

THE MANY THAT WE HAD TO ASK OURSELVES & TAKE TO THE LORD IN DESPERATE PRAYER when facing this very serious problem & definite affliction that Davidito experienced from the age of 4 to 5-years-old, & has since had relapses at times of having slight spiritual problems or behavioural differences. We'll share our story with you hoping you can, as we said, derive some good lessons & perhaps, if need be, apply it to your own children's lives. Dito is definitely in some ways a special case, & perhaps is expected to deal with some serious spiritual responsibilities, being our Little Prince, more than most of our children are special, & these spiritual lessons we believe can be applied somehow in a helpful way to you, our Dear Family.

5. OUR STORY BEGINS WHEN IN JANUARY, 1979, A BRIEF TRIP WAS PLANNED FOR TIMOTHY CONCERNED, WHO WAS THEN DAD & MARTIA'S CLOSE RIGHT-HAND MAN & BUSINESS MANAGER, & Davidito & myself were to accompany him, since Timothy's four children & wife were to meet us there for a time of fellowship. We had other missions to accomplish as well, but we were all hoping that because Tim & Deb's children were reported to be well-behaved, intelligent & good samples, that therefore Davidito would have the great opportunity to be around some good sample older children in our Family & perhaps gain a wider vision of our Family & children around the World should he get to know these children better while on our trip away.

6. DAD, HOWEVER WAS QUITE DOUBTFUL, WE FOUND LATER, AS TO WHETHER THESE CHILDREN WOULD BE A GOOD INFLUENCE ON DITO, since David is so extremely sensitive & easily impressed by all his surroundings at all times. Dito had hardly had any contact whatsoever with other children in the system or the Family in his entire life, besides a few we have mentioned to you in our story before, so this was quite a "faith trip" for not only him, but all of us in many ways, as you will soon find out!

7. DAVIDITO WAS VERY EXCITED TO MEET THE OLDER CHILDREN, who were Mick, age 6, & little girl Maeva, age 5, (who later we discovered was quite the "mischievous troublemaker!"), & there we met the four other younger children who were a part of the Family Home there. Before greeting the children when their train

arrived, Dito had requested that we buy them each little surprises, so at a local stationary store we bought each of them colourful eraser to use during their school time--(a very inexpensive but enjoyable & useful little surprise we often get for our children for "love-gifts" or just for little toys to carry about).

8. DITO AT FIRST ACTED A LITTLE BIT BASHY WHEN HE WAS AROUND THE OLDER CHILDREN in imitation of his little sister Davidita it seemed, but when he saw they were much more mature than he, he suddenly started acting more like himself, & more adult & even bolder than usual, much to our surprise! Once at the Home, Davidito initiated his own idea of playing "hide'n seek" round about the living room & there everyone commented on how much more bold & friendly he now seemed. (Some of the adults there had met him before in Tenerife, when much younger).

9. OF COURSE, EVERYONE WAS SURPRISED TO EVEN SEE HIM THERE, AS IT WAS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO VISIT OTHER HOMES, especially together, & it was quite a test to even relax, so to say, when "all eyes were on us" & I, of course, was hoping that he would be a good sample & was as well mindful to keep to my responsibility of making sure he was happy, free, & yet still close enough to me to not feel entirely on his own & somehow lost in the new situation. Timothy & I had briefed him on security before we arrived & he did quite well, amazingly so. He definitely has a gift of keeping secrets & of being security-minded!

10. DARLING LITTLE 3 1/2-YEAR-OLD ANDREA WAS THERE, who shared with us several times during our visit the small "Ladybird Talkabout" book on The Baby. Her very bright little Andrea was very, very excited about it, jabbering away & showing Davidito all the pictures in the book about the new coming baby! Here our Mommy Maria was expecting Ichchi in only three months, her pregnancy being quite a big victory in our Home as well, but nevertheless did Dito even let on the slightest implication that his mommy was pregnant too, for the Family there did not even know anything about it. GB'N!

11. IT WAS SURELY THE LORD THAT ONLY THE NIGHT BEFORE WE'D VISITED HERE, I'D TAUGHT DAVIDITO HOW TO DO A MORE "PROFESSIONAL STYLE" somersault--a quick little flip-over trick most children try about this age, & something that Dito al-



Dito plays with Andrea, Maeva & Delfina

ways wanted to do well, but was always afraid of bumping his head. We had just polished off our somersault trick the night before, & now these children who Dito was admiring & respecting so much initiated their idea of a somersault game, flipping & flopping along the couch cushions placed on the floor. So thank the Lord, he felt at ease about joining in the fun!

12. INCIDENTALLY, I NOTICED RIGHT AWAY UPON ARRIVAL THAT NONE OF THE CHILDREN WERE DRESSED WARMLY ENOUGH in this huge, cold villa whose heat was out of order at the time in the freezing snowy weather of January! The Family was sweet enough to warn us before arrival to bring all our warm woollies, & Dito & I certainly got full use out of them, wearing two layers of woolen underclothes, our sweaters & thick winter clothing outside, as well as our coats & even sometimes gloves while inside the house! The other children however were not nearly dressed this warm, some of them not even wearing long tights under their outfits, & needless to say, most all of them had thick runny noses & coughs at night. Their colds seemed to be just accepted, not the slightest bit concerned about, nor prevented in dress-

ing them warmly even when having a cold, & their definite sneezing & germey contagious mucous obvious signs that their bodies were feeling cold as well!

13. NOR DID I, BEFORE MELTING DAD & MARTIA & OBSERVING THEIR FAITHFUL SAMPLES, KNOW HOW TO NOTE, EVEN IN MYSELF, WHEN I WAS FEELING COLD & know when to put on a sweater or socks so as to prevent catching a cold, but since living with our King & Queen we have all definitely learned, & are still learning, how to prevent colds-- & even prevent others catching colds, which is only love!

14. SO SOON AFTER DINNER, ALL THE CHILDREN BEGAN PREPARING FOR BED, GATHERING THEIR "JAMMIES" & ROBES, ETC. This was when one of the most surprising reactions I experienced on this trip happened--ALL the children, (except for this one sweet 3 1/2-year-old girl, who was not from Timothy's family), brought in their thick night diapers & plastic pants to prepare for bedtime! It was the most casual expected routine manner to them, & I definitely saw Dito's eyes widen with mine, as these older children whom he respected so, were "dressing like babies"!

15. THE LITTLE GIRL DELFINA, WHO WAS RACHEL'S AND TIM'S BEAUTIFUL 3 1/2-YEAR-OLD BECAME IMMEDIATELY "ATTACHED" & ATTRACTED TO DITO & I, she having been jostled around from one lifeline helper to another throughout her lifetime in the Family & very obviously an insecure & rather pitiful little thing. I did not want to make the same mistake that I did before in Portugal, of allowing a child to become so attracted to me that Dito would feel insecure & pick up again his problem of stammering! (See Dito Chapter 24, on "Dito's Affliction" & M. No. 722 on "The Handicapped Child!")

16. THESE CHILDREN WERE QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO SLEEPING WITH DIFFERENT ADULTS ON THEIR VISITS "HOME" FROM THEIR SCHOOL-HOME NEARBY, so dear little Delfina was now beginning to sleep with Dito & I that night. Everyone began making preparations, carrying her fold-up bed upstairs to our room etc., with me worrying the whole time how this was going to pan out! Finally when her helper handed me a bottle of cough medicine to use throughout the night should she cough, I had to say I just didn't quite have the faith for it, nor did I see it helpful that she should sleep with us all night, especially seeing that she had a cough, as well as a cold! Delfina did read some bed-