

The Wayback Machine - <https://web.archive.org/web/19970713043242/http://www.vpp.com:80/teenhelp/poki...>

P.O.K.I.S.

A Newsletter for Parents of Kids in Samoa

August 15, 1996

Vol. 1, No. 4

IN THIS ISSUE

[General Information](#)

[What's New in Samoa](#)

[What's New in The Program](#)

[Trainers' Corner](#) - Regarding Tasks seminars

[On the Inside](#) - By a boy in Samoa

[Inside Out](#) - Adapting to your son at home

[On the Outside](#) - By a boy who's gone home

[The Ebb and Flow of Paradise Cove](#) - This month reports Glenda's visit!!

[Dear Ms. Problems](#) - Help solving problems

[Family Support](#)



This is a monthly newsletter published and written by parents, for parents of kids in Samoa. Though program staff review P.O.K.I.S. prior to printing and distribution, as well as provide information for several columns, the content and format was designed by Linda F. and Sheryl J., the parents of two boys in Samoa. One of our sons has returned home, and the other is currently on Level 4.

Unless a column is written by Paradise Cove staff, the information doesn't necessarily reflect the opinion of program staff. We appreciate individuals at Paradise Cove, Brightway, and Teen Help for their invaluable assistance and for the printing and distribution of this newsletter. If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions, please contact Teen Help at 1-800-355-8336.

Sheryl J	Editor in Chief
John J	Support
Linda F	Associate Editor

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you are a parent who missed the first issue of P.O.K.I.S., please contact Teen Help. This section contained an in depth discussion of Samoan culture, conditions for the boys, a little about the boys' adjustment, communications with your son and with the program, and how to deal with problems.

We did not receive any submissions this month for the Siblings column. We will include it next month if we receive letters from siblings regarding their feelings and experiences.

We now have the newsletter on Internet - on Teen Help's page. Their address is <http://www.vpp.com/teenhelp>. You may find lots of other interesting information on this page. We anticipate that this will be a great resource for you and your families and friends. Please give us feedback on whether or not you find this valuable.

We hear that Paradise Cove is continuing in their effort to have E-mail capability! We'll keep you updated.

[Top](#)

WHAT'S NEW IN SAMOA

by Brian, Director-Paradise Cove

Greetings from Samoa. We are happy to announce the opening of our new office. We have relocated our case managers as well as Angie, one of our office managers to our new location next to our town facility. We are thrilled about this new transition and are still awaiting our three new telephone lines in order for each case manager to have their own phone line. Until these lines are issued, we ask for your continued patience, as we are as eager for these new lines as you are!

For now, Joann can be reached on one line, and Rita and Ofeira can be reached on another. Please call on these direct lines so you will not be placed on hold or have to call back. We realize the need for individual lines for the case managers; this is why we are doing all we can to get more phone lines. Thank you for your support and your patience. We are continually trying to upgrade our resources here to make it easier on all of you. Speaking of new additions, our new addition, Mitchell is up to about 14 pounds and is adjusting well to life on the Island! We are thrilled to have him aboard as our new member of Paradise Cove. Hopefully he will be our youngest student here at Paradise Cove!

Case Managers' Schedule, Revised 7/96 Samoa			
Manager	Days	Location	Hours
Seneritha	Th,F Sa Tu,W	Office Office With Boys	8-4:30PM 10-5:00PM
Ofeira	M,Tu,F W,Th	Office With Boys	8-4:30PM
Joann	M,Tu,F, W,Th	Office With Boys	8-4:30PM
All lunches are taken from 12-12:30 PM.			

[Top](#)

WHAT'S NEW IN THE PROGRAM?

Newsflash: We are pleased to announce that Glenda C. has joined the Paradise Cove team. She will function in the position of Parent Coordinator, where her initial focus will be to better prepare and educate parents who will be attending the parent seminars. Glenda brings a unique asset to the Paradise Cove team in that her son is currently in Paradise Cove. Thus, she thoroughly understands the needs, concerns and questions that parents experience during this process. She has just returned from Paradise Cove where she worked with the staff and met with all of the boys. Glenda the author of a monthly column "The Ebb and Flow of Paradise Cove." In this issue she talks about her experiences at Paradise Cove.

Transition Home News! Thanks to Bob Litchfield and Glenda C., we have additional information on the newly added Transition Home phase of the program.

The private homes our boys will be staying in have good references. Most of the families have worked with the program in some capacity before, and meet guidelines set. They were interviewed and sign a contract, including that the boys will have adult supervision at all times. There will be up to four boys per home, but there may be only one or two. This depends on the size of the bedrooms etc., as set forth in the guidelines.

While the boys are in the Transition Homes, parent visits and phone calls are encouraged. Increased family contact is one of the main purposes of the Transition Home - . Families are also encouraged to have their sons spend weekends with them. The program feels that is very important that the families interact and get re-established and re-acquainted. With prior approval from parents, the boys may have also have visits from grandparents and siblings.

The boys will attend Browning Academy. Families they stay with are responsible for their transportation. If they have already graduated, they will be working on increasing their SAT scores, via pre-testing to see where their weak areas are, and work on those with tutoring.

Bob Litchfield wanted we parents to be aware that the Transition Home, though supervised, is not a "lock-down facility." If a boy is still a run-risk, and decides to run, he will probably be successful. The Transition Home will be a success for the boys who want it to work.

[Top](#)

TRAINERS' CORNER - by David G. President & Trainer, Resource, Inc.

UPCOMING TRAINING DATES

The following gives the training dates for upcoming Parent Seminars and Parent Child trainings. Remember, your child must be scheduled into a Parent Child I, and then into transition. Parents must be graduates of the Parent Discovery Seminar to attend the Parent Child Sequence..

Parent Seminars

TEXAS DISCOVERY	September 6-8
TEXAS FOCUS	Cancelled
LA DISCOVERY	August 23-25
LA FOCUS	September 19-22
SEATTLE DISCOVERY	September 13-15
SEATTLE FOCUS	October 24-27

Parent-Child Seminars

PC I	St. George, UT September 5-7
------	---------------------------------

Call the TASKS Coordinator at (801) 635-0918 to register and obtain exact locations. To assist in planning and to avoid possible cancellation for the Focus seminars, fees for Focus must be submitted at the time of registration. Focus seminars are subject to cancellation unless a minimum number of registrations are received by 30 days prior to the seminar.

Adult Focus

We are now doing an adult Focus for graduates of the Discovery training. This training will mirror the Teen Focus, with some added features. The training is a 4 day experience. The hours are much like those of Discovery. Typical starting times are 10:00 am each day, while ending times are around 11:00 pm.

We have been doing general public adult Focus trainings for over 10 years. In the past we felt that travel, expense, and the need for other issue addressing training precluded having the adult Focus for parents with children in Paradise Cove or Cross Creek. With the trainings moving to the regional areas, we now can offer this experience. So what is Focus?

The Focus training is a continuation of the journey started in Discovery. Most Discovery graduates know that other issues exist in their lives which need further work. Many of these are barely uncovered in the Discovery training. As parents and individuals it is critical we continue to improve our self relationship. This relationship is the key to all other personal and professional relationships in our lives. Discovery is about ME, Focus is about

WE. The Magical Child qualities are "owned" in the Focus training. We spend time developing a personal purpose and vision for your life. This is a critical step in the development of a clear future. As parents it is imperative we break the cycle of our old self limiting beliefs and behaviors to create a new family dynamic. We expect this of our child, but do we demand this of ourselves?

The Focus Seminar builds upon the concepts of personal accountability, responsibility, and change. Your experience in the Discovery tells you the value of moving outside your 9 dots. The Focus is to continue to challenge oneself to operate beyond the dots.

There is a cost to the Focus training. The training cost is \$295 per person for those associated with Paradise Cove. This cost covers expenses for the training. This is a step beyond the included TASKS seminars. While we would like to have this included in the program, our decision was to include PC III instead. In our general public companies, the Focus seminars cost \$550-\$650. However, since Teen Help is covering some of the cost, we can offer the training at a much lower fee.

I encourage you to enroll in the next Focus. Your growth is critical to a new family.

Tasks - - The Challenge

Many times I am asked by parents in the Discovery, "Why was my son kicked out of the training?" Parents often seem to take this personally. The reason is quite simple; we hold your son to a high standard regarding integrity in the training. In the TASKS Program, we are addressing basic self esteem issues which are at the root of your son's troubles. In the training, we lay out what is expected regarding homework, participation, and keeping our word. We then hold your son accountable for his results. Many times the results are far below those of which your son is capable. If we begin to allow "less than," we are merely reenforcing your son's view of himself. The view of himself is the major change we are looking to create.

TASKS sets a tone for your son's total experience while in Samoa. Generally, one of the first major self growth experiences is the training. It is imperative we start demanding more from your son. It is also critical we continue to apprise your son that his results in the program are his to create. He will be given nothing, but can earn much.

What type of behaviors can result in being asked to leave the training? The most frequent is incomplete homework. The homework is NOT the issue, but a student's willingness to push beyond the easy and commit. Another typical cause for dismissal is breaking facility ground rules while in the training. As you well know, your son is going to push the limit. One typical test is to see if during the training, he can "get away" with behaviors otherwise not acceptable. The answer is no! The last is often most difficult for parents to understand. It is being asked to leave the training because of the buddy relationship.

At first this seems to be a punishment rather than a lesson. In the training, each student has a buddy. We carefully go over the buddy relationship - - purpose, support, consequences. I tell the students, "If your buddy is asked to leave you may be asked to leave. The only way you will be allowed to stay in the training is to have been actively involved in this relationship." We spend time in the training defining what involvement really means. Later when a problem arises I spend time with each buddy, finding out what they have contributed, if anything, to the relationship. Too often the answer is nothing. This is a mirror of the way they have treated the family.

Using the buddy as an analogy for their participation in the family is a powerful learning experience for the boys. Often the boys do not totally get this lesson until the next training, when they put more into the relationship. It is a very rewarding experience for a boy who has missed the training because of his past choices in a buddy relationship to complete the next training with a buddy.

I encourage you to ask your son the true cause of his leaving. Hold him accountable for his results.

[Top](#)

ON THE INSIDE - by current Level 4 boys

Letter #1: from John

I came to Paradise Cove almost one year ago. Before I was sent here I was heavily involved with gangs, drugs, violence, and a great deal of unknown emotional problems. Before I came to Western Samoa I had hit rock bottom. I dropped out of school and had run away from home. I was doing heavy drugs. When I was fired from my job I had no money for the drugs that I was addicted to. I began to rob people for anything of value. I began to get into street fights daily. I was so used to my style of life I did not know I had a problem. It was the only way I knew how to live. I had no desire in my life besides money, sex, drugs, and violence.

September nineteenth was the hardest day in my life. Two men took me to Brightway. I stayed there for fourteen days. I had no desire to change. All I thought about was how to get home and resume my destructive lifestyle. I left for Western Samoa on the twenty ninth of September. I will never forget the fear I experienced as I stepped off the plane. I was alone, scared, and unsure of myself. All I had was the image of my past to protect me.

As I first walked down the hill to Sinalele Beach, I was not sure what to think or expect. I spent my first month planning how I was going to get myself home.

Time passed. I tried to do what I had to do so I could move up in the levels to get myself home. They have a saying here: "You can fool the fans, but you cannot fool the players." The saying was right.

I graduated two seminars that offered a series of helpful tools. For the first time in my life I was able to share my feelings and talk from my heart. I was now in a loving, caring environment where I was accepted for me, and not the image I portrayed at home. I now had the motivation to change. I also had the motivation to work hard so I could call my parents. I was myself and dealt with my issues.

Level three came well deserved. The first phone call was extremely emotional. I told my parents how I felt and realized how much they love me. As time passed the relationship grew stronger. They went through Parent Discovery, a similar seminar for parents. After they graduated they became extremely supportive. I continued to work hard and focus on my life.

The day I moved to level four I cried. I cried because I had reached my long term goal. I was so proud of myself. I had applied the tools I had learned to my life. I had become successful. Now it was my turn to give to others.

As I reached my goal of level four I thought that I was done. When actually I have grown the most on level four. On level four you are faced with many difficult situations that relate to life in the real world. Day in, day out for the last five months I have been faced with people similar to my old friends. To stay successful in the program it has taken the ability to put aside my acceptance needs and care enough about my personal values to surround myself with positive influences. Through the Youth Leadership Program, I have discovered how strong I have grown.

I currently have one credit to complete until I receive my high school diploma. If I had not been fortunate enough to have been sent here, I would have never finished high school.

Soon, I will go home and be faced with old influences, and the challenges of family communication. I am confident that my success will continue when I return home. The tools that I have learned here will make all the difference in my life and future. I am extremely proud of the long road I have walked. I am also grateful for the love of my parents and look forward to a new beginning.

Letter #2: from Dave

On April tenth of ninety-five, I entered my first day on Sinalele Beach. I have no recollection of that day seeing as how that was fifteen months ago. I remember coming to Paradise Cove in denial of all my issues.

I remained on level one for about three months. At that time I believed that I would be returning home by my three month date. During my first three months I completed both the Discovery and Focus seminars. By my

three month date I received a letter from my mom explaining that I would continue to stay in Paradise Cove until I reached level four.

In about a week's time I reached level two. My first two weeks on level two I became sick and slowed down. I then attained some goals (mechanical ones such as: hugs 3 x's, feedback - get and receive 2 x's daily within my Family, etc.). I reached level three with a month and a half of consistency.

My experience here is that people choose to make [transition between] different levels difficult. Some make level one to two hard; others make level two to three impossible. I chose to make level three to four extremely challenging.

As soon as I was moved up to level three I was removed from "happy," my original Family, for six months. I was placed as "Respect" Family leader. I remained Family leader for about two and a half months.

At that time an abscess (similar to a boil, deeper and larger) formed on my hip. I was placed on sick bed for two weeks. During that time I acted like a special case. I was placed on probation and taken out of the Family leader position. After another two months I was placed back in the Family leader position. In two weeks time I was placed on "LIMBO," because based on results I was comfortable on level three, since I had spent five months on that level.

On limbo my first three or four days I worked my butt off to return to a Family. Finally on my fifth day, I decided that my legs could not run anymore. That day I ended up taking a category 3 refusal and returning back to level two. I spent another four days on limbo til I got back in a Family.

Some of my days on Limbo were the worst days of my life. Yet limbo changed my life. I found God again and learned to ask Him for what I need.

Once off limbo I regained level three in three weeks and I was placed as "Love" Family leader. In a month's time, on April eighteenth of ninety-six I reached level four.

For the past three months level four has been the biggest learning experience of my entire stay here in Paradise Cove.

Letter #3: a poem by Jeff, written after he had been in the program a little over one month. Jeff is currently in Samoa and gave his permission to print his poem.

CHANGES

As the waves crash down at sea,
Feelings arouse inside of me.

Missing my mom and my dad,
Making me feel very, very sad.

I had hate inside my head.
Sometimes I wished I was dead.

Now that I think of what I have created,
I am completely devastated.

There is nothing I can do but change my ways;
It will be of use in later days.

I gave my life to the Lord,
I grabbed the handle of His sword.

He will guide me through the days;
He will help me out in many ways.

I look ahead into my life.
I see myself happy with a wife.

[Note from the Editor: This poem touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes. After our experiences, with our son there for 17 months, Jeff's words reinforce our conviction that the most important thing our sons gain from this program is love and hope. Thanks to Jeff and his parents for sharing this beautiful poem.]

[Top](#)

INSIDE OUT by Sonja, counselor @ Paradise Cove

The following poem is one that I have shared with the boys and thought it might give you, the parents, food for thought also. It has made quite an impact on the boys.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN FIVE SHORT CHAPTERS

by Portia Nelson

(From: Repeat After Me - Claudia Black)

I

I walk down the street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I fall in
 I am lost....I am helpless
 It isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find a way out.

II

I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I pretend I don't see it.
 I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place.
 but, it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

III

I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
 I see it is there.
 I still fall in....it's a habit.
 my eyes are open.
 I know where I am.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

IV

I walk down the same street.
 There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
 I walk around it.

V

I walk down another street.

As your son returns home he will face many of the challenges that he has faced before going into the program and may "walk down the same street" and "fall in the same hole" before he remembers to "walk down another street." Coming home will be one of your son's greatest challenges. Keep this poem in mind and use it as a reminder for yourself (when dealing with him) and himself when he makes similar mistakes that he made before entering the program.

[Top](#)

ON THE OUTSIDE by Tommy, a boy who's gone home

My experience of re-entering reality...I've been home for about 4 months now and have been enjoying the things of life that I had missed out on before. When I first got home, I had a lot of struggles from all the temptations. I have not slipped back into old habits, but have thoughts about it. I'm not trying to say that you can't stay straight; you can! In fact, I'm still sober. Life on the beach was rough and also very emotional. But trust me, it's a lot easier. I work full time to keep busy and thinking positive. I am 18 years old and am finding adulthood to be very difficult, learning that responsibilities are a big part of life. I would like to end by saying I hope everyone stays strong and Samoa can be an excellent experience.

[Top](#)

THE EBB AND FLOW OF PARADISE COVE by Glenda C., son in Samoa for 16 months

Yes! They Do Care

As I write this article I am en route back to the United States from visiting Paradise Cove in Western Samoa. While I could write volumes, and there undoubtedly will be additional articles based on this trip, I am going to focus on my experience with the staff and your sons. I know, from a parent's view point, we wonder and worry whether someone is really caring for them and about them. So I am going to share with you a bit of insight and information about a few of the staff who are responsible for our sons.

The first person our sons meet upon their arrival in Samoa is Lafi (pronounced law-fee). They are met in American Samoa by Lafi and then he accompanies them on to Western Samoa. Lafi played a key role in getting Paradise Cove started in Samoa. Being with Lafi is akin to being with a celebrity. He seems to know everyone. He is an intelligent, proud man, with a hearty sense of humor and a good heart. He is the proud father of five sons, one of whom works for the program. He truly cares about our sons and takes pride in their success.

The Case Managers, Ofeira, Joann, and Rita, bring a tender warmth that our sons truly appreciate. And yet they have the knack for challenging them, keeping them on task and focused. If you have a question specifically regarding your son, the Case Managers are who you should contact.

My hat is off to Sonja, Joe, David, and his staff of trainers. Their "commute" to get to work is approximately 26 hours, one way! As I hassled with lost luggage, a canceled flight, the discomfort of airplane seats, the long lines for check-in, customs, and immigration, I marveled at how dedicated they must be to our sons to go through this process every few weeks.

Duane is the Assistant Director and oversees the beach facilities. His wife Tala works in the office in Apia. It is approximately a 1-1/2 hour drive each way. With this distance and responsibility they only get to see each other every few days. What a sacrifice! And yet they push on in their dedication to our kids.

A number of boys kept talking about Tao (rhymes with cow), who works at Le Tiara. They talked about how cool he was, how much he had helped them and how dedicated he was to them. They know that he loves them and has a genuine concern for their best interest. As I talked to him, he shared with me how important they are to him. He said, "If I know one of my boys is having a hard day, and I think I shouldn't leave him, I will delay going home however long it takes."

Brian is the Director of Paradise Cove. He and his wife Angie, who works in the office, have four children. The boys really look up to Brian. He is a terrific role model for them. He challenges them and helps them to believe

in their own ability. And if you are receiving any of those "guilt trip phase" letters, be comforted in knowing that they put up with the same bugs, heat and humidity, and being far from their loved ones also. And they have been there longer than any of the boys. Never complaining. In fact, always cheerful and happy and proud of our boys' accomplishments.

Western Samoa is breathtakingly lush and beautiful. A perfect setting for change. And combined with the efforts of a dedicated, caring staff our sons are in a good place. Numerous boys shared with me the love they have come to have for the Samoan people, and their beautiful country. They expressed appreciation for what they have learned in their program and how glad they are to have a chance to start over and to make changes. I watched their respectful interaction with the staff. I witnessed boys who were proud of their hard work, encouraged by a devoted, supportive staff.

Yes, Paradise Cove is a place for change, and the staff at Paradise Cove commits each day to make that happen. Rest assured...they do care about our sons!

[Top](#)

DEAR MS. PROBLEMS

In this column, you can talk about your problem, and get help. Some problems will be responded to by parents who have experienced and resolved the same, or a similar problem. For some, we'll get input from staff at Paradise Cove or Teen Help.

The purpose of this column is to constructively try to resolve specific, legitimate problems. This may include, but is not limited to problems with the program, with children at home, with communication, with returning home, or with the awful letters that boys write for many months. Those letters are a normal stage in your sons' development. Some of the things they write about are merely an attempt to manipulate you into bringing them home. But there are occasionally problems that need addressing with program staff. The best person to discuss those issues with is your son's case manager. If you feel the problem is more serious, and requires immediate attention, call Tala - the office manager - share your concern with her and ask her whether or not you need to talk to Brian or Duane.

Dear MS. Problems,

My son has been in Samoa for a little over a month, and I wonder if other parents are having so much difficulty with communication with the program regarding their son. "Feeling In the Dark"

Dear "Feeling In the Dark"

I would like to recommend that you read the first two issues of P.O.K.I.S. In there are valuable tips for maximizing communication with regard to your son. A brief synopsis of the suggestions are to: 1) Keep your monthly scheduled appointments with either Joe or Sonja , program coordinators who visit Samoa once a month, during which time they see all the boys to whom they are assigned; 2) Contact your son's case manager in Samoa, who sees your son each week and who is in the office three days a week (see What's New in Samoa for their schedules); 3) Fax your son letters - it decreases turn around time on letters, even though he cannot fax back; 4) Know that things happen at a slower pace in Samoa. The mail system is very different from that in the U.S. Things just happen at their own speed - sometimes mail takes two weeks, sometimes four - and no one knows why. If you are trying to contact one of the directors, be patient. They are extremely busy on the beaches and at the mountain site with our sons. They will get back to you, but sometimes it takes a little time.

When we visited Samoa I couldn't believe how much time Brian spent with the boys - he was with them as early as 6 AM and as late as midnight. I wondered how he had time for his own family. But the love and dedication he, and the rest of the staff, have for the boys is incredible, and it shows in the respect that our sons have for the staff. In spite of often being frustrated with the lag time in communication, I decided that the most important thing to me was that the staff was with my son, helping him to grow and to progress. I do realize that that is easier for me, since I've been there. Hopefully it will reassure you to know that the dedication and time spent with the boys has been evident also to the other parents who have visited.

[Top](#)

FAMILY SUPPORT

Parents Interested in Forming Support Groups

TWISTER hits La Verne and carries two BOYS to Samoa; Mother is distraught!

We're parents who have just sent two boys to Samoa (5/6/96). We're looking for parents who live in our area who already have a support group going, or who are interested in forming one. We live in La Verne, which is 30 miles east of Los Angeles.

Seattle Area: A parent in this area would like to help set up a support group in this area.

Chico, Ca Area: We would like to form a support group in our area. Please call if you are also interested.

Report on a New Support Group

Maryland-Virginia Area: A group of Parents of Kids in Samoa from the D.C., Maryland and Virginia area, met at a home this spring to offer each other encouragement and moral support. A Miami attorney and friend from Discovery Seminar was here visiting at the time. He was able to shed light on some legal questions concerning possible financial relief from various government agencies.

Eric, a recent graduate from Samoa, who was there for fourteen months, attended in his Lava Lava!! He charmed us all as he shared his unforgettable experiences in "his" native land. And he gave us all a sense of hope that our sons will succeed. Also in attendance was M., a recent graduate from Cross Creek, who shared her experiences. It really helped us to understand more about the girls' program in Utah.

We hope to met again soon. We welcome any new members. Please contact us if you want to be a part of our group."

Existing Support Groups

Salt Lake City
Dallas-Fort Worth
Miami
Bay Area - Ca.
San Diego

Please call Teen Help if you're from any of these areas and would like more information.

Dear Families,

I have some feedback that could help a lot of families out there that may be struggling with siblings feeling neglected because their brother is in Western Samoa getting all of the attention. I am currently in Samoa. I have been here for 16 1/2 months. So I can see from my point of view what is really going on here.

My brother Kenny, for example, has always been a good kid. Never touched drugs, never ran away or caused any major problems. Well, I called home and talked to him a while ago. I let him know that I love him and acknowledged the on going strength he has had and incredible self-discipline. That was exactly what he needed to hear. I could hear some of the loneliness in him because of the lack of attention. And I knew that he felt in his heart that after so long of emptiness and gloom he was now feeling some sunshine and warmth. Like it has all been worth it.

So, parents and kids please remember that there are more people who you love, and who love you in return. Please don't forget them and cause more family chaos. Remember people need to hear praise. They need attention. Think about a time when someone made you feel real special for no apparent reason except to make

you happy and feel loved. Then think of a time when you just go through the average day and you feel unnoticed like you are no big deal, not much of a special impact in your family, work, or with your friends. Which would you rather feel? Which would you want your family members to feel? Whether it's mom, dad, brother, or sister, what matters is what is being done and what are the results.

Now before you want to give reasons in your head, look at the results and be real honest. A lot of the time we're not working at our full potential of service to others, meaning everyone. But like anything else in our lives we have the power to change that and a lot of hardship by just showing affection, love and unexpected attention. It would be a Win/Win for everyone.

So some solutions are maybe make a goal to spend some time out of each day to just sit down and have an enjoyable conversation with each member of the family. For the kids, one thing that can work is give your parents an unexpected back rub, cook them a nice dinner to come home to from work, or whatever. For the family, maybe have family time each week or family meetings a couple of times a week to regroup and to clear the air of any misunderstandings. Also, it is excellent support for when your boy comes home he will feel his whole family there for him. But he will pick up on the example. So live by the old golden rule to treat others how you would like to be treated. And the new golden rule of random acts of kindness.

Thank you for your time and concern. I hope all goes well for your family.

[#1](#)



[#2](#)



[#3](#)



[#4](#)



[#5](#)



[#6](#)



[April 15, 1996](#) [May 15, 1996](#) [June/July 1996](#) [August 15, 1996](#) [September 20, 1996](#) [October 20, 1996](#)

[Viewpoint Mall](#)

© 1996 Viewpoint Productions, Inc.

You are visitor number 315 since August 21, 1996.