

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Huh?

Have you ever tried getting the attention of a child who's planted, fixedly, in front of a television set? It's nigh impossible! That blank stare, what complete absorption.

"Son, will you turn the sound down?"

Nothing. (It's as if I didn't exist.)

"YooHoo...will you turn the sound down?"

Nothing, again.

"I say...You in there?...Did you hear me?!"

Nothing.

"TURN...THE...SOUND...DOWN!!!"

"Huh? Did you say something, Mom?" and, incredibly, he does turn it down, for a second, just so he can hear me.

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Hallelujah!

What is it about television that's so fascinating?...so captivating? With the obvious exception of "News" (which holds hardly any child's attention), most of the programs are "pretend." Even the most realistic ones are creations of someone's imagination and brought to life through the art of acting. But even so, for a long time, the situations on television are very real to a child.

Maybe they're captivated because, at a very early age, they learn there aren't many "instant replays," and if they miss it the first time, they might never see it again. Besides, they can't interrupt a T.V. set with questions (it goes blithely on its way, ignoring them completely); so, if they're not heard by the television, I guess it shouldn't surprise me when I'm not heard by them.

Which makes me wonder if our Father in Heaven has the same problem.

I can imagine His children concentrating on "the world." After all, for a long while it seems very "real"...though maybe unfeeling and cold at times. It's as if the world doesn't seem to hear a thing that individuals have to say. And then there's the problem of "missing something"...something we might never "get another chance at." So I guess it isn't any wonder if, in the midst of it all, along comes our Father saying,

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

“Why don’t you turn the ‘sound’ down?”

and we don’t even hear Him. For some, He doesn’t even seem to exist. But, thank the Good Lord, He doesn’t give up easily (either); and eventually, when we hear the “call,” it’s as if...

“Did you say something, Father?”

And even though we’re not quite sure of what He said, incredibly we are moved to “turn down” the cares, the worries, the fears, the uncertainties of day-to-day “living,” for awhile, just so we can hear the sound of His Voice.

HALLELUJAH!!!

(December 7, 1981)