

didn't obey, & other times we gave him a slap or spanking. How confusing on him & straining on us. How come we didn't see it, I don't understand! So when it didn't work so well, we stopped the "discipline" & tried to explain everything to him instead. "You must not do this & that because this & that", & "can you please do this because..." So when he disobeyed me in different things, I would always excuse him because he didn't really know this & that, or "See, he didn't really mean to be disobedient, he just 'wanted to do it his way'!" And his way was always very clever & smart with good intentions, but nearly always the direct opposite of what I had asked him to do.

THIS DEVELOPED GRADUALLY IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH US & OTHERS. So when I would tell him to do something, he would most of the time do it different, or something else because of a very good reason he would give, & we would tolerate it, because his way always sounded good & logic. All this we can see more clearly now, but then we could never understand why he was so hard to handle.

OUR LACK OF BEING FIRM & CONSISTENT WITH HIM had a very bad effect, as he seemed to get easily bored, lost his concentration in doing things & we could never leave him out of sight as he would always overdo his play & do things he was not supposed to do. I had the constant feeling of not being able to challenge him enough, when the truth was that we tried to run after a wild horse trying to train it before we tamed it.

THEN, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 4-1/2 YEARS OLD, Zach started working for Norwegian TV again, after 7 years of living by faith in the Family. We got a nice apartment outside Oslo, little by little we settled down, & sad to say, we didn't do much for the Lord. Johannes & Joy (his little sister, 1-1/2 years younger) went to a kindergarten a few hours each day, as all the other children in the district did the same..

AT FIRST I WAS VERY RELIEVED & HAPPY ABOUT IT because he would learn to communicate with other children in games & activities, & at the same time give me a break to do house work, as Zach was most of the time out travelling with the TV. However, after 2 months, he got the mumps (as there is always sickness & afflictions spreading at these institutions.) & a week later he got an

infection in his ears.

AFTER SOME DAYS WE DISCOVERED THAT HE HAD TOTALLY LOST HIS HEARING in his right ear. We really prayed & when nothing changed we took him to a specialist. He confirmed that he was deaf in the right ear & that there was nothing we could do, as his hearing sense was destroyed. It was very hard for us to see at that time why the Lord let it happen, etc., so we just gave it to the Lord, trusting that He would heal Johannes & deliver him from this deafness in His time. He always has a plan & purpose & a lesson for us to learn in everything that He lets happen. TTL!

AFTER THIS I WAS EXCUSING JOHANNES EVEN MORE for not obeying or listening to me, as I thought he actually didn't hear me, & he responded less & less to our suggestions. But children are so smart & find out easily how they can trick us to get their own way. (Read "Child Psychology", Letter No. 9151) So, needless to say, his independence & rebelliousness increased & he became more & more impatient, wild & easily bored with everything.



The man behind the scenes, Zach Lightman, filming the Show!

even after repeating it to him during the whole day, when the evening came he still didn't remember, even though he really tried. There had to be something in his heart that was still hindering him in receiving the Word.

THE NEXT MORNING ZACH GOT SOME VERSES ABOUT GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT that would bring all things to our remembrance & that would guide us into all truth. (John 14:26 & 16:13.) We thought he already had received the Holy Spirit as he had prayed for it before. But it says in Acts 5:32 that God gives the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him. So by faith we got together & asked Johannes if he wanted to receive the Holy Spirit. He was in the state where he really wanted to be freed from his rebelliousness, so we anointed him with oil & he cried desperately out to the Lord for help.

HE BROKE INTO TEARS, ASKING THE LORD TO FORGIVE HIM & give him His Holy Spirit of Truth that would help him to remember His Word so he could be honest & obedient. After the prayer he praised the Lord like we have never seen him do before, praising & praising Him with his whole little heart, it was so beautiful! TYJ!

WE WERE AMAZED TO SEE THE CHANGE IN HIS ATTITUDE during the days which followed. He would now receive correction knowing that we were right, instead of trying to cover it up. He started to memorise one verse a day, two verses a day, & it got easier & easier for him to remember. Everytime he would show a sign of murmuring, stubbornness or plain disobedience, we would now let nothing slip by, but always be on his case with discipline & the Word as firm & consistent as possible.

OF COURSE, IN EVERY SITUATION WE TRIED TO MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM TO BE GOOD, encouraging him by showing love & sharing uplifting verses. But when he would choose disobedience I would really sock it to him with spankings until we knew he was really sorry & begging for mercy. Then we would find verses & stories from the Bible & MO Letters about how God never tolerated murmuring, complaining or disobedience.

EVEN WE OURSELVES HAVE NEVER REALISED how serious & terrible & how much worse than witchcraft, idolatry & iniquity stubbornness & disobedience are. King Saul lost his whole kingdom because of a "seemingly small" disobedience. He even in a way tried to do "good" (1 Sam. 15:23) & Ananias & Sapphira were both instantly struck dead trying to cover up their disobedience by lying. The list is almost endless of all the judgements God has sent on His people when they disobeyed. But oh, how He blesses us when we obey in small things, anything can happen then & there is always a victory around the corner. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." (Luke 16:10.)



Beautiful Lydia doing dishes in the sun!

WE WERE SO THANKFUL TO THE LORD FOR EXPOSING OUR DISOBEDIENCE TOO in not training him in the way he should go. As Dad says in "Rotten Apples" (No. 1023), that problem children are usually the result of problem parents. Oh, how we prayed for forgiveness for not staying closer to the Lord & all the precious Letters on childcare in discipline & the importance of learning & memorising the Word. Because if we leave the Word out of discipline, it doesn't hit deep or make a lasting change. (Heb. 4:12.) Hosea's letter on "Love & Discipline" covers it all, showing clearly how Dad always emphasised the Word in both love

EVEN THOUGH HE LOVED TO READ MO LETTERS & HEAR BIBLE STORIES, most of the time I had the hopeless feeling that he didn't really get fed. Something was hindering him in having the peace to receive the Word even though I knew he was hungry. I never even got started having school or memorising with him as he never had the patience & peace to sit down for that. Today I can see why, because without discipline it is hard to teach as the children are not taught to receive instructions & therefore are not taught to receive teaching either, but rather resist it.

SO WHEN HE SEEMED TO RESIST I would not force anything on him. I let it pass & kind of overlooked it because he had so many other good qualities. He usually had a lot of love for the other children, sharing everything he had, being most of the time very fair in his play, giving hugs & kisses, really shining in listening, leading his friends to the Lord, etc. I hope this gives a fair picture of how he was, as "None of us is all good or even all bad." (From No. 306.)

WELL, IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE OUR JOY & HAPPINESS when we got the invitation to come to MWM, to cut all our ties & serve the Lord again full time! It was so wonderful, thrilling, & exciting to arrive here & feel everybody's love & concern as we started in this ministry. We were quite shocked though to find how far behind we were in everything as His light shines so bright here & uncovers all our sins, mistakes, & short-comings. But, oh such freedom! The Lord worked not only in our lives, but also in the children's lives! TTL! Johannes was 6 years at the time of our arrival.

ONE DAY I CAUGHT JOHANNES BRINGING SOME MATCHES BEHIND THE BUSHES where he was playing. I took him home & told him how dangerous it would be for him to use them as it is so dry here, & repeated what we always have told him, to never play with matches whatsoever! I knew he understood, so I let him go believing he really got the point.

THE NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, I HEARD SOMEONE SCREAMING & when I looked out I saw a big tree in furious flames & there came Johannes running toward me, pale & in total shock, screaming, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I did not mean it!" The fire spread to the next tree & the whole camp was in danger. Everybody tried to put it out, but the wind was too strong & everything was so dry that it just

seemed impossible. I took Johannes aside & we prayed desperately together for the Lord to have mercy on us, forgive us, & stop the fire. All the others were praying too, & even though the fire had spread, it just miraculously went out! When the fire truck came there were only some glowing pieces left. TTL! What a miracle! What a relief!

I WAS SHAKEN, & SO WAS JOHANNES & EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE CAMP. Johannes told his story, & as usual, his intentions were not "bad". He had put stones together in a circle just like Survival Sam, just wanting to make a cozy little fire. But he knew he was acting in total disobedience to what I already told him. Now the Lord would not tolerate his stubbornness & rebelliousness & his disobedient clever spirit any longer. In furious anger & judgement He let Johannes be a threat to the whole camp & God's work & workers.

IT WAS NEARLY TOO MUCH FOR US TO HANDLE, knowing how we had failed the Lord & others as well as Johannes. GHU! Then came a time of real purging, heart-breaking, & testing as we really wanted to continue in God's service & let the Lord mold us the way He wanted us to be.

IF JOHANNES SELDOM GOT SPANKINGS BEFORE, he certainly got paid up for that in a short time! He was really sorry for what he had done, but he still had to change & have a complete revolution, to revolute & go the opposite direction. So we prayed & read the Word together & the Lord spoke so clearly to us & showed us where our mistakes were & how to correct them. He showed us that we should not spare the rod of correction on Johannes, but really sock it to him & give him a choice, whether he wanted to stay with us & serve the Lord, or go his own way & do his own thing. He said he wanted to follow the Lord & agreed to let us be on his case about everything.

WHAT A SHOCK IT WAS FOR US TO SEE HOW DISOBEDIENT HE WAS! I would ask him to do something & he would still do the opposite just out of habit. When I would correct him he would tell me some truth but mix in some lies also to cover up his guilt. In the next few days we had to give him spankings for nearly everything we asked him to do because he wouldn't obey & tell the truth, admitting his disobedience. So we didn't know what to do! We tried to make him memorise verses on disobedience, lies, truth, etc. But

& discipline & how the Lord blessed it!

WE MUST SAY THAT WITHOUT DEAR, FAITHFUL PAUL & MARIANNE'S LOVE & PATIENCE, which they have always showed us, & their wisdom & humility in the way they handled the whole situation, we doubt that we would have had the vision & guts to see it through to total victory. God bless them! They not only encouraged us to fight the battle, but fought the battle with us in full determination to win the fight! They even used the lesson that we were about to learn to help the whole Family here in the camp to search their hearts & make sure we all had the same standards in the care of our children. We all read together Letters on child-discipline, really searching out the Letters, agreeing on various things that we wanted to change, like:

KEEPING A MUCH CLOSER EYE ON WHERE THE CHILDREN ARE, what they are doing, making sure that both their play & attitudes are beneficial & positive. It bore such good fruit as we all got more united & convicted to follow the Word much closer, helping us to have a higher standard with the children.

HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US AS PARENTS TO BE FAITHFUL & consistent in small things to make sure that we let no weeds of disobedience grow in their tender little hearts, these children who are that new generation, our end-time witnesses! There's nothing like the Word, that's the only weapon that can mold, purify & change us all. "Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you." "If ye continue in my Words, then are ye my disciples indeed, & ye shall know the Truth & the Truth shall make you free." "It's the Spirit (the Word!) that quickeneth". (John 15:3, 8:31, 32 & 6:63.)

NOT ONLY READING & MEMORISING

THE WORD, but being sure to live it & let it convict us every day in every situation & help the children with the same. The Word is the measure from where we can measure all things. As Dad says in one of his recent Letters: "So I consider for our children the best education you can possibly get is the Word in the Bible & the MO Letters." (No. 1036.)

THIS ALL HAPPENED ABOUT THREE MONTHS AGO, & by this time Johannes has memorised more than 40 verses & 7 children's Daily Lights & has now started on the adults' Daily Lights. All this convicts him daily in everything he does. It's so wonderful to see how he respects it, & how it makes him decrease & Him increase. Hallelujah! Such a victory out of seeming defeat! It's so exciting & fulfilling to care for him now, as he is so happy & content & eager to learn everything. "If you know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:17) So true! He is learning so fast too! In this time he has learned to read, write & talk as well as learning all his verses in English, which he didn't know a word of half a year ago. PTL!

OF COURSE, HE STILL MAKES MISTAKES & FAILS AS WE ALL DO, but now it helps him to even climb higher as we always try to be faithful & consistent to warn & discipline him & use the opportunity to search the scriptures & stories that relate, & make him memorise a verse on the subject. It's so important to let nothing slip. "ALL things work together for good to them that love the Lord." (Rom. 8:28) He still hasn't got his hearing back in his right ear, "but if not", we have the faith that as we obey, He makes a way, & that the future is as bright as the promises of God! TYJ! God bless you! We love you! Love, Lydia. (PTL! TYJ! Lydia didn't give up but obeyed & got Johannes!)

RECOMMENDED BOOKS!

THE FOLLOWING BOOKS WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED IN ENGLISH are now also available in French:

"The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes", by Kenneth N. Taylor is available under the French title "La Bible en Images" par Kenneth N. Taylor, & "Exercises for your Baby" by Janine Levy is available under the title "L'Eveil du Tout-Petit" - "Gymnastique du 1er Age" par Janine Levy. Editions Seuil.

WE PRAY THAT OUR FRENCH SPEAKING FAMILIES WILL BE ABLE TO FIND

THESE & that they will be a blessing in raising our little nationals for the Lord! PTL! Love, Louise, Europe.

