

The Lord's Call To Be A Real Father!

TESTIMONY OF HOW A BROTHER BECAME AN INSTANT FATHER OF 4 CHILDREN!

From Goodman Journey; Latin America:

I NEVER DREAMED THAT ONE YEAR & A HALF AGO I WOULD BECOME THE FATHER OF 4 CHILDREN (6 now 5). I was alone & single, & I had been previously married & separated for about a year when I became an instant father of four!

I REALLY WENT THRU A LOT OF BREAKINGS, & it was hard being alone, but I knew that the Lord had a plan for my life. That one year of trials & purges was just preparing me for being the shepherd of a new little flock of 4 children.

I WAS ON A ROAD TEAM TO A CERTAIN CITY, & while I was litnessing at a shopping mall I met a single mother named Kristina with her 4 children. We found out that she had been in the family & had separated from her husband & then returned from the field (Philippines) with her 3 kids when she was a full 9 months pregnant.

SHE ARRIVED IN THE STATES & had her baby & 3 other children to care for, but she had no addresses of any homes. She & the children had been praying desperately to find a Home to fellowship with & to start receiving the Mags.

SHE INVITED US TO COME TO HER HOME THAT NIGHT. We shared the new Mag with her & the children. They were really hungry for the Word & fellowship. The kids just begged us for a Bible story. Then I noticed that she was having a hard time putting the children to bed, so I offered to help her. I saw how lonely & sad the children were after 9 months of being without a father & any type of fellowship. I realized how hard it was for this sister to have all the responsibility of 4



Real Father Goodman, holding Tina (2), with his new mate Kristina, holding Angelique (5 1/2 mos.); in front are David (8), Faithy (4) & Windy (6).

children without any help or fellowship, especially since she had a new little baby.

KRISTINA & THE CHILDREN WERE ALL SO HUNGRY FOR GOD'S LOVE, & I saw that they really needed a father in their lives. The Lord was really speaking to my heart about these 4 children's need & their mother's need for a mate. They really touched my heart. After spending 2 days in their house I went back to my own home in another city, but I kept in touch with Kristina by phone. I told her that I would be back the next weekend on another road team.

THE LORD HAD GIVEN ME SUCH A BURDEN FOR THESE CHILDREN, & I really liked Kristina & felt that I was falling in love with her. The next weekend I returned & spent a lot more time with her & the kids. I went back to my home base after 2 days, but then after being in my home for only 3 days I called up Kristina & told her that I wanted to move in with her & be a mate & a father to her children. I told her that I was walking out the door & that I wanted her to pick me up when I arrived in her city 4 hours later; then I hung up the phone. THE BUS RIDE SEEMED LIKE

ETERNITY & the Enemy really attacked me & told me that I made the wrong decision. But I know now that I made the right decision for my life & Kristina's & the children's.

I COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT THE 4 1/2 MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED. It was like 4 1/2 months of retraining--not only for me but for the children too. Kristina was going to school full-time & finishing her BS degree in nutrition--She had to finish 4 1/2 months of study in order to receive a small inheritance.

EVEN THOUGH I HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF 2 SCHOOLS in the family, there was just no comparison. I was now in "on-the-job training". I knew that my #1 job was to love the children & rebuild their faith in the Word, the Lord & the Family. I was up by 7 in the morning, & my day began with cooking breakfast, doing laundry, dishes, dressing the kids, cleaning the house & potty training the 9-month-old baby girl.

THESE WERE MY DAILY ACTIVITIES along with inspiration & Word time for the children. I trained the children in taking responsibilities & gave them daily chores--this helped to lighten my load a little. During the day I devoted time to teaching them to sing. The 2 older children, David (6) & Windy (4), had experience in the family singing in public schools & knew a lot of songs. But I taught them all new songs in Spanish with the motions.

SOMETIMES I FELT FRUSTRATED, & a lot of time I felt like running out the door, but there is "no triumph without a trial, no testimony without a test, no victory without a battle". Some people may think that all these are not very macho (masculine), & I went thru

a lot of battles, but I learned a lot about what mothers go thru, & now I understand them more & their trials. Even though I don't do all those things now, it was the Lord's will at the time to bring me closer to the children. And now they love me as their father.

WE REALLY WANTED TO BE MOBILE, so I took the children camping for a start. We really prayed that the Lord would supply us with a trailer so that we could get moving for the Lord. Then, after looking for one for 2 weeks, the Lord supplied us with a nice trailer & a towing vehicle. So at the end of the college term we moved into our little trailer & headed south towards Latin America. And after several months of preparing for the trip, we finally left for a foreign field.

ON THE FIELD WE SAW HOW ALL THE TIME THAT I HAD SPENT TRAINING THE CHILDREN TO SING REALLY BORE FRUIT. They caused an explosion wherever they sang. And the children opened so many

doors for us. Even a king we met in this friendly Latin country called them "Los Niños Fantásticos".

IT HAS REALLY ENCOURAGED ME TO SEE THAT THE TIME I SPENT WITH THE CHILDREN WAS WELL SPENT. And all the sacrifices that I made are really paying off in souls & friends (Prov. 11:30). You can't outgive God!

I'VE ONLY BEEN WITH THE CHILDREN & K. FOR 1-1/2 YEARS, & in that time the Lord has opened up a whole new ministry for me, something I never imagined was possible. We are now in the field & singing with the children & witnessing & working on going further south.

NOT ONLY DID THE LORD GIVE ME A HUNDREDFOLD WITH 4 beautiful children & a lovely wife, but also the Lord just recently blessed us with a beautiful new baby girl, a real angel from Heaven named Angelique. Clare. Ps. 127:3-5! So there is no end to the Lord's blessings if we will just obey!! (Amen! PTL! GBY! He gives His best if we obey!)

WHEN THE TIME COMES

You're not mighty, you're not wonderful. You're not the Prince(or Princess) you should be. But when it comes right down to it, You realize that it can only be He.

He'll make of you someone you yourself couldn't be. He'll take what you've got & give more. You'll soon become the man(woman) He wanted. If you'll just take what's in store!

He's the Mighty Prince of Battle. He's the One who has won all His wars. Jesus can take the greatest victor captive. And raise high His banner once more!

So if you think the Lord can't use you. Just give Him a chance in your life. When the time comes, you'll show it. For the Lord hath said, "For you I shall fight!" --Galilee Teman; U.S.A.

(Received in the night as sung by a spirit helper. This scripture was received right after it: "But none saith, 'Where is God, my maker, who giveth songs in the night?'" Job 35:10) (Amen! PTL! GBY! Beautiful! TYJ!)

Orphan Adopts God's Children!

"THE LORD GAVE ME HAPPINESS INSTEAD OF GRIEF, A PURPOSE IN LIFE & 3 CHILDREN!"

From Rosemarie & Bernard; Europe:

GREETINGS IN JESUS' PRECIOUS NAME. Here is the testimony of my husband Bernard who joined the Family 4 months ago, joining our little team of my 3 children & me:

HI! I'M BERNARD, & I ASKED JESUS INTO MY HEART & began to serve Him 100% at a time of great despair in my life. I WAS BORN IN 1945, & my mother abandoned me when I was a baby. Some tough farmers then took care of me, but the man who had to become my father was harsh, cruel & violent. So, I grew up without any love & was beaten physically as well as tortured spiritually; I even wanted to die.

BUT AS THE LORD MADE ME A DREAMER, I hoped that I could wander away in my thoughts from where I actually lived. Then, when I was 13, they put me to work under contract for a boss who was just as cruel. So, I was beaten again there.

THEN, WHEN I WAS 16 I ESCAPED & managed by myself. Only one thing interested me, to be free. I went from town to town, from work to work, but was never safe or satisfied in my heart. I had money but it was not what I was looking for.

DELUDED BY CATHOLICS & PROTESTANTS where I tried to find a minimum of comfort, I found neither God or love. I even tried to get interested in politics, but there again I lost all my illusions. I got disgusted with society, politics, religion & people, & after a sad love story & attempted suicide, I got married when I was 27.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY 8 YEARS OF SUFFERING. My first wife was deaf since her youth & had been raped twice, & as

a result she had mental problems. So, this relationship ended in divorce.

I HAD MET JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES 2 YEARS BEFORE THE DIVORCE, & that appeared to be a solution to me. I studied & even preached the Bible with them. But divorce was forbidden except for fornication, & they did not accept the fact that I had to go with other women to satisfy my needs. So, I got banished from their fellowship.

THEN, IN THE DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS the judges gave me the children to raise. I kept them for 2 1/2 years, but then when my wife stabilised & seemed to return to normal, I gave the children back to their mother, knowing she would be able to take good care of them.

SO THERE I WAS, AS LONELY AS EVER BEFORE & as heartbroken--having failed to build a family & having neither a friend, woman or children. I tried to drown my sorrow with female relationships, only to find that they just wanted an occasional night of love-making, never interested in me enough to live with me.

AT THE BOTTOM OF DESPAIR & having no money left either, Rosemarie came to me with her big tummy. We were living in the same building so we knew each other. And one special day she was sitting on a bench as I was pacing around due to the emptiness in my heart and mind. I passed by her & sat down next to her & we started talking. We talked for a few hours about life & the Bible too, & then I brought her packages back to her home.

SHE WAS SO SWEET TO ME, & I liked her; so in spite of myself I talked to her of

my dreams & told her that it would be no problem for me to take care of her children & the baby that was soon to be born. A day later she gave me the Letter "Dumps" to read & also invited me to her home.

SO, WHEN I KNOCKED AT HER DOOR TO VISIT, I ended up getting witnessed to & prayed earnestly for salvation. I was deeply moved, overwhelmed by some new power. Then she put her arms around my neck & I almost melted. And when she asked me if I wanted to make love to her "in spite of the big tummy," I did not know what to think. I could not understand, but I let myself go because I felt so good.

I STOPPED THINKING & TRYING TO FIGURE OUT EVERYTHING & started to enjoy it, even though at first I didn't really want to. So right there I forsook all, even though it was nothing because I had nothing left, & I began to serve the Lord. TYJ!

AND WHEN THE DAY OF THE DELIVERY OCCURRED, I attended the birth & helped her as well as I could. Even though she was not in love with me, I was in love with her & kept thinking she could be my wife. My love for her kept growing, & 2 days after the delivery she admitted that she needed me. She said that the Lord had put the needed love for me in her heart. So, we got together going for God, learning & sharing together! TYJ!

SO I FORSOOK A WIFE & 2 CHILDREN who were not even mine anymore, & the Lord gave me happiness instead of grief, a purpose in life & 3 children! ILV!

(PG! - & a wife! GBY! TTL! "Our God shall supply all your need according to His riches in Glory!" - Ph. 4:19. Amen!)

Constant Work & Constant Blessing!

A "REAL FATHER" ENCOURAGES SINGLE PEOPLE TO HELP LARGE FAMILIES!

From Michael; The Orient:

HERE'S SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN ON MY HEART for a long time but has only come out now as a reaction to the Letters "Good Shepherds" & "The Fellowship Revolution".

I WANT TO SHARE SOME OF THE BLESSINGS OF WORKING WITH A LARGE FAMILY. I started working with Joseph & Lamb at the end of 1979. I'd never worked with children before, so I was really jumping in the deep end. Ha!

I GUESS THE FIRST SHOCK to me was the tremendous work-load a lot of our bigger families have. The couple I started to work with had 3 children & the wife was pregnant with the 4th, which took awhile to adjust to the constant work. When I mentioned a free day they kinda smiled; you see, when you're a parent you don't get any free days & very little free-time.

I JUST WANTED TO HELP RELIEVE THEIR BURDEN, although I didn't know how. One way I found was to let them have some free-time to be able to go out & enjoy a movie or a little love-up time free from the children. This you won't understand unless you have children.

AFTER ADAPTING A LITTLE MORE to changing diapers, feeding children, school, devotions, cleaning house, laundry & also trying to find time to take the kids litnessing, I really began to fall in love with the kids, & the Lord revealed the blessings that go along with so much hard work.

THE BIGGEST BLESSING IS BEING ABLE TO GET SO MUCH WORD TIME by giving the kids daily devotions. A lot of times I don't know who gets more out of it, me or them. I enjoy the flannelgraphs & komix just as much as they do. Memorising with them has



"Real father" Michael before going to his new field with Joseph & Lamb.

improved my memory work, & singing new songs & doing skits is really just as much fun for me as for them. "As you pour out, He'll pour in, & you can never out-pour Him." (#33:33)

AND IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN OUT LITNESSING WITH CHILDREN, I suggest you ring up the nearest home with children & do it. I've always gotten out more Lit. Who can refuse a little child?

WHEN YOU TAKE CHILDREN WITH YOU, anything can happen & usually does. And who is going to stop a little child passing out tracts? When I was in London we never went litnessing on our own down the main shopping street because of the police. But with the children I've had great days litnessing there & real fun too.

PROVISIONING WITH CHILDREN IS A MUST. It's almost like the Lord doesn't like to disappoint their faith. Last Christmas I went out with another brother & all the kids, & it was amazing the things the Lord supplied by going shop to shop with them--even baby food for survival. So we had a great Christmas & a lot of the food & presents were what the children had seen the Lord supply for them.

ONCE WE PASSED A FISH WHOLESALE & decided to go ask for some fish, but he only had crabs & insisted that the children take six

crabs which was fun for the kids, although I thought, "What are we going to do with these crabs." But we were later able to exchange them for chickens at a local restaurant; ha! The Lord has got a sense of humour!

ANOTHER ONE OF THE BLESSINGS IS THE TREMENDOUS WITNESS it is to people when they see you looking after somebody else's children. I often find people admiring what I'm doing which gives a chance to slip in the witness.

I THINK THE BIGGEST BATTLE IS TO KEEP ON KEEPING ON, especially when you're so tired after a bad night's sleep or something. But the kids still need breakfast & looking after, so you've got to get up & attack.

ONE OF THE SADDEST THINGS IS WHEN YOU SEE TALENTED COUPLES WITH CHILDREN & NO HELPERS. I pray that thru the Fellowship Revolution & maybe even this letter, single people will see the need & respond. And the biggest need, as one father told me, is if someone could just cook the meals so he would have time to do so much more.

BAD HAS WRITTEN SO MUCH ON CHILDREN & how we should all feel responsible for them. So how about it you guys with no children? Come & learn from those who do. You're missing so much; come & be a nobody with the kids. Are you finding it hard to raise support to get to the mission field? Well think about that little family across town with 5-6 kids, or mother w/children & no father. I tried for years to get to the mission field, but it wasn't till I started working with a family that I ever got here. So come on all you little people & let's stick in where we're needed. (Amen! GBY!)