demon possession), & my mother, also 75, has lived under fear & guilt, blaming herself ever since. My brother died one week after I left America, & I never wanted to return to face all that sadness. But I have always prayed desperately that the Lord would somehow enter into their lives & free them from their past.

SO WHEN LUIS OFFERED NOT ONLY TO PAY MY TICKET BUT ALSO ACCOMPANY ME, I knew it was the Lord. Since then we've been twice in the last year & as a result both my parents got saved & filled, & I saw the answer to my prayers come true, that the Lord would

"Jesus, help us Lord to have real love, everlasting love, love that never fails, in Jesus' Name, amen." (572:153.)

replace all the grief with His love & faith.

IT WAS LUIS WHO BROKE THE ICE with this family of intellectuals, with his warm, loving spontaneous Latin spirit & his faith. He helped me to defend the Lord & explain my life to them. The Lord united us with so much love & consideration for all, it completely changed their lives, even affecting my other brother & his family & my sister & here who up 'til now have proclaimed to be atheists. After this, I realized that Luis is a jewel & sent by the Lord to help in His work.

LUIS COMES FROM AN OLD TRADITIONAL SPANISH FAMILY, his father was a high military official under Franco, very Catholic & God-fearing people. This makes it difficult for him to understand or accept our sexual freedom & sharing.

BUT HE'S HELD ON & ALWAYS BEEN BY OUR SIDE to help when we need someone. Once a sister was very sick & we thought she was dying. It was really an emergency & Luis literally carried her in his arms to the hospital & stood by during the whole thing until the Lord miraculously healed her.

WHENEVER HE NOTICES THAT ONE OF US IS DOWN, he does his best to inspire us, & seems to have a sixth sense about how people feel deep inside. He has even helped other friends going thru' battles to keep on fighting, but often gets discouraged when he sees that few are willing to keep on despite all.

THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY BATTLES & VICTORIES with L., & it's been a real test of my faith at times to keep on believing that he could make it despite the differences in his life & mine. It's not easy for him after so many years of wealth & tradition, but love is greater than all those years, & God is love, & He cannot fail! PHN!

THE DEEP PERSONAL LOVE GOD HAS GIVEN US FOR EACH OTHER is stronger than all our differences, & I've learned what it means to put away all my self-righteous ideas about how I think he should be & trust the Lord for the future.

I REMEMBER ONE DAY I WAS SO DISCOURAGED about him (He's a ram & very difficult at times), I just felt I couldn't go on any more. He never wanted to be with the rest of the Family or come to the Church of Love, so this Sunday morning while we were all together in prayer, I told the Lord I just couldn't stand it anymore & that if he didn't show up I was going to quit. Well, after everyone was seated, I saw him slip in & sit on the back seat.

ANOTHER TIME WHILE I WAS OUT IN A CLUB in a very difficult situation surrounded by other men who were waiting for a chance to talk to us, Luis came in & altho' I know it kills him (he goes thru' hell when he sees me there), he encouraged me for a moment & politely excused himself to leave me alone to do the Lord's work.

LATELY HE'S BEEN ABLE TO HEAR THE TESTIMONIES of our new Fish & seems to be more & more open to fellowship with all of us, spending time opening up his heart & sharing our life with us. He's been an answer to prayer so often, for my family in America, & here as well. So please pray for Luis that the Lord will help him to find His will in his life & to have the faith to follow. These testi-

monies may seem like little things, but they show me that God's love never fails & what a blessing & need our friends & Fish can be! PTL!

From Beatriz:
ABOUT 2 1/2 YEARS AGO I MET J. From the beginning I could feel that he was a very special man, with a very sensitive & lofty spirit. We saw each other quite a lot during the first months, & he received Jesus & the Holy Spirit.

LATER I MOVED TO ANOTHER CITY where he came every once in a while for his work as an engineer related to oil production. Since there were long spaces between his visits, he began to go out with another sister in the city where he lived, & she was able to take care of him more closely.

ALTHO' J. WAS ALWAYS VERY AMABLE & THANKFUL & very interested in our work & the Letters, both of us felt that each time we were with him there was an unbreakable barrier between us & him, almost like an ice wall. This made our relationship with him very hard to develop, sometimes making it superficial without much sincerity.

IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE THIS OTHER SISTER FELT SHE COULDN'T GO ON with him anymore. One day she spoke to him with a broken heart, crying, & said that if he didn't open more & wasn't more honest she couldn't go on seeing him, because it made it impossible to have any communication. Thank the Lord he really broke & spoke to her sincerely, admitting that never before had he had such a moving & deep experience which brought him so close to someone.

J. IS A VERY LONELY MAN, probably because of his high ideals in life. No one has been able to understand him very well,

not even his wife, a very beautiful fashion model with whom he has a very cold & selfish relationship. One thing which gave him a real complex throughout his life was the fact that (confirmed by many doctors) he could not have children.

WELL AFTER THAT TALK WITH THIS OTHER SISTER, HE CHANGED RADICALLY & came closer & closer to the Spirit. He was so much more happy & inspired. This sister & I have always been in close contact, both of us knowing very well his spiritual condition & always united in our way of taking care of him.

ONE DAY HE CAME TO VISIT OUR HOME & for the first time visited with the Family also. He fell in love with the children who sang for him, & everyone else was really friendly & loving toward him. Afterward we spent the night together & it was completely different from all the other times.

I FELT SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL, almost as if there was someone else in the room. I kept feeling it closer & stronger, & so I understood that it was inside me, because I had just conceived. And a month later the doctor confirmed it, PTL! For J. it was a big shock & he was happy in his heart. So even tho' his mind with all the system ideas & its traditions fought against it & resisted, he couldn't deny the miracle the Lord had done with him.

DEEP IN HIS HEART THERE WAS JOY, FOR THE LORD HAD WORKED THE IMPOSSIBLE, giving him a child. It was something he had always wanted but had no hope for. "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Lk. 1:37).

THERE FOLLOWED SOME VERY HARD MONTHS OF BREAKINGS for J. because of his fears & worries about convention, but nevertheless he al-

ways helped all he could, not only materially but also he always tried to be an inspiration for me.

HIS COMPANY HAS SENT HIM TO SOUTH AMERICA for a few years, so unfortunately he couldn't be there at the birth of little Daniel, a precious baby of 4 kg. who has now been in this world only 15 days. But he stays in contact altho' far away.

HE MUST BE SOMEONE VERY SPECIAL TO THE LORD for Him to have done such a miracle in his life. And for J., there is no doubt in his mind that God is in control of his life & calling him for something very special! God bless you all! Love, Beatriz.

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THE GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

FRIENDSHIP is a priceless gift that cannot be bought or sold. But its value is far greater than a mountain made of gold—

For gold is cold and lifeless, it can neither see nor hear, And in the time of trouble it is powerless to cheer—

It has no ears to listen, no heart to understand, It cannot bring you comfort or reach out a helping hand.

So when you ask God for a GIFT be thankful if HE sends Not diamonds, pearls or riches, but the love of real true friends.

—Helen Steiner Rice.