

GOD NEVER FAILS

by Vic David

MAY 29, 1998 may be considered "Black Friday" for the House of David.

It is the day when my wife, Ching, was operated on for the purpose of inserting a rubber tube in her stomach. After many consultations from family members, relatives, friends and our own parish priest, and several months of hesitation, I finally told my children that Mommy had to undergo operation if we want her to live longer. At this time, it became so difficult to give her food through the mouth due to excessive salivation and locking of her jaw. If we waited, she might lose too much weight, making her incapable of undergoing an operation.

Little did I realize that such a decision would entail my almost total devotion in terms of feeding, caring and maintaining her. During the first three months I had to do manual milk preparation and medicine administration for fear of carelessness or negligence on the part of our maids' assistance. Since feeding was six times a day, I had to wake up at 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM every night. After a month or two, I became thin, haggard, eyes swollen and reddish, and I started vomiting every morning, making it difficult for me to have a normal meal. Added to this were heavy financial expenses which had skyrocketed since the operation, feelings of despondency and despair, my almost complete isolation, severing my ties from all the church and social organizations I'm involved in. I also neglected my only source of income, the insurance business, since I have been taking care of the once-a-week marketing, buying of drinking and household water (it's almost a year now that we don't get any water from MWSS) and paying for the substantial Meralco and PLDT bills and for all household expenses.

As if adding insult to injury, my three children living with us became unemployed. The only silver lining was that Gina and Art increased their monthly contribution while Mike continued to give his usual share.

At this time, I came to realize that the House of David would soon collapse if I did not take any immediate remedial actions. Knowing from my own experience that God never failed me, I prayed intensely practically every one of my waking hours asking our Lord Jesus Christ and the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints to help us solve our complex problem. The help came in

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gradual stages.

The first major step I took was to take stock of all my assets and select the ones that could easily be sold. The most promising was our house and lot in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Providentially, Peewee V. was looking for moderately-priced real estate with high growth potential to invest funds she was holding for a third party. It was only the frequent calls and extraordinary help of Peewee that payment of capital tax at Alabang and documentation at Binan, which required several visits, were done smoothly without *lagay* and any hitch. She did these things at the expense of her very busy schedule.

With the money problem contained, other family problems slowly started to lighten. In particular, Paul took an active part in improving the efficiency of my routine work. He recommended

a distribution of daily jobs among members of the family to relieve me of pressures. For example, Sarah would take care of the feeding of Ching in the morning, our maid in the afternoon and Paul at midnight. He also helped us to implement two modern devices to cut the time spent on feeding and preparation. I continued the dressing of Ching's wound and the frequent change of diapers with the help of our maid.

Every morning and evening, Ching and I pray our prayer and the rosary, read the passage of the Bible for the day and sometimes a chapter from *The Mustard Seed* by Fr. Joseph Galdon, S.J.. In the morning, I also exercise her neck, arms and legs and massage her hair. After this, I rinse her face and arms with "No Rinse Body Wash" and then apply lotion to her face and body and comb her hair. At night, I brush her teeth with Colgate

Periogard solution with the aid of a sponge brush. I used to make a special trip every other day to buy our drinking water either in Sun Valley or Better Living Subdivision. Now I just order the delivery of the water to our house.

With many pressures removed from me, I now have time to resume my insurance solicitations, reactivate my membership

in the Knights of Columbus and eventually the Adoracion Nocturna and Lay Minister, play my one and only sport, golf (once a week), attend parties and occasional outings.

In addition to the regular servicing of Ching's needs and her care maintenance, she has been blessed with many caring people - her children and relatives here and abroad, friends, and neighbors. Probably it was because of the fact that Ching was a very loving, sacrificing, caring, helping, extroverted, generous, friendly and warm person that she has been reaping the many good acts she did before.

May Almighty God continue to bless all the people who have been praying, helping, caring, assisting and visiting our family. Ching and I and all members of our family are forever thankful and grateful to all of you.