

Thursday, December 5, 1996

Sam Barlow: Thoughts regarding a special assignment.

-30 pages of type written information:

-Information gathered from Jennifer Wall Jeffs, with comments from Rebecca Wall Jeffs, Kathryn Wall Jeffs, and Marianne Wall Blackmore, and Teresa Wall.

-Unsigned -- Not sure how the information was gathered -- by notes or statements or tape recording.

-Some danger of over reacting and some danger of falling back into the Dance of Anger and not making any change that is meaningful.

~~-Also there is a lot of denial evidenced by the girls, and some admitted blanks in memory as to details.~~

-There is a venting of emotions that have been suppressed for a long time.

-This is a tale of distress in a home in which the Celestial Law is being attempted.

-Some of the behavior seems to come from the distant past, that is a replay of how the father and the other mother was raised.

-We should keep in mind the objective is to break the cycle or the Dance of Anger in solving the problems of the home.

-The married daughters will have a challenge not replaying the behavior patterns that hurt as they go on through their lives.

-We should be careful to not be crushed if these problems come up again in another "Dance" of some sort in the lives of the children where someone "Under reacts to a problem" and the impulse to " Over React to compensate" just seems like the thing to do.

-The wisdom of the Prophet in distancing the parties long enough for everyone to examine their "True Self" is a wonderful measure with which to break the pattern and help us not to Dance in a circle and then realize that no meaningful change has come to our lives or our characters.

-The changing of roles that is spoken of in that the father took up the actions and reactions of the domineering wife is not a very new scenario. This happens all the time in monogamy.

-The thing that is so alarming to us is glaring contrast that we see in that we have such wonderful examples of success where men and women have been trained from their youth in the Patriarchal Law of family government.

-The pattern of living and the accumulation of emotion, anger, and stress in general was the rule not the exception a generation ago among the saint that tried to live the Celestial Law.

-The requirement of the Prophet to clean this up and the Love he has for the parties involved, and the close personal touch that he is extending to heal these broken covenants is of indescribable worth.

-The courage to step forth and speak of the problem is an act of courage and is to be commended especially as it is taken in the context and with the expressions of purpose that are stated in the statement.

-We should all realize that the testimonies and remembrances that are now courageously being expressed are of great value because of the Priesthood Head that they are directed to.

-And even though these memories are sketchy, and old, and undocumented, and would not be of much value in a court of law they are an insight which takes us past a privacy barrier into a world of hurt that should be remedied so that healing can be complete and the Dance of Anger not be relayed on to the next generation.

-I hope everyone, especially the father understands the plan of salvation enough to not turn the focus of Anger and frustration on the Prophet because he does not pull the pressure on anyone involved until the pattern of the Dance of Anger is broken.

-Remember this is not a individual dance or a dance in a straight line but it happens in the family circle and it is a round dance which will easily dance the parties involved back into the same position they were in when the Dance started.

-We must individually break the pattern and not be dependant on another to change their step to break the pattern.

-Thus we see the value of the council that separates the parties while the old hurtful pattern is broken and a way of acting is brought into play.

-We should be mature enough to know that old long standing patterns are not easily changed.

-The easy thing to do is to go back into the old pattern and then reinforce our position in the Old Dance by distancing ourselves from those who love us enough to help us change for the better.

-The big challenge is to change ourselves, not leave anyone out, and allow time for healing with out reverting back to the old way.

-We need revelation to accomplish this goal. (How to ?) and (when to act) and (how far to reach for help) all need the guidance of the Spirit of Revelation.

-Note: Hair pulling sees to be a big item that is spoken about and as is often the case in abuse cases there is a blur between what was done by a parent and what was done by rival siblings.

-The beating and slapping etc is spoken of with no offer of evidence of bruising or visible evidence which should have shown up on fair skin, light complexion persons such as these children.

-Question: Were any of these children ever seen by a health care giver, or a relative, or a school teacher over these years of alleged abuse where some physical evidence of abuse is documented.

-There is quite a lot of denial acknowledged by all the victims, and that may be part of the reason there is little documentation of the abuse.

-There is a continued pattern of hitting the head which should have been avoided in proper parental correction.

-Another pattern that seems to be evidenced is the spanking on the bare bottom or the humiliation of a child while punishing it.

-Another pattern that seems to surface is the over involvement of some older children in the corporal punishment of younger ones.

Note: Some of these patterns are very dangerous in that they are so prone to show up in the next generation as a pattern or way to cope with disciplining of children.

-There seems to be a lot of involvement by the other mothers' children in oppressing the children of this mother, and I wonder if anyone has been listening to or monitoring what is happening in the families they are now part of.

-Some caution should be used in believing the memories of childhood in describing time and hurt

-Regarding the often spoken event of bloody noses -- There should have been some one that noticed swollen faces and blood that was out side of the home during this time.

-Over kindness while cleaning up as a cover up after beating a supposed confession out of a child followed with threats to hurt again or "kill her mother" if the child told are very serious forms of emotional as well as physical abuse and if validated can not be tolerated.

-The awareness of the father that the situation was out of hand is evidenced by the fact he sometimes allowed the mother of the children to stay home because the other mother had threatened to kill the children. (Very serious guilty knowledge of what was happening and a great responsibility for not getting the women some counseling help long ago)

-Continued alteration of plans with the family and in some instances cancellation of important appointment because of a tantrum and threat to "kill the brats downstairs" continue to illustrate the awareness of the father that the situation was serious and not to be ignored.

Note: This raises a serious question of weather the other adults were in a state of denial as to the seriousness of the situation or if there is criminal neglect involved.

Note; One thing for sure even if we do not get to judgmental

about the things that are hard to prove at this late date we are hearing enough and it is out of the privacy of the home to where we as religious, and civic leaders have a duty to break the cycle of abuse and demand a meaningful change of patterns sufficient to justify our confidence that the Circle Dance will not lead back to the same position and include the same steps as before when so much hurt was caused.

-The threat to kill all by stabbing with knives is so uncalled for that something should have been done and maybe it was. But a denial of the problem is not the answer to that kind of behavior.

-Hunger is often remembered by children in an exaggerated way, but the connection between eating and being punished should have been broken. This as blame for someone becoming fat is not a very sound connection.

~~-criticisms at the table and complaints about the food at times is quite common in big families, and sometimes it is not so uncommon for girls and boys to be moody at the table.~~

-Having one's face pushed into the plate of food is quite another problem.

-Forcing food down a small child in a highchair often looks a lot worse than it is, but it should not happen frequently, and some of these incidents are remembered by children, but do not necessarily bespeak a pattern of abuse.

-A generation ago some of the rugged men and women that we

love would use water to shut a child up when it cried. Holding a child under water or ducking them to stop the crying is not at all acceptable in this day and time.

-Several times we have heard of tying persons to chairs or trees or other kinds of physical restraints as a joke which may be a fall back from the kind of action that was more or less acceptable a generation or two ago, but is considered quite unacceptable now -a-days.

-Use of needles in a bed to pierce the skin and surprise someone is a bit sadistic and if a mother participates in it as alleged it is quite a bit more of a problem than if siblings tried such a thing as a inappropriate joke.

-Kicking is always a problem, but kicking in the face, or groin, or the belly is much more of an offence.

-Note: We notice that there is a general classification of offenders called (not giving names in this writing) "the other mother and her children" then there are specific persons who's names come up as being cruel real often, and then there are some of the other mothers children who were recognized as protectors and were said to always have been kind.

Note: This brings us to the question of who needs help to see that the cycle of abuse does not transmit on to the next generation and show up in their families as the pressures of life continue to mount.

-Note; We see the influence of gospel training in a way that maybe is responsible for the long standing problem with out it being detected earlier. Example: When frankness is used to identify the main offenders or person who were persistently cruel the informant will then say " I was probably wicked to think that" while maintaining at this point in time that what is alleged is true.

Note: There is frequency in describing the offending mother as the leading spirit in oppressions, and describing her actions as pounding, yelling, screaming, threatening, recklessness in driving, and recklessness disregard for the safety of others in other ways etc.

Note: There is not a lot of report of the women physically fighting but when this was reported it always stated as the one going after the other, and described as scary for the children.

Usually in the absence of the father, but no indication that the father was not aware of these confrontations.

-Accusations of immorality by the father and mother to the children by a caretaker is just about as unconscionable a act as can be conceived of for persons professing to establish the Holy Patriarchal Order.

-False accusations of immorality and unholy epitaphs such as you don't know who your father is, your father and mother are adulterers, your are hookers, little whores, lesbians, you have been molested by you father, you have been being with the

boys, bitch, whore, bastard, son of a bitch, Nasty, evil, deceitful, child of the devil, demon of Satan, son of Satan, etc. hurled at a child and then followed with care giving, and love bombing of the mind is serious psychological abuse which would be intensified where the father whom they looked to for protection began to distance himself, act disinterested, or unable to protect, or began himself to participate in the harsh judgmental, verbal, abuse or worse began to act out physical abuse prescribed by another.

All this adds up to intense psychological abuse which carries with it the strong potential of being transmitted to the next generation by both those who have suffered this kind of abuse and those siblings who participated in this kind of abuse because both have seen it occur as a problem solving mechanism by those in authority over them.

Note: The effort to deny and protect mother and father by those who have now found distance, protection, and courage enough to speak about it.

Recent Years:

-Note the pattern of over compensation, role reversal, once the situation got so far out of order.

-As the children grew big enough to recognize there were two sets of rules and serious inequalities, they began to protect themselves and others younger, and began to form coalitions that neutralized the energy and ability of the main offender there

was a role reversal and control and abuse was continued by using a stronger male image with more physical strength and energy.

-Coalitions, and use of human resources out side of the home such as teachers, aunts, uncles, friends, Priesthood Leaders, and eventually law enforcement, protective services, etc were the inevitable, as soon as the children out grew the home.

-Failure, betrayal, anger, self justification, protectiveness of old patterns, and specific persons naturally follows in the wake of these inevitable changes.

BIG QUESTION: How to help it all heal, and can it all heal, how do we avoid unrealistic hopes for a quick fix or rapid healing, and fail to change so that we do not dance around and get back into the same position, patterns, and hurtful moves of the past.

-Using family prayer time for discipline often generates a confusing signal for children and adults.

OH HOW WE NEED REVELATION, LOVE, FORGIVENESS, COURAGE, FAITH, AND CHANGE.

-As young adult we see a escalated pattern, of denial that the father (the protector and leader was out of the way) evidenced by one young adult gathering the children to pray, another recognizing it as a desperate effort and warning them not to criticize the father while the mother stood at the a distance and

cried.

-The fathers corrections to young adults were characterized by the young adults as unjustified, and unnecessary, and overdone.

-Some power manipulation is spoken of by using real small children and "love bombing their minds with gifts and candy in the control of private rooms etc".

-This is recognized and seen as a threat by the mother and older siblings.

-The threat is escalated by over protectiveness of the father and what is reported as a communication advantage by the main offending mother.

-The father may be establishing a pecking order or mainlining one because he feels threatened by the older children who are now in a position to see through the faults of the parents.

-Note: There is only slight input by the younger children and it is focused on the young mother that is now in the home.

-We should recognize this as the old dance being dances with new partners or else this impute is stimulated by the outspokenness of the older now married children, or it may be a true report coming forth because of a major crisis now being experienced by all.

-Note: An old challenge to the new partner in the Dance of Anger is reported to have brought an overreaction to the problem by the father. (He grabbed the girl, pushed her around,

slammed her against the furniture, threatened to rip her head off, gestured as if he would slug her with a doubled up fist, and when challenged for the gesture accused the three oldest children living at home of breaking up the family.

Note: All this is evidence of the Father running at a frustration level and it is fair to say this condition has to be the result of latent pressures as well as those that have surfaced.

OH HOW WE NEED REVELATION IF THIS IS TO HEAL AND SALVATION IS TO COME TO THE PARTIES INVOLVED.

-Demeaning remarks from the new care giver to the children who is now the new partner in the Dance of Anger is evidenced by the reported (jarrings) "Don't be such a slob" "You'er just a bunch of Pigs" being deceptive in seeing that other adult are not present when these (jarrings) are spoken, or when being harsh of physical with the children.

Note: We should not ignore the evidence that these harmful patterns are transmitting to new actors and being acted out on younger children now that the older children are out of reach or the energy level of the early primary offender is now tapered off because of age etc.

THE CYCLE MUST BE BROKEN AND MEANINGFUL CHANGE SECURED TO THE PARTIES IF WE ARE TO AVOID CIVIL PROSECUTIONS OR BRING ETERNAL SALVATION TO THESE DEAR ONES.

Note: A lot of the recent complaints are focused on the father by the younger children who have grown up enough to be in the target zone is being brought as hearsay evidence.

-Such as witnessing the father hitting a girl on several occasions.

-Note; In speaking of "hearsay" we must not pass over the first hand testimony of events as recent as the summer of 1996 which if investigated by civil authorities and proven to be true would be ground for criminal prosecution, or at best the imposition of civil disabilities such as requiring counseling by the Utah Department of Child Protective Services.

Note: Another area of caution is where there is speculation in the report regarding the reasons for the individuals being as they are or speculation as to what they may become in the future. (Why some one is not close to the family) (Someone may be gay when they grow up) etc.

Note: Speculation regarding evil spirits swinging the swings, rocking the rocking chairs, scraping the chairs on the floor, and sound like voices in the night should be avoided and not passed on to the younger children. (Faith is needed and fear and Faith do not exist in the same heart at the same time)

-As the healing process continues this aspect should be considered.

-Heavy verbal or physical confrontations between the father and boys that have grown to be men are always very harmful.

-Epitaphs hurled by the father against the sons are very damaging to the family and especially to the sons involved. (You get out, - bad influence, - you are a cancer, - Jack ass, - your splitting up the family, I won't have to worry about you, You are different, way worse than all the others put together, go pack your bags, - I wish you were out right now, - Don't wait just get out, - your just damn lazies, - you'll never do anything, - etc)

- " Things Father said were far more cutting than any hit"

-Hopefully the grown boys will tie to the Prophet and out grow some of this.

-The dance of anger again played out (Step one) - problem - wait - avoid - blow up - hit those who hit - shout at those who shout - set down and feel bad - fail to address the real problem - ~~(Step two) Problem shows up again --- Start the dance of anger~~
again, and repeat the steps.

-Indication in the report that the situation extends back at least 28 years and has gotten worse during the past 10 years. (May be tied to economics more than we want to admit)

-There are several pages explaining and attempting to explain and in some ways justify and at the sometime not justify.

-"Money has become the key issue at home right now. If it was bad before, it is a lot worse now".