

APR. 1989

THE NEW GOOD NEWS! GOD IS LOVE!

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"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."—Pr.25:25

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WE PROTECT FAMILY TEENS—NOT THEIR BACKSLIDDEN PARENTS! 12/88 —From STIMRO



Dearest Ones,

GBY! WLYSVM & are so thankful for all that you do for each one of us. TYSM for the recent counsel we received regarding the situation with Michael Mountain. (See Page 4) It was such an answer to our prayers for this situation, & we know that we are blessed to have this precious direction.

As you asked, we wanted to summarise for the Family the sequence of events that led up to the recent attempted kidnapping of Michael's teens, & also give a little background on Michael himself.

Michael Mountain came to Thailand in January 1984, fleeing the persecution in Indonesia. He arrived with his two older children & his second mate, Angela, who left the Family after a short stay in Thailand, because of bad health. She accepted an invitation home from her father or relatives to possibly get treatment for her ailment.

From the very beginning, Michael was independent & caused tension with Family members in whatever Home he lived in. After his second mate left, he met his present wife, a Taiwanese girl, who apparently—according to what we've

heard—was about to commit suicide, in discouragement & despair for being framed for embezzlement in Taiwan. She had fled the country, came to Thailand, destroyed her passport & was about to commit suicide when Michael met her, took a liking to her & took her under his wing.

He then moved out of the Family Home to live with & help this Taiwanese girl for awhile, but then realised that things were a bit difficult out there by himself & moved back in to live with the Family in a Home with his new wife. Things never improved with Michael, as he remained unyielded, quite independent & defiant of leadership & counsel. He was living in Nathan & Leah's Home.

One day, Michael moved his family out & phoned the shepherds, saying that he would like to be a live-out for the time being. That was about four years ago. We believe he just basically wanted to be independent, & has always been, as far as we have heard about & known him. He was happy to do his own thing, which is teach English & take care of his little family. He also had two children with this Taiwanese girl, both of whom are also living in Thailand illegally.

He kept in touch with the local Home, visiting rather infrequently, in spite of the fact that he was encouraged to visit & fellowship as often as possible. An invitation was also given to his teens to live in the Family. He, however, rejected this, only wanting the teens to visit, & he ruled & pretty much controlled their lives.

Michael's two teens—16-year-old Markus & 14-year-old Cinderella—both had the privilege of attending the YES in Thailand, & though they had been live-out members, they both did quite well. Afterwards, for some time, they visited one of the local Homes in Bangkok on a rotating basis; that is, one of them would stay there for one week, & then switch with the other one for one week.

After several months though, when there was a threat of persecution because of the publication of a negative article, Michael decided that it wasn't safe to leave his children in one of the Homes, & more or less severed his direct relationship with the Family at that time. After

several months he began to have some infrequent contact again with one of the outreach Homes in Bangkok, though not as close as immediately after the YES. Though Michael did seem interested in having his teens stay fairly close to the Family, he personally never seemed too hungry for fellowship.

Shortly after the publication of the counsel regarding Barz' situation, "It's Time to Fight" etc., we received a phone message indicating that an article had been published recently in the States, outlining the plans for a new attempt to kidnap some children from the Family in Thailand! In reading over the message, we saw that it was referring to Michael Mountain's two teens, & we were able to contact him almost immediately about this. Since the teens are quite precious, & doing their best to have as much contact as possible with the Family, we felt it urgent to try to save them from this impending situation that the Lord had forewarned us of.

In discussing it with Michael, we were able to persuade him to take the teens to a new country, & were able to do this miraculously only a week before he was due to go in & renew his visa, as Michael had applied for a long-term visa & was due to go in for an extension. Apparently this is exactly what the kidnapers expected him to do, as they did with Barz, & that is wait for him at Immigrations & nab him there. But TTL, Michael heeded the counsel & followed our suggestions in taking the teens out & relocating them. If he would have gone in to Immigrations to renew his visa, the kidnapers probably would have been waiting for him & thereby would have gotten the teens, as they really didn't have any clue as to where he lived at that time.

Originally we had suggested to Michael Mountain the possibility of his whole family relocating in a new country altogether, as it did seem that hiding the teens was by no means a permanent solution, as he himself was planning to continue living in Thailand. It seemed, though, that in his mind, because he was unable to take his System wife & two System children out of the country, the more important matter to him was their security, & not that of his teens. Knowing that the teens themselves were quite sweet & doing quite well, we felt it was important to move them on as soon as possible. Michael was able to take them to this new location, with our help, & get them situated into a field Home there, giving Power of Attorney to the local Family members who were to care for them. PTL, it seemed a real miracle.

But because Michael was a live-out member who could perhaps more accurately be categorised as a backslider, he was not very inclined to follow our advice, suggestions or even orders. He totally ignored our counsel & decided to head back to his wife & children in Thailand, only staying in the new country that the teens had gone to for a day or two.

Upon returning to Thailand, he was supposedly going to begin making preparations to legalise his wife & children so that he could eventually leave the country with them. But it turned out that because Michael had been working on establishing himself as an English teacher since leaving the Family several years ago, he really wasn't too eager to make such a move, & he procrastinated as much as possible to avoid doing so. As a matter of fact, it turned out that he didn't do anything to help legalise his situation or make himself more mobile!

After two or three months, we suddenly received a message from the Area Shepherds, that Michael had told them that his second wife had just arrived in town. Miraculously, the very same day, we received a message from someone in Latin America, saying that a Family member had heard on a radio program in the USA that Michael's first wife would be arriving in Thailand in ten days to kidnap the children!

We immediately notified Michael through the Area Shepherds, warning him that we felt his second wife (not his first wife who was apparently planning on kidnapping the children)—his supposedly friendly second mate who had also left the Family due to health reasons—was also somehow involved in this. We mentioned to Michael that we felt very suspicious about this, & that we suggested that he have no contact with his supposedly "friendly" ex-mate.

But it turned out that Michael had already gone to see her, without counselling, at the hotel where she was staying. She told him that she was dying of an illness & would like to leave a large inheritance to the teens, but in order to do so would need to have two blank sheets of paper supplied by him with their signatures at the bottom. (The reason that they wanted the children's signatures, we believe, is that since the teens were old enough (14 & 16), they would need to sign for their passports or else these passports or any other passports or travel documents would not be issued to them. So we believe this was all a plot & plan, using his second wife's health situation, to draw the teens out & have them sign two blank sheets of paper, which the plotters could use to

issue the teens' passports & also kidnap them & get away, as they did in Barz' situation.) Upon leaving the five-star hotel where his formerly friendly second wife was staying, he said he noticed what seemed to be the father of his first wife standing nearby!

Afterwards though, in spite of the fact that he saw his ex-father-in-law, & our repeated warnings to not have any contact with his second wife, he continued to phone her from time to time, & reiterated that he was convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that there was no connection between her & the supposed kidnapping that was in the offing. The Local Shepherds were able to have an extensive meeting with him, outlining to him that they felt he should go into hiding, or perhaps even flee the country altogether, empty wind his house & so forth, in the event that something might happen. But he protested & greatly minimised the threat & mentioned that he was by no means going to leave Thailand, as he had too much at stake with his new wife & children, not to mention his career as an English teacher etc.

Just as we suspected & as he had been warned, a couple of days after our meeting with him, his supposedly dying second wife arrived at his house with his first wife, ex-father-in-law & some police who raided his home, searched it for the teens, & afterwards threatened him in no uncertain terms that he had better deliver the teens, or else! Michael, of course, was shocked to see his second, supposedly friendly wife there in the car with these known enemies, & he then began to realise—too late—the seriousness of the situation! Miraculously, the police & his ex-wife eventually left the house & told him that he had until the afternoon to deliver the kids.

At the Family's suggestion, Michael was able to flee from his house & relocate in a hotel in Bangkok. He felt they had not followed him. When he was in his hotel we were able to contact him, & suggested that he refrain from going out at all, as it was very likely that if they hadn't followed him, they would be looking for him. Again, due to the fact that Michael was virtually a backslider, he ignored this counsel, & consequently they located him in the hotel several days later, hauled him into the police station for questioning, & again threatened that he had better turn in the teens, or else! A lot of this threatening was geared towards the local Work, saying they would raid every Home looking for the teens!

After he was released, we again had someone contact him & told him that he shouldn't by any means go back to his house!—And that if he

knew what was good for him, he had better flee the country, at least for a little while, & trust the Lord for his Taiwanese wife & two children whom he knew would be fine in his absence.

Again, Michael stubbornly insisted that he was not going to leave the country, & he also decided that he would go back to his house, completely contrary to what we had told him! It seems that the Police General who was involved in his arrest & initial raid on his house called him & mentioned that he was dropping out of the case, & that there was nothing to worry about from then on. Michael felt that was a real "miracle," & decided to more or less begin living normally again, until the day when the police again raided his house & hauled him into jail under an arrest warrant that had been issued by the same Police General, whom we found out had befriended the American detective agency hired to do the kidnapping!

It seemed that their purpose in having him locked up in jail was to find out where he was hiding the teens, as so far they had not yet determined that they were no longer in the country. The police apparently encouraged the prisoners in the cell, who were some real base fellows—drug addicts, murderers & so forth—to work Michael over that night, & get him to talk. The prisoners consequently ended up beating him pretty severely until he actually collapsed on the floor! Afterwards the police came & had him sign some declarations which were written in Thai, that he did not even understand.

For us, this sequence of events was a very frustrating experience, to say the least, as it was one thing to have these anti-Christ enemies trying to rip off our precious teens, who in this case, though not fulltime Family members, were nevertheless quite sweet & doing their best to serve the Lord, considering their father's backslidden state. Once the situation began to unfold, our biggest problem was not so much the American detective agency, or Michael's first wife who was trying to find the teens, but more Michael's own disobedient & unreceptive attitude towards counsel, suggestions & direct orders, which led to one mistake after another, & resulted in him eventually being arrested & beaten in jail!

It certainly was the fruit of his own designs. At that point we prayed about the possibility of bailing him out of jail. We thought that it would be safer to have him bailed out, not so much to save his neck, but to protect the Family who were caring for his teens, as Michael had told us repeatedly that if the crunch came, he would, in

fact, rather give the teens back to the System, than have to sacrifice losing his second set of young System children he had with his Taiwanese wife!

It was only through the miraculous help of one of our top-ranking friends that we were able to get Michael out of jail, forcing the detective agency & his first wife to go the legal route, as they were by no means anticipating that Michael was going to be able to get out of jail. In Thailand, & probably in most Third World countries, once you are put in jail, it's not necessarily that easy to get out, particularly if they would like to keep you there till they gain some needed information. In Michael's case it was just a miracle, it seems, that our friend was able to go to bat for him & help secure his release.

Due to this fact of Michael being able to get out & have a lawyer represent him, he was made to go to court about a week later, where the judge heard an appeal by his first wife, & a statement by Michael regarding the custody of the teens. The statement that was read by his wife was apparently 95% allegations against the Family, & it was so long that there had to be an adjournment of the court & a reconvening the next day in order for her to be able to read the entire thing. After the arraignment, the judge mentioned that they would reconvene in a couple of months as he needed to decide if in fact this case was even admissible in Thailand. It's interesting to note, as Dad pointed out in "It's Time to Fight," that the legality of their paperwork is certainly subject to question abroad, & it was certainly not as they had planned—to have to go to court.

At this point, the teens have been reunited with Michael & are in his care, & we are praying that the Lord will somehow continue to protect them.

WHO SHOULD FIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN?

DO 2496 12/88

—A red-hot, lesson-filled response to the situation with Michael Mountain & his teens!

1. It's very easy to tell the difference between this case & Barz'.—Barz is one of ours, & this backslider is not!

2. We are not responsible! We are not responsible to him in the first place! Why should we take \$2,000 of Family money to bail him out of jail when he probably deserved to be beaten! He was probably getting exactly what the Lord wanted him to get!

3. He won't do a thing his Shepherds tell him to do! Now he can't get out of the country, the authorities got his passport. So I'd say, "Let

Ephraim alone, he's joined to his idols!"—Hos.4:17. Let him pay the penalty. Let him pay the price.

4. It just shows that you can't trust a backslider to be led by the Lord, or even to be protected by the Lord! Imagine, he married a woman that's not even in the Family! Why should we feel any obligation to protect him? (Peter: They're not trying to protect him except where it will protect the children, his two teens.)

5. Why should we feel any obligation to bail him out of jail & use our influence in high places & waste it on him? (Peter: They probably thought they were protecting the children by getting him out of the authorities' hands before they could force him to tell them where his children were.)

6. To fight for our kids is one thing, to fight for them when they're being directly attacked. But to fight for their backslidden parents, that's something else!

7. His leadership advised him what to do & he didn't do it. So that shows you what a stew you can get into when fooling around with backsliders! They won't obey the Lord or they'd be in the Family, so we couldn't expect him to obey now. And I don't think we should have to take the rap for him. (Maria: By continuing to try to protect his teens, we are taking the rap. Of course, in Barz' case, we were prepared to do that.—If they hadn't gotten the kids we would have said hide'm no matter what. "The good shepherds lay down their lives for the sheep!")

8. But what kind of teens are his going to be with both parents backsliders? As a backslider, he could rat on us at any time. He'll do whatever he thinks will be best for him, not even what's best for his own teens!

9. God's Word says that after someone has been reprov'd & advised & counselled etc., if he still refuses to obey, "Let him be unto thee as a heathen & a publican, a heretic!" (Mat.18:15-17; Tit.3:10)—Not bail him out of jail! I never said anything about protecting backslidden parents! (Maria: But his teens are virtually Family teens. What are we supposed to do? Are we supposed to protect them or not?) I'll have to pray about it. I'll have to get something from the Lord on it.

10. This is certainly not the common situation. And this is not at all the type of situation I had in mind when I wrote those Letters about Barz & his kids! They're not fighting a case for the teens now, they're fighting his case! Why should we go to bat & fight the case of a backslider? Let him take the rap! We should have

stayed clear of it, we shouldn't have touched it! (Maria: We touched it because of the teens.)

11. (Peter: I think the leadership are thinking that we have to protect those teens, we have to fight for their lives, they're our teens. And therefore they had'm moved out of the country. They think that by protecting him they're protecting the Work & the teens because if they start coming down on him it will endanger the teens & at least the Home where they're staying.)

12. But why should this high official friend of ours stick his neck out for this backslider? As far as I'm concerned, there is nobody worse than backsliders! They're the worst of all. And they are the most dangerous of all. They're the ones most apt to betray us.—They've already betrayed us just by backsliding!

LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EARLY DAYS!

13. I can tell you what I did in Huntington Beach, a case that comes to mind: Two teens had run off & were playing hooky from school & were staying down at the Club for classes etc. Although I didn't know it, the boys had harboured them overnight—not actually in the Club, but in a little shack outside which was like a lean-to against the Club or something. They actually had stayed out there overnight.

14. The parents naturally were greatly concerned & went to the Police. The parents knew the kids were interested in the Club & thought that maybe I would have some tip on them. So when the police questioned me, I honestly told them, "I don't know anything about them. I've never heard of them. I don't know those names. I don't know what the score is, but I will tell you right now, they are forbidden down at our Club to keep any girls there overnight at all! (Because nearly everybody was boys.) They are absolutely forbidden!"

15. The police said, "Well, they've also been attending classes at your Club while playing hooky from school." I said, "Well, I'll see to it that that's stopped. Our people will not be permitted to allow any truants to enter that Club during school hours, any underaged kids, whether they be boys or girls.—They will be absolutely forbidden to enter that Club during school hours! If they want to go there after hours, well, that's up to them, that's none of my business. But no truants will be allowed to attend or even enter that Club during school hours!"

16. We couldn't afford to have the cops down on us for literally disobeying the law.—And this

situation with this backslider's kids looks like a similar case. See, if that father had any guts or any wisdom at all—which he can't have without the Lord's help—he should have gotten a good lawyer & fought the thing.—Fought it right there!

17. At least this time he ought to know what to do.—Don't do like Barz did & give'm up so easily. Get a lawyer & start fightin'! Look what the \$2,000 bail could have done for one of those poor lawyers! He could have easily hired a lawyer for that much money!

18. In a case like that where we become legally responsible, they can accuse us of what they call "conspiracy" or illegally "harbouring" minors. They can even call it, "contributing to the delinquency of minors," all kinds of things they can try to pin on us if we're the ones protecting them.

19. He should have gone straight to court, gotten a lawyer immediately & fought it. Even if the teens legally had to be put in temporary detention or under temporary supervision until the case was decided, he should fight it legally! But as it is now, we're just really sticking our necks out too far in trying to protect them.

20. If I had let those California teens come into the Club there as truants—which is a much lighter thing than what the Family is doing right now in this case—it could have killed our work right then & knocked it in the head & our Revolution never would have happened! The police were actually very polite about it. They said, "We would like to ask you to please make sure that you don't harbour any truants here during school hours.—And never take in any underaged girls overnight." I said, "I will see to it!"—And we didn't!

21. I think it was Carmel & Rachel's parents who then went all the way to the District Attorney, had a conference with him & the Mayor trying to pin something on us, on me personally etc. God bless those girls, they stuck up for us then & said we'd never done this or that or whatever they tried to accuse us of. But they came back with the report that "our parents are determined to get you on something, some trumped-up charge, anything to get you out of town!"

22. When I was convinced that the officials were conspiring to do this or that—just like they did with Paul—I said, "Folks, it's time for us to leave!" And we left town. They were already harassing us.—They'd stopped our convoy of vehicles saying, "You've got a broken windshield wiper. You've got a tail light that's not working." Harassment anywhere we'd go. Per-

secution!—Pure & simple.

23. So I figured, "Well, I'm not going to just sit here like a sitting duck while they plot to get me one way or the other!" No telling what they might have done!—You know, find some drugs on one of those visiting hippies. They actually did that once, they planted drugs on one boy who I know didn't take drugs. He was one of our best preachers & soul winners, completely transformed from before, a new creature in Christ Jesus. He swore, "The cop stuck his hand in my pocket & he pulled out the pot!" When they're out to get you, they won't stop short of anything like that! So I said, "I'm not just going to sit here & wait for them to come & get us." I said, "Let's go!"

24. They were already working on the guys who held the lease on the Club & they said they were going to double the rent at the end of the month. I said we're not going to pay that. And they worked on our landlord too, my Mother's cottage which we were renting. And he said, "I'm going to have to double the rent!" They've got ways of doing it. They've got the power & they've got the guns & they've got the prisons.

25. So I said, "It seems like our time is up.—Let's go!" Already Faithy & Miguel were begging us to come to Tucson, that Brother Ware was begging for more help, that Tucson was ripe & ready to be reaped.—And it was! We boomed there for awhile & reaped. We were packing Brother Ware's place out, we didn't have any more room, & were winning souls left & right on the University grounds & everywhere, just by the dozens!

26. Then we were informed, I've forgotten just how, that the Catholics already had 9,000 signatures on a petition against us! I think they'd informed Brother Ware of that, that he'd be closed down. So I told him, "The only thing we can do is move the troublemakers that are causing all of this, we don't want you to lose your church. We'll just move, that's all." And that's when we hit the road.

27. (Maria: Look at all you did for Rachel & Carmel & all you invested in them, & then they both eventually backslid. How do we know that these teens are that strong & aren't going to backslide later? Or do we still have a responsibility to them no matter what just because they look to us as their spiritual Family?)

28. Their mother is obviously backslidden, an enemy, & is causing a lot of trouble. The father is also backslidden & now he's causing a lot of trouble. It just looks to me like we are really sticking our necks out & going to bat for

some people that are very uncertain.

29. If he loses his teens, that's probably a part of the penalty he's paying for deserting the Family & backsliding. I'm sorry for the teens, but I think the Family there had better cough 'm up before they comb the whole East trying to find them & get everybody in trouble!

30. If the father were a good upstanding Family member, it would be a whole different kettle of fish! But with this man, both he & his new wife are completely out of the Family.—Why should we go to bat for him? The children have also been more out than in.

31. Lord Jesus, give us wisdom! Well, I never felt we should violate the law at the risk of the Family, & that has always been my policy from the very beginning. I'll finish the rest of the story I was telling you:

32. So we left California, & Carmel & Rachel ran away from home & followed us. In fact, somehow or another they found out exactly where we were. And what were we going to do with them so late at night when they showed up, about midnight? I figured, well, we'll have to shelter them tonight, they can sleep in the living room.

33. So we took them in for one night, but I'll tell you, I was scared all night long that if we ever got caught with them that we would really be in trouble! And frankly, I don't see much difference in this case. But we shoved 'm off the next morning & we said, "Well, if you want to go on to the Wares to where the rest of the Family are, that's where you'll have to go but I can't take you with us!"

34. Well, their parents pressed it through, & they came with the cops & all & landed in Tucson by plane! Somehow they knew that's where we were. I guess they were probably in touch with the police there because we made quite a furor there. And the parents came out to the church with the cops with warrants for their arrest. Thank God it wasn't for our arrest! I'll tell you, when we heard they were coming we skidaddled!

35. We always did our best to stick to the law so we wouldn't cause ourselves any unnecessary problems. Finally, when the girls got to be old enough, they ran away & caught up with us.

FIGHT FOR OUR CHILDREN —NOT FOR OUR BACKSLIDERS!

36. What I had in mind when I said let's fight for our kids was for people in the Family, Family folks!—Mother & father or at least one of the parents should be in the Family like Barz was

when they came to illegally snatch his kids away. The whole thing was as illegal as it could be.

37. When he was handed those papers, the first thing he should have done was say, "Let me call my lawyer! You're not gettin' the kids until I call a lawyer!" Now how much good it would have done, I don't know. But that's what infuriated me about Barz, he just gave them up too easily. He voluntarily gave them up! He never made a struggle. He never made a protest, nothing! He just let 'm go!

38. But when I said fight for your kids, for goodness' sake, I didn't mean that you should immediately start fighting with violence! Of course, try everything legal that you can first. Immediately get your lawyer to start defending you. That's the best way to do it.

39. (Peter: In this particular case, they didn't have to get a lawyer immediately because there was no one to fight. They learned beforehand that there was a planned kidnapping in the works.) That's right.—Why get a lawyer if they're not even in the country yet?—Just leave! But a backslider is a backslider, & you can't trust him! He left & took the teens to another place but then he left them there & came back because he couldn't stand to be parted from his System wife & children.

40. If he'd stayed hidden with his teens, the Family could have denied that they knew anything about them or where they were. "He took off with them & we don't have any idea where they are!" But now the authorities are going to keep the pressure on him that if he doesn't cough 'm up within a fair length of time, he is going to go back to jail.—And eventually they'll bring him to trial.

41. Of course, they don't even have to have trials in many of those countries. They can hold you for years even without charges! So there's really no such thing as justice or democracy or whatever, & they can beat you up & torture you & everything else if they want to. How long do you expect a backslider like that to hold out under such conditions? (Maria: I'm surprised he didn't tell the police the first night.)

42. Well, as far as I'm concerned right now, his teens are two hot potatoes & we need to get 'm off of our hands & back into his hands because they do not belong to us now with neither parent in the Family to protect them! I don't think we can afford to go to bat for any underage kids. It's been our policy for years that we have never allowed underage young people to join the Family without written permission from their parents.

43. I never said that we are to stick our necks out & endanger the whole Family to protect children of parents who are both backsliders! That's extremely dangerous! That's just as bad, if not worse, than protecting children of parents who have never been in the Family & hate the Family! We don't harbour those, we don't believe in harbouring them. The only excuse you've got for this case is that he was once with them but then he deserted them.

44. We're going to have to return the poor kids to their father because we can't take responsibility for m, we just cannot do it. The father could turn around & lie, & they'd believe anything he said.—"Well, they stole 'm from me & took 'm away & they're hiding them some place! I don't know where they are, so there's nothing I can do about them. They kidnapped them, they've got 'm!" We need to get rid of those two hot potatoes immediately, as fast as we can, & ship them back to him right now while he is out of jail!

45. We cannot be responsible for underage kids in the Family without parental permission, & in a case like this, that means permission from both parents, written parental permission! Otherwise, we are responsible. If the parents have signed written parental permission, then that's their responsibility. But for God's sake, when one of them is an enemy & the other is a backslider—which is as good as an enemy—it's just a trick of the Devil to try to get us involved!

46. So they need to get rid of those teens as fast as they can & send 'm back to their one legal parent & let him get a lawyer & fight the case in court! And let me tell you, they will certainly work those teens over to try to find out where they were because we're the ones they're after! I sure hope the Family there got written permission from him to have them. It's a standard rule of the Family, & if they didn't, they are in trouble! They have disobeyed the Family rule.

47. Well, that's your answer, & as far as I'm concerned this needs to get out to the Family! They are not to take any underage minors without full parental permission, written & notarised! I mean you can't do anything with them anyhow if you don't have Power of Attorney & authorised, notarised permission to have 'm.

48. So they're going to have to ship 'm back & let him suffer his just desserts for not staying in the Family. Ship them back & let him fight it out. And the poor teens, I'm sorry for them, but we can't let them endanger the entire Family. They're suffering for their father's & mother's sins. We can't make the Family suffer, the whole

Family, their whole field & God knows how far!

49. We're not supposed to keep kids that have neither mother nor father in the Family! It's against the law! We cannot keep kids like that unless they have at least one parent in the Family who has legal rights to those children.—At least legal rights according to God!—Who can legally go to law & court & fight for them if he or she has to! Otherwise it can come to a mess like this.

50. (Maria: Can we keep underage children without either parent in the Family if one parent gives written permission & the other doesn't contest it at all?) Of course! At least we've got something to show authorities in case we're called on the carpet: "Here, we have permission from the parent!" (See new sample Power of Attorney form in an upcoming Security FSM.)

51. But if they then want to contest it, you'll have to yield to whatever the law decides. You just can't beat the System, you can't fight City Hall.—Especially in a case like this! When it comes to that, then you have to yield. Either you have to leave or yield, one way or the other.

52. If the cops come & you know they are legally authorised to have 'm, then you have to give 'm up. I've said that time & again.—When the police come, officials of the local government come, then you have to yield. How many times have I said that?—But call your lawyer first to make sure.

53. I said if it's somebody else, even the other parent, with their henchmen & that sort of thing, & it's illegal—which it was in Barz' case—then you don't have to give 'm up, you fight! Preferably you call a lawyer immediately & get him to fight for you!

OUR POLICY CONCERNING HARBOURING MINORS!

54. This guy would have had a lot better chance in every way if he had stuck with & rejoined the Family! But now he's gotten himself into a mess & really gotten his foot in the trap. But at least we can get those kids back to him where he can fight the battle legally & by law & where we're not held responsible.

55. I think that should be the criterion in any case: We cannot have minors in the Family without written permission from the parent!—And better yet, the parent should be with them, if at all possible. That's always been our policy, always! Kids used to come to us begging us to take them in & I had to say, "Sorry, we cannot do it."

56. Remember how Vashti fled to us in the

middle of the night one night? She was in love with one of our boys, Joab, & I think she was only 16 or 17. She came to our house in the middle of the night asking us to take her in. I said, "I'm sorry, we just cannot do it. It's against our policy. You have to have written permission from at least one of your parents."

57. She said, "They're chasing me!—They know I've come here because they know this is where I wanted to go, to be with Joab. And they got the police & they're coming!"

58. I said, "Well, I'm sorry, we will have to notify them immediately that you're here, voluntarily notify them, not wait for them to get here & find you! We'll notify them by phone exactly where you are & where they can come pick you up because you're underage & you don't have permission & we cannot accept you!"

59. "But can't I just stay here one night?" I answered, "Nothing doing!—You're under your parents' jurisdiction!" Her stepfather had jurisdiction over her, & he was gambling away all of her money, a big sum of money, something like \$60,000 that her dead father had left her. Her mother married this rotter & he was gambling away all of her money because he was then her legal father & had the legal right to administer her estate.

60. She came to us pleading, "Help me, This man is ruining me!" I said, "Well, you're just going to have to go to the law. Tell the police about it! Get a lawyer. But I'm sorry, we can't keep you here."

61. The Family has got to know that we simply cannot do that!—Unless one of the parents is in the Family with them, or even if they're separated from them, they're still in the Family somewhere! Therefore they have that parent's permission, & they had certainly better have some kind of a legal paper to prove it! If the kids are separated from that parent that's in the Family & they're in another part of the Family, the kids had better have a legal paper with them to show that they have permission to be there—signed legal permission from the parent that's in the Family.

FIGHTING BACK—LEGALLY!

62. And if trouble like this comes, they have to try to fight on a legal basis. Of course, we have a very tough time fighting legally against the System because they're so prejudiced against us. But at least legally before the law we have a right to contend earnestly for the faith & to force the other opposing parent to obey or abide by the law.

63. (Maria: But what about a case like this one, if the father did give them written permission to have his teens?) Well, it won't mean a thing when it comes to her contesting it. They'd have to go to court to settle it. (Maria: But what if the authorities show up at the Home where the teens are & knock on the door & ask for the girls, & the Shepherd says, "We have written permission for the teens to be in our care.") The police would just say, "But the mother is in Thailand contesting the father's custody, so they'll have to come back with us & fight it out in court!"

64. (Maria: So whenever there is a knock on the door & the police are there, you just have to give the kids up no matter what?)—In other words, you wouldn't try to get 'm out the back door, you would surrender them to the police?)

65. We can't make a set rule that covers all cases. If you've got the kids & you find out that one of the parents is contesting & trying to take them out of the Family, & the cops come, you have every right to try to stop or delay them & tell them you want to contact the other parent that's in the Family, as well as that parent's lawyer before just turning the kids over!—Otherwise, how do you even know that the papers the police have are valid or legal?

66. You've got to operate according to your faith & according to each individual case. Each case must be judged & acted upon on its own merits. Once Vivian showed up with her thugs & the so-called papers & the cops & Immigrations & all the rest, the only thing Barz could have done was to immediately grab a lawyer & say, "Help me! I'm going to contest this!"

67. I don't think there's a thing Vivian could have done. The very fact that she & her gang were scared to death, admitted it right on 20/20, & didn't feel safe until they were on the plane on the way out of the country, that showed that they didn't really think they had the legal authority to do what they did. In fact, they even admitted that they knew that what they were doing was illegal in Thailand.

68. But in this backslider's case, we've got to get ourselves off the hook & get those kids out of there & back to their father so he can legally fight it! It's gone too far to do anything else! If a parent that's not in the Family tries to hide his kids in the Family, there is going to be trouble—especially when the other parent is trying to get them!

69. We cannot hide kids for backsliders! We would like to hide the kids for their own sakes, but we cannot legally hide the kids for a backslider unless we have his written permission.

But the minute the other parent comes & challenges that, then we have to follow the law, whatever it is.—And the parents will have to fight it out in court themselves!

70. As much as we love & are concerned about the children, it's a matter of the law, & you've got to obey it—Unless you want to get an entire field in trouble & possibly the whole Family!

71. Every parent who has a child in our Family had either better be in the Family & have the child with them.—Or, if the child is temporarily staying with others, they'd better have a written legal document of some kind showing that the family that is keeping the child has written legal permission to have him!—Or there is going to be trouble!

72. And if an ex-mate or someone comes looking for them with papers showing that she or he has custody of them & all this sort of thing, we can't stand up & fight against that, that's the other parent's job! It's their job to call a lawyer. We might be able to advise & counsel them, but the first thing we would counsel them to do is, "You've got to get a lawyer & fight it legally! That's the only way you can do it. Or you're going to be in trouble, & you're going to get us in trouble!"

73. Any parent who is having trouble like that, whose mate is after them trying to get the kids, the first thing he ought to do is get a lawyer & be sure the kids are there with him.—Otherwise, he may be accused of desertion if he's not even with them.

74. Try to put yourself in a Systemite's place or a judge's place.—Whose side is he going to be on? He's already on the other side anyhow. But in a case like this backslider's who's not even in the Family or with his own kids, the judge has an excuse for turning them over to the mother.—Even if he's in the Family with his kids, most judges would think that they have an excuse to award the custody to the mother! So we can't go to bat & be on the hook for this backslider's teens! He's going to have to fight it out in court legally if he wants to keep 'm!

75. The first thing he needs to do is get a lawyer. (Maria: He should have a pretty good chance, as I think they're divorced & he has legal custody.)—And she deserted 'm years ago! That ought to be enough to prove that he deserves custody of the children.

76. So the first thing the Family ought to do is get those teens out of there as fast as possible.—Tonight wouldn't be soon enough! Ship them back to him, thus showing that we have nothing to do with it. "He came, brought them,

stayed here, then he ran off on this trip back to take care of something in Thailand & he just never came back.—It's not our fault. So since he hasn't come back we're shipping them back to him!" And be sure he's there at the plane waiting for them with a lawyer!

77. So for God's sake, let's get rid of 'm quick! They're hot potatoes & we cannot keep them. It's against our rules. The Family has got to know that!—It is against our Family rules & has been for 20 years, to keep children who do not have legal permission from their parents to be with us!

78. As much as we would like to, we can't! Many times we were tempted to take kids in. They begged us to take them in but we had to put our foot down & say, "I'm sorry, it's just absolutely against the law, we can't do it. You're underage. Your parents still have legal jurisdiction over you & you've got to get legal permission from them."

79. How much success is dear Barz having? All he's gotten so far are his visitation rights. He may just have to wait until the oldest boy is 17 or whatever. Of course, he has a pretty good chance since the kids really want to be with him. You've seen those court scenes in the movies where they take the children into the judge's chamber & then the judge sits there & soberly asks the boy, "What do you want to do?—Which one do you want to live with?" And all things being equal, if he chooses one or the other, that's what the judge usually decides. He figures that the children have a right to have their own wish.

80. But if you defy the law & you hold them illegally, you haven't got a chance, not before the law anyhow. You have a chance if you'll keep the law, obey the law, stay within the law. You've got a chance in these child custody cases to fight it out & get some kind of rights; especially in a case where the mother deserted the children years ago when they were small.—Like Vivian did!

81. Any judge in his right mind would figure that such a mother is not a fit mother if she deserted them when they were little & the father himself raised them all those years. If nothing else, I think he'd get sympathy from any judge if he'd say, "Listen, they're my kids! I raised them! The mother left them years ago! Why should she have them back now?"

82. But they have got to either fight it legally, or just surrender one or the other.—Like Barz did, unfortunately. She had no legal right whatsoever & had deserted the children three or four years before. She had no legal rights to them at

all. She had even signed a legal paper turning them over to him.

83. I believe Barz could have won right there in Thailand. Good night!—He had enough friends there! But he gave them up too easily. He got scared by that intimidation by all those thugs she brought along & that wad of papers & he just gave them up too easily.

84. We have to learn to fight for our children! But we have to learn how to fight legally, which is the only chance we will have of winning. Because if you don't fight legally, unless you can somehow take them & get out of this World, then you don't have a chance to win under the System! You've got to play the game their way or you forfeit it.

85. But in a case like this present one, we've got to turn over the kids! One thing I know & you know & the whole Family knows, is that we have never permitted the Family to accept minors without written permission from a parent! And if the other parent is contending & contesting that permission, then we cannot keep them because we are not going to be able to go to law to keep them! It's the parent whose permission is being contested who will have to go to court & fight for them.—In the System's eyes, they're his kids, not ours!

86. We have no legal right whatsoever to keep them. The other parent in the eyes of the law has equal rights to the children. This is what happens all of the time, if parents split then the court has to decide which parent should get the kid & be awarded custody.

87. Once the other parent starts contesting the Family parent's custody of the children, or in this case where it's not even a Family parent, then the thing has to go to law.—Unless the Family parent along with his kids are somewhere where they can't get ahold of them.

88. So yes, we've got to fight for our children!—But we cannot fight on the behalf of a disobedient, disloyal & dangerous backslider!—Amen? GBAKY loyal & faithful to the Lord & His Work! PTL!

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1. Do you know what made the difference between that "Meteor" movie we saw the other night & a movie like "E.T."? E.T. was a masterpiece, what I call a good movie! And I really thought about this, "Now, Lord, what was the difference? What made the difference?" And do