

David Is One of 'Jerry's Kids'

By Martin Toombs

Apalachin — "His mother, like all mothers, is waiting for school to start," said Sharon Riley of herself recently.

The return of her son, David Riley, to school will mean fewer times she'll have to go looking for her 13-year-old, who travels about the neighborhood in his electric wheelchair.

While stating that she realizes David has "got to have a little freedom to get out," she told of times she has had to go searching for him, usually finding him playing with friends.

David is one of "Jerry's Kids," so-called because of the now-famous dedication of Jerry Lewis to those with muscular dystrophy. Lewis' annual Labor Day telethons raise millions of dollars each year which is used in the fight against the progressive disease.

David had little to say

during a recent visit on a hot, muggy day, but Mrs. Riley spoke for him and herself.

Although David has been in a wheelchair for six years, "he's quite active and does a lot," Mrs. Riley said, adding "A lot of people help him, and that makes a difference."

Members of the St. Margaret Mary Parish youth group visit twice a week, she said, and Family Services provides some help during the week.

David even has the assistance of his dog, Tubby, when he does his exercises each day. Mrs. Riley said they've trained the dog to do the exercises along with David, which "cheers David up."

Mrs. Riley noted that David is a "quite content and happy little kid," who is sometimes shy with strangers.

David's older brother, Jimmy, died of muscular dystrophy three years ago. Mrs. Riley said that "he was

the noisy one of the household."

Some of her friends don't know how she managed to take care of Jimmy and now David, Mrs. Riley said. The bags of groceries seem to get heavier all the time, she commented, but David's weight isn't a problem.

Others may not understand how they do it, she said, "but when they are your kids..."

David's new electric wheelchair has increased his mobility, and he goes fishing with his friends in the nearby stream. David said he enjoys fishing, although he admitted he's never pulled anything from the stream himself.

David also writes stories, using characters he's seen on television, which have been displayed in school for his classmates to see.

David will be attending junior high school in Owego



beginning this month, a new school and a new program that neither he nor his mother are too sure about. Of the new school, Mrs. Riley said, "We don't know how it's going to work out."

David said his favorite subject is math.

David has several friends in the neighborhood who come in to play, something which she welcomes while acknowledging that having several adolescents in the house can be noisy.

She regrets only that people don't take more time to visit; such visits "make his day when he's home alone."



One of David Riley's exercises involves hitting a badminton birdie.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Apologia For Rebirth

Dear Readers,

In the drawn-out discussion of the question of being "born again," the best letter I received was some time ago. I would like to share that letter with you in two parts.

I am writing to share the following ideas with you concerning the trend toward division in the example you gave of when people "think they are born-again and everybody else isn't" ("Troublesome Differences" 3/18/81).

In using the scriptural term "saved" or "born-again" we do not endeavor to exalt ourselves, but to glorify Him who saves us! We do not wish to put down others, nor to say we are better than anyone else (for we are all sinners!) and we are well aware that God loves "saved" and "unsaved" equally. His plan is for salvation for all. We do, however, say we are "saved" to make a public acknowledgement that we have been blessed in accepting God's free gift of salvation and to tell others that this gift is waiting for them too!

We say we are "born-again" not out of a desire to create division for the sake of division, but to make a public stand for Jesus despite criticism, rejection, and yes, even division, which might follow such a statement. We demonstrate that we are willing to lose everything — family, friends, and especially ourself — in favor of Jesus, who must be Number One!

When we use salvation terminology we seek both fellowship and evangelism. We hope to strike a responsive note in others who have also accepted the call to salvation. So that we

may join together in rejoicing and giving praise to God. We can then bind together in love to share this witness with others, not for the sake of shutting them out, but precisely for the purpose of inviting them in! We pray that we never do this insensitively, nor out of a spirit of judgment (though imperfect as we are we may fail often, yet not intentionally in this regard). We just don't want anyone to miss out!

Use of the "born-again" phraseology is biblically based. It is spoken out to help spread the good news of salvation, to let people know that the reign of God is in our midst, just as Jesus commanded us. We are like adopted children who have discovered Who their real Parent is. Excited, enthusiastic, we want the whole world to know Who He is, so that they may claim Him as Father also!

We have found our Father, and thus we may appear different from those who only hope they will one day reach Him. When we say we are "saved" we say we know to Whom we belong and call upon His Name now, without waiting for the day of judgment.

BUS PILGRIMAGE

Mrs. Mary Kelly is organizing a bus pilgrimage to such area sites of religious interest as Hazelton, Pa.; Emmetsburg, Md.; Allentown, Pa.; and Washington, N.J., the national headquarters of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima for Oct. 11-13. Persons interested are asked to call Mrs. Kelly, (716) 586-1664.

SPECIAL RETREAT

The Cenacle Renewal Center will host a 24-hour retreat on the theme "Wanting Something More?" Oct. 9 and 10. Reservations and further information are available by contacting the Cenacle (716) 271-8755.



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