

The Smith Family Record

Stories of, for, and about the Smiths.

All the news that fits, we print!

HOMELESSNESS JUMPS 400 %

Shocking figures just released by the Smith family show homelessness has skyrocketed this month.

Compared with the figures of just one month ago, March numbers climbed a whopping 400 %.

February's homelessness report indicated that the four Smiths -- parents



NEW FACE OF HOMELESSNESS?

Ron and Peg, and children Benjamin and Allison -- were all living together comfortably in a three-bedroom home in San Jose, Costa Rica, and had been doing so since June of 2002.

Now, however, that situation has changed. They each are 100 % homeless, and that is what accounts for the shocking figures released today.

"Some may be wondering if we are the new face of homelessness in America," said family spokesman and head-of-household Ron Smith. "But," he added confidently, "we are certain that our situation is temporary, and that our God will provide all our needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus."

In fact, the Smiths say their current condition is not all that unusual.

"When you follow the Lord as His disciple, you expect to experience uncertainties and transitions," Ron added. "I know we sure have. But for us, these are simply new opportunities to trust in His marvelous care and watch Him graciously meet all our needs."

S.W. FLORIDA CONGREGATION RISES TO THE OCCASION Places Transient Family in Nearby Trailer Park and Pays Their Rent

The people of Hope Presbyterian Church in Bradenton, Florida, are responding to the needs of a family named Smith, transients in need of temporary housing, by providing a place to live during the month of March.

Church Pastor Randall Greenwald, who admits to being acquainted with the family and their situation, believes the church is doing the right thing.

"I have known the Smiths for over three years. In fact, we all have. We consider them to be part of our family. And who wouldn't help out if a family

member was in need?"

Church Elder Alden Weichel says he, too, is personally involved.

"My family and I will welcome the Smiths. I will take Mr. Smith golfing while the wives go shopping."

Church Missions Chairman Matt Folkert even wants his children to play with the Smith children.

"We have children around the same ages. Why shouldn't they play together? And besides, the Smiths will probably be leaving Florida about the time we are tired of them!"

Our Weather Forecast:

- + Skies will be clear to partly cloudy, to mostly cloudy, to overcast.
- + Temperatures will vary between cold and warm, with warmer temperatures occurring mostly in the South.
- + You could see snow, rain, or something in-between, depending on temperatures and sky conditions.
- + Expect to see Summer and Winter, seedtime and harvest, for as long as the earth remains.

NEW AIRLINE REGS MAKE HOUSEHOLD RELOCATIONS MORE DIFFICULT

In the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, new federal regulations intended to protect the flying public have been implemented in airports both at home and abroad.

Under new rules, airlines are required to examine by x-ray every suitcase, crate and box, even if the item is traveling in the baggage compartment.

Concerned about the additional time such examinations require, some airlines have placed additional restrictions on the amount of checked luggage each passenger is allowed.

Missionary families who are relocating overseas have been affected by the changes. Families once relied on visiting friends and fellow missionaries to transport household goods as second "checked items," helping minimize "excess baggage" fees.

With the additional baggage restrictions in place, missionaries are weighing alternative shipping strategies, including air freight.

SPANISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE CONFISCATES I.D. CARDS

Claims the Smiths are now "Spanish Speakers"

In a move intended to "encourage" them to move on into ministry, the Spanish Language Institute in San Jose, Costa Rica confiscated the student identification cards of Ron and Peg Smith, and replaced them with "language certificates."

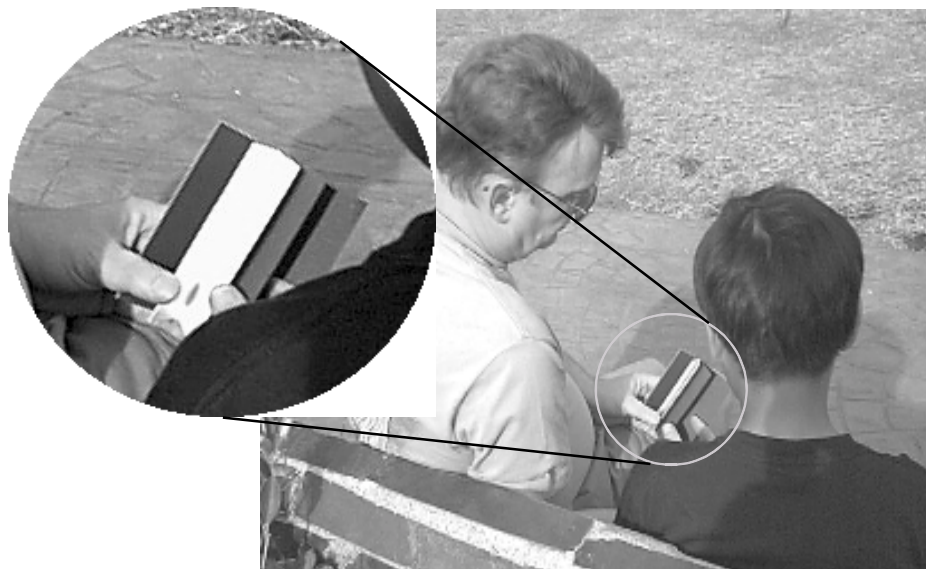
The sudden "change of status" was conferred upon the Smiths in a solemn ceremony of graduation following the completion of their third quarter of language study.

On the same day, Benjamin and Allison Smith were handed a sealed envelope bearing the official stamp of the Sojourn Academy and told to present the envelope to a different school somewhere else.

Gabriella Mata, Spanish Language Institute Academic Director, says she enjoyed having the Smiths at the Institute, but that it is now time for them to move on.

"I've heard them speaking with teachers and other students on the terrazo, and what they're saying sounds a lot like Spanish to me, and I should know!"

Institute Director Julie Chamberlain released a statement thanking the Smiths upon their departure. "Many, many thanks to both of you for your service on Student Council in the Vice Presidency, Big Brothers and Housing -- all of them not easy positions, but so important to student life!"



INQUIRING MINDS WANT TO KNOW: IS THIS THE "BOOK" THAT RON SMITH HAS BEEN "TRANSLATING" FOR THREE MONTHS?

WHAT HAS THIS LANGUAGE STUDENT BEEN DOING?

Recently, our reporter snapped this photo of Rev. Smith and a child believed to be his son, Benjamin, in the park across the street from their home in San Jose.

Previously, we had heard that Mr. Smith was working on a book translation project with the intention of using that book in his ministry in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

But this picture has caused us ask ourselves some questions.

First of all, we are wondering if *this* is the "book" that has taken three months to "translate," and which, according to Rev. Smith, is still unfinished.

And if this *is* the book, how long could it possibly take to translate a book that is only eight pages long?

And another thing; why is it that, as this picture clearly shows, all the pages of this book are blank? Inquiring minds want to know!

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Advertising policy: The Record accepts advertising that is intended to communicate prayer requests or answers to prayer relating to the Smith family. Please read these ads and remember to pray for the Smiths!

1001 Education Opportunities

NOW ENROLLING:

The Smith International School, an exclusive educational experience located in Guayaquil, Ecuador, is now taking applications for students entering the 6th and 8th grades. There is currently only one opening in each grade. Applicant must live in Guayaquil, have the last name of Smith, and be certified by a parent that he/she will be the top student in the class. If this sounds like the right school for you, apply right away to: Rev. Ron Smith, Administrator, Smith International School.

2015 HOUSES WANTED

A Missionary family of four (two adults, two children) is searching for a place to call home in the northern suburbs of Guayaquil, Ecuador. 3-4 br, 3 ba, office, school room, and large, open lr/dr area for ministry. May the Lord guide us to the perfect home.

6025 LOANER CARS



The owner of this beautiful classic would like to lend this car to a missionary family visiting SW Florida in March. Dependable transportation. Former owner was a missionary who only drove the car on Home Missions Assignments. PTL. Thanks, Matt!



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