

Three Become One!

The Lord's loving growth & breaking process to establish a "3-fold cord!"

From Eli, Tara & Perle; Europe: WE WANT TO SHARE OUR THREESOME TESTIMONY, & we hope that what we've gone thru can help & encourage others in similar situations. (Eli:) Tara & I first met Perle 3 1/2 years ago when we moved from Paris to the North of France taking over the responsibility of the Region there. Very shortly afterwards the RNR occurred, & we became Servants of the Home where we were living.

I THEN BEGAN A SINGING MINISTRY WITH PERLE, she being the real musician & I simply the "accompaniment". I could see in Perle the kind of fire & boldness I needed to help reinforce me to get back to the front-line of witnessing, witnessing & soul-winning. So we began working closely together singing, provisioning, FF'ing & so on.

PERLE ALSO HAD A VISION TO WORK WITH THE CHILDREN, to teach them to be witnesses in performing etc. Our two oldest children had already had some training along those lines, so we had the beginnings of a singing team. Tara at this time was totally involved in teaching & caring for the children.

(TARA:) AT THIS TIME I FELT "FRUSTRATED" because I always found myself behind the scenes, either pregnant or doing the daily activities of a busy mother & not realising then that these things were just as important as being out on the front. I too wanted to see our children being used more for the Lord, so I was very thankful when Perle was able to help us in their singing ministry. We worked very well together & bore a lot of fruit, but the thought never entered our minds at that time about the possibility of a long-lasting relationship.

(PERLE:) I HAD BEEN WAIT-



Tara, Eli & Perle being videotaped! Photo by Lamb.

ING FOR QUITE A WHILE for the Lord's time to get together with a certain brother, but the Lord was working in my heart preparing me for I-didn't-know-what!

(ELI:) FOR A LONG TIME TARA'S & MY RELATIONSHIP WAS NOT what we had wanted as a marriage. For whatever reasons, our communication wasn't good, & altho' I always had the faith that it would work itself out with time, Tara was strongly considering a separation. But TTL after a visit from our dear V's Andre & Maria & with the help of our loving brothers & sisters in the Home, we were blessed with 10 days alone together on a wonderful faith-trip where for the first time in many years we were able to share some very deep feelings, & it was a real boost to our relationship, TYJI!

(TARA:) A LESSON I LEARNED WAS TO KEEP POSITIVE

& trusting during trying times & to keep the connection strong, taking time for each other. (Eli:) Then very shortly after, Tara & I were forced to visit the States because of visa problems.

(TARA:) WHEN WE WERE IN THE STATES! REMEMBER PRAYING that the Lord would give Eli a new love to help him, as I knew I was not able to satisfy all of his spiritual needs, even tho' I wanted to. This I know hurt my pride somewhat, but I believed that the Lord was going to do something in our lives to re-inspire us & help us catch a greater vision of what He wanted us to accomplish.

(ELI:) DURING THIS VISIT THE NRS OCCURRED & Perle wrote us to say that after praying about what she should do that the Lord showed her to stay with our children. We were thrilled, thankful & a bit surprised that the Lord was so good to us when many families were being left

without any help. TYJI! So we arrived back in France & this was the beginning of a closer relationship with Perle, as we now considered her a part of our family.

(PERLE:) I KNEW IT WAS THE LORD'S WILL for me to be with them if they came back to Europe. However, I had a strong feeling that it was going to be on a more permanent basis. I was hoping that even tho' I was going to live with them that this brother could come & join us & help us train the children. I thought for sure he'd want to, but when I invited him to join our Home he decided it was not the Lord's will for him. So I sought counsel from Dad about my situation as we both wanted to be together, & he wrote that if I'd put the children first then the Lord would bless me with all the desires of my heart. So I did, & He did! PTL!

(ELI:) AFTER SOME GROWING PAINS & BREAKINGS, as with any relationship, the Lord was slowly bringing us to the point where we were to realise just how far He wanted our relationship to go. Now it had been six months since our return from the States & almost two years since we'd been living together in the same Home. I know that I really loved Perle & couldn't imagine that someday she would leave our Home. But at the same time Tara & I encouraged her to do what she felt was the Lord's will, even if that meant leaving.

(PERLE:) I WAS ALWAYS THANKFUL & really appreciated being with them & considered it my highest calling, so I prayed for the Lord to give me a sign to unite us & that month I got pregnant! PTL! However, I kept these things in my heart until months later, & it wasn't until the day of the baby's birth that I really knew that Eli was the father of my child & that we were to be mated together, being as one. We began living

together really as a trio when the baby was a few months old. (TARA:) ELI & I HAD DISCUSSED OUR RELATIONSHIP AT VARIOUS TIMES, as well as being mated with Perle as a trio, but the Lord was waiting on me to accept these things with an open heart as His will. I clearly believed it was, but I can say it was not easy, as I was learning to forsake all & someone I had had to myself for 11 years! It's one thing to know & read the truth, & then another to live & apply it!

SO I HAD SOME GROWING PAINS, but I tried very hard not to let my own sensitive feelings hurt & lead me to jealousy. Of course I was jealous at times & the battles were on, but with each one came victory, as long as I didn't yield to it.

PERLE & I ALSO TRIED TO BE VERY OPEN & HONEST WITH EACH OTHER about our feelings. Often we were going through similar things, & this helped so much & brought us closer together. We had to get some personal victories with each other too. It wasn't something we could force, but came as we yielded to the Lord's will, admitting our weaknesses & not yielding to jealous & hurt feelings. It takes a lot of working at & the grace & love that only the Lord can give.

JEALOUSY IS A BIG TEMPTATION & can have such a grip on you. The Letter that would give me repeated victories along this line has been "Greater Victories". If I would yield to jealousy things would be exaggerated & I'd start worrying that Eli wouldn't love me the same & I'd start comparing etc.

ON THE CONTRARY, ELI'S & MY RELATIONSHIP HAS TRULY GROWN so much since we've opened ourselves to someone else. It's what we really need, even if it hurt at times. We're happy that the Lord has given us a much deeper love & understand-

ing of one another. WE WOULD SAY WE'VE BEEN THE HAPPIEST & MORE FULFILLED in these last two years than at any time in our 12 years of marriage. We always loved one another, even thru thick & thin times & experiences, but we needed to flow & change into another direction that the Lord was leading us into. I'm thankful that we did, as it's borne much good fruit in our lives & those around us, including the children who have someone else who loves & cares for them as her own, GBHI!

AND THE LORD HAS HELPED US TO USE OUR CHILDREN MORE in a singing ministry with all three of us using our specific talents & abilities to complement each other, so it flows, TYJI! (Perle:) Yes it does, & as Ruthie so perfectly said it: "I'd rather be wife no. 2 to the man God wants me to be than no. 1 to anyone else." We know the System's idea of marriage is not Godly, so we need to be strong fighters for the one we know is!

(ELI:) SO WE STARTED LIVING TOGETHER AS THREE, trading off our sleeping which allows us to share with the others in our Home too, & often the three of us spend special time together which brings more unity & loving communication. The Lord opened our hearts to one another thru many breakings together so that we can now share all things. TTL! So don't get discouraged, & keep on loving!

THE LORD HAS ALSO BLESSED BOTH TARA & PERLE with two more new disciples! Tara is due with no. 7 in Sept., & Perle with no. 2 in Dec. What a tribe we're gonna have (9), & we're very happy as we know it's His will! We love you & pray for all our Family, especially those with large families & trios, that God does take care of His own & gives us so much to be thankful for! GBKBY!—Eli, Tara & Perle.

It's Gotta Be God's Love!

A threesome tells how they make it work! Real love & giving is the only way!

From Cedar, Marie & Melanie; Japan:

GBY! WE WANT TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR THREESOME. We've been living together for three years now & have learned a lot! It was right after the RNR when we started living together. From the time we first got the idea to be a threesome it took quite a few months to actually come to pass as we were really seeking the Lord for His will first of all. All three of us had to know & believe it was the Lord's will for us all to enter into this relationship. Then everything started moving & we started living together!

(MELANIE:) I HAD KNOWN CEDAR & MARIE FOR THREE YEARS, but not very well. For one year prior to the RNR in Japan Cedar & I got to know each other better. I really liked him as a person & we got along great. One time when he was away I realised I missed him! "Uh-oh!" I thought, "Better watch it! He's a married man!" So I tried to suppress my feelings. I really fought it, but we fell deeply in love. Everything I felt & everything the Lord showed me seemed like Cedar was the mate God had for me, but he was already married!

SOON AFTERWARD I WENT TO THE PHILIPPINES & TRIED HARD TO FORGET HIM as I could see no future in it at all. What could I do?—Hope that he & Marie would split up? I knew that wasn't right; she had a child who needed a father, besides the fact that she really needed Cedar too. How could I expect Cedar to dump her & come running to me? If he had I know I would have lost respect for him.

RIGHT AFTER THE RNR I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM CEDAR asking if I'd like to come live with him & Marie. Marie also wrote & said she wanted



Cedar & his two beautiful mates, Marie (L) & Melanie (R). Photo by Isaiah.

to try it. My first instinct was to drop everything & take off for Hong Kong where they were, but I knew I had to count the cost. Better never to start something than to be unable to finish it! I knew I could never have him all to myself, & I decided that a little bit of Cedar was worth more than a whole lot of someone else!

THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF LIVING TOGETHER WERE FANTASTIC! We had a wonderful time & got along really well. We even slept together in one big bed & made love together quite often. But after a while we didn't seem to get along so well, especially Marie & I. Little things we did bothered each other & then we weren't so close. We were all still trying to serve the Lord, but it seemed hard to do anything together. We always seemed to have differences of opinion. After living in Hong Kong for 1 1/2 years, we couldn't stay any longer because of visas. We felt the Lord was leading us back to Japan & He opened some doors there.

OUR FIRST MONTH BACK IN JAPAN WAS OUR ALL-TIME LOW. It was on Jan. 1, 1980 that we reached the break-

ing point & got really honest with each other, had a big heavy talk & were very honest. Green shirt! After that things began to improve. It's like the Lord broke thru when we reached the end of our rope & then He took over. Marie & I began to get along really well & got closer. The Lord gave us all a greater love for one another. We were able to really respect each other & look at each other's good qualities instead of at what had bothered us so much in the past.

LOOKING BACK, I CAN SEE IT WAS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER MARRIAGE—at first everything's rosy & then you start to find out what the other person's really like. Now Marie & I get along quite well, & she has so many good qualities, & the Lord really uses her. I appreciate her so much & am thankful that she shared Cedar so willingly with me. I think the Lord brought us thru the whole thing to break us & then give us His love for each other. Now we can truly say it's God's love holding us together—no credit to us, that's for sure!

SINCE WE GOT SUCH A VICTORY IN OUR THREESOME RELATIONSHIP it's seemed so much easier to serve the Lord.

without ever stopping together we can really do a lot we found. Our relationship isn't "perfect", but we believe God put us together as a team & we really want to serve Him as best we can.

AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE CEDAR TRIES TO TREAT US BOTH THE SAME. It's not easy with two wives! Marie & I each have our own room & Cedar rotates back & forth. One night he's with her & the next night with me. We've found this works best. We have six children. Three of them aren't quite "his" but you'd never know they weren't. Cedar treats them all the same, GBHI!

TO OUR NEIGHBOURS & SYSTEM ACQUAINTANCES Cedar & Marie are married & I'm Marie's sister living with them because I'm separated from my husband. But our close friends & fish all know & it hasn't stumbled them in the least. In fact, to most of them it's quite a testimony. Marie & I both FF a lot & a threesome is sure a blessing in this respect. Cedar is not left alone with all the kids when one of us is out, plus we don't worry about the kids' care when we're gone. Our fish don't worry either, knowing that our mate is well taken care of at home. They feel more at ease.

ONCE YOU GET CLOSE TO A FISH, A THREESOME IS A GREAT WITNESS! When I say my husband has two wives they are floored & have a million questions, while I can give all the answers, God's answers. I can tell them how the love of God makes it possible. It's always a good testimony to them!

OF COURSE, THERE ARE SOME DISADVANTAGES to having a threesome, like maybe you can't always spend time with your mate whenever you want to. But this helps you to appreciate each other more when you are together & keeps your relationship fresh. I really can't think of any other disadvantages. NOW I'M NOT ENCOURAG-

ING ALL YOU FUSHERS TO QUICK FIND ANOTHER WIFE! A couple of years ago when Cedar & Marie visited their parents in the States they also visited the local Family Home. When all the brothers found out that Cedar had two wives they flipped out! "Wow! Far-out! That's really cool, man!" We felt like, "Ugh!"

IT'S A VERY HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY taking on another wife, & you really need to work at it, more so than in a regular marriage. Anything that's worth anything costs something! But if you can make it work there are so many blessings! Maybe threesomes are the answer for so many single girls with children. Sometimes it seems like there are not enough guys to go around.

(MARIE:) I knew Cedar's & my relationship needed something. Melanie was an encouragement to Cedar in many ways I hadn't been. She also had a growing boy who needed a father. It was easy to see how much their relationship had meant to them. When Cedar & I talked about it, I suggested maybe Melanie could come & live with us & we could see how it goes. (He never brought it up.)

WHEN I MADE THE DECISION PERSONALLY to ask Melanie to join us I really claimed the promise "You never lose by giving", praying desperately that the Lord would work it out for the better. I didn't know what to expect, whether I would lose even the relationship I had or whether this new factor would add to it.

WELL, PTL, I'M REALLY SO THANKFUL because it has added to our relationship by far. It's rough at times, I'll admit, but we've been able to accomplish so much more together, & we are really happiest this way. I'm so thankful for Melanie. She has so many talents, singing with the children & helping them to perform. And Cedar—he deserves a

lot of the credit because he really loves the Lord & gives a lot—to each of us & all the children the same. So, the "secret" to making it work? This quote sums it up well: "Real love prefers the happiness of others to your own."

(CEDAR:) It's surely not for everyone! But becoming a threesome worked a miracle for us all. Marie & I were at a standstill in our marriage & at the point of throwing in the towel. Despite this, Marie seemed "pleased to dwell with me", so we hung on. BECOMING A THREESOME STARTED A WHOLE NEW REVOLUTION IN OUR LIVES! After the rosy beginning with many beautiful experiences together working, playing, all sleeping together in one room, came along the "reality" as Marie & Melanie began to see the parts they didn't like about each other. And as Dad said, "Three in the bed is a little crowded for most—& a little hot sometimes!" (No. 570:55) Also the fact that I was so flipped out over Melanie was hurting Marie to see that.

SO WE FINALLY CAME AROUND TO THE ROTATING SYSTEM in order to be fair to all. Another factor, too, was that in the beginning we only had two children & a lot more time to concentrate on our own problems & relationship. Now we have six, which has been a fantastic blessing. We're very busy for the Lord like never before & we all love each other more than ever before.

I ESPECIALLY LOVE MARIE MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. PTL! Every day is getting better, especially with every new baby it's getting better. Giving—that's the main key to making a threesome work. If we weren't all really willing to give it'd be finished today! "There's nothing in the Bible against it & it was quite common in the Bible. As long as you can make it work, it's great!" (No. 770:57) Love, Cedar, Marie & Melanie. (Amen!) GBY! I loved it!—& it worked! We used to rotate 5—Hal 2 or 3 times a day!