

The Maria Monologues - 5

"If the Law of Love is right, then it applies clear across the board no matter what age it is."

--Maria. August 15, 1992

Introduction

Maria (aka Karen Zerby, Mama, Katherine R. Smith in the Family) is the spiritual leader of The Family International. On a typical workday, she spends hours attending to Family-related affairs. Because of her position of spiritual authority within the group, her staff records her comments on a variety of issues.

The Maria Monologues contain excerpts from the transcripts of these tapes. They provide valuable insight into the inner workings of The Family as well as Maria's character and leadership.

These excerpts were edited and published in Summit Jewels '93. They were then further distilled and published in GN 555.

CONCERN ABOUT CA QUESTION--PRESENTING TO PUBLIC & EXPLAINING TO FAMILY 8/15/92

As far as the child abuse question, I'm sorry too that we didn't come out a little more forthrightly in the Statement. However, I think the problem was that we just didn't know what we could do legally. We wouldn't have been afraid to admit more if we had known we could do it legally, but we had to be careful & try to protect the Family. And since we were unable to get an expert advice on that subject, we had to do the best we could.

The Lord may be trying to force us to come out with what we really believe & take a stand for it. And of course this is what we have talked about & debated for months, how much should we say, how much could we say. There's always the danger that ultimately if we handle it the wrong way, there is the danger that the Family may feel that we are saying that the Letters were all wrong & what Dad had to say in those Letters was not right & was a mistake. We certainly don't believe that & we can't afford to give that impression, so we certainly have to avoid that at all costs. We don't even want to say that to the public. We certainly do not want to say that the Letters were wrong or to say anything that will infer that they were wrong, because they weren't wrong.

I'm really concerned about this subject too, not only how to present it to the public, but because of our kids & because our Jetts & Teens seem to be getting overwhelmingly the idea that all of this has been wrong all the time. So they already have that idea, that the Letters must have been wrong & Dad must have been wrong all this time. They're attitudes & what they're saying now are indicating this--that all these experiences that they've had in the past have been wrong. We're hearing it from all quarters, & if we can't put something in print about it, I don't know how we're going to dispel these wrong ideas. I think we may eventually have to come out & just say, "Look, the Letters were not wrong & loving acts of affection, even those with a sexual tone to them are not wrong in God's eyes.

However they're not right for us for several reasons. Number one is the System, because they're illegal we cannot & must not do them any more. Number two, they usually have not borne very good fruit. Not because of the act itself but because it's a distraction in a relationship with younger people with older ones. It seems to be too distracting--of course you could say this with a lot of relationships, but for the teens & adults it just does not seem to bear very good fruit in their life & ministry. Number 3, because of the main misunderstandings about the subject, younger people may not be ready for any kind of sexual involvement until they are older, because they have a lot more things to learn, they have a lot of things to concentrate on & it doesn't seem that it bears very good fruit.

So we do not do it & it's just banned, forbidden. It doesn't mean however that a very loving affection for someone that does not hurt them, does not damage them, & affection that they like, it doesn't mean that that particular thing is wrong in God's eyes. But it's wrong for us & we just don't do it." I mean that's what the Letters say, "God's Law of Love", it's only wrong if it's done unlovingly, & of course for us it's wrong now because it's illegal. The Letters already say that, & if we say anything else, we are contradicting the Letters, we are saying it was a mistake & it's wrong & they're wrong.

So because we have all these backsliders' testimonies, scores of them that say we did all do these things, I don't know--of course we're afraid to come out & say "yes, we did them" & we're afraid to say "loving sex is OK" & "It wouldn't be loving sex to go all the way with the child, intercourse with a child wouldn't be OK & it wouldn't be loving. We're just talking about fondling & a little sweet affection. But we have completely banned it & for a variety of reasons & we don't do it any more."

Now the problem is then you admit to it, then you can still under the law can be prosecuted for something that happened years ago, & that, as far as I can see, is the biggest problem. That's the biggest hang-up. If they don't know who did it & they don't have names & they can't prove it as far as a certain individual is concerned, then I don't know that there's anything that would be too damaging about it if we did take this stand. Actually I think it's already pretty clear to most people & it's over our lit, & by denying it we're just discrediting ourselves.

However, the other thing then that we're worried about is declaring that there's nothing wrong with it in God's eyes, & that's the thing that we're really afraid to admit, maybe even above the fact that some of the Family did it or that a lot of them did it. But I don't know that we could get in any more hot water than we're already in by saying that we believe that there's nothing wrong with loving affection if ideal circumstances & ideal times. I'd be surprised if legally they can prosecute you for what you believe if you don't act on it, even if the whole rest of the World believes that sexual fondling of children is wrong & we say we believe it's OK but we don't do it. I don't think that they could ever get you legally on this.

Of course it's a really explosive hot subject, but maybe the Lord wants us to take a stand on it & be truthful about it, as we have been about everything else, because the Devil has just got the whole World hood-winked about this, & I don't know how he did it so fast because people have been having sweet sexual affection with their children since time began, & just in the last few days we got 3 testimonies unsolicited from girls in our two Homes here who talked about some of those things. And evidently it has been so rampant for so many years that it's been the most common thing in the World, & all of a sudden everything that has anything to do with sexual overtones is completely vile & evil & wicked, many of which were very very good

experiences & helpful & sweet. But it doesn't matter to the System whether it was good or whether it was selfish & lustful & bad, it's all bad now!

Are we going to just go along with that & promote that idea & continue to be part of the Devil's great deception & lie just because we're afraid. We haven't done anything else I don't think. Of course we're being a little quiet about the Jews now, but we're going to come to the place where we're going to come right out & tell the truth about them. This is about the only place where we're really going along with the System, we're playing along with them, we're acting like now we believe it was wrong, what we did, because we have changed. In other words, we're saying by inference that we do believe it's wrong because look we don't do it any more. That's exactly what we're saying. So no wonder our teens are all getting this great idea that it was all evil. Of course they're getting this idea, that's what we're saying.

Well one thing, we could not put it any public statement but we could just write something for our kids. Of course the whole public & enemies will get it, but as an explanation to our kids to explain to them that any experiences they may have had, the act itself, if it was loving & if it was desired, there was nothing wrong with it; & showing them the difference in experiences in the System & what goes on there. It's real explosive & real sensitive, but I'm very concerned & a whole lot of the rest of you & us & the Family are too at what the results of not doing it are. We may be getting ourselves in much hotter water with our Family & our Teens by not saying anything & not explaining it than if we keep quiet & don't say anything. Then not only with our Family, but with the System, because of not saying anything, not coming out with what we really believe, we're discrediting ourselves & our testimony.

But the thing is, what is worse for us?--To be in trouble with the System? Or to be in trouble with the Family & to have the Family in serious spiritual trouble because of lack of faith in the Letters? It's almost like we've got to make a stand one way or the other, we can't sit on the fence. Because what we're doing is we're not sitting on the fence, we're really saying we don't believe that stuff, & "we don't do that nasty stuff anymore, we've changed". That's the impression we are giving everyone, & that I guess is the impression we wanted to give everyone. But I don't know if we took the right direction there because in so doing we're telling not only the System, but we're telling the Family that Dad's writings were wrong & he was wrong all along in all of this, freedom of sex with younger kids.

And how can you put a boundary on it, or an age limit? If you can have sex with someone of 21, what's wrong with having sex with somebody of 18 or 16 or 15? Those are manmade rulings & limitations & boundaries! It's sort of like how can you measure love? How can you say this is in love, but that's not in love? This is all right to have sex at this age, but not at this age. At 17 it's a crime, but at 19 it's okay!

The System is ridiculous! It's insanity! Those are made up laws & rules by the System that have no basis in truth, in absolutes! It's crazy, but they want us to abandon our absolutes & our law of love & our Godliness & righteousness for their manmade rules that are just made up, fabricated, arbitrary rulings that don't mean anything! And they want us to give up all our principles & say, "Yes, system, you are right. We cowtow to you, we bow to you, we worship you! And we agree that whatever you say is the right thing. If you say sex with anybody under 18 or under 21 is wrong, we agree. And we will do what you say." When they're ridiculous! It's false! It's a complete false system! There is no rhyme nor reason to it! It's completely manmade & not even any logic to it even.

So that's what we're saying to our kids. We're saying, "Well, everything Dad said before about the Law of Love & our freedoms is wrong." Because they won't just think sex with minors

is wrong, because...I mean, if our freedoms & the Law of Love is a spiritual principle, then it has to apply clear across the board. It can't apply just to people over 21! My God! What a ridiculous thing, even a child could figure that out, & that's what our children are figuring out. And that's why they're saying, "Well, the whole thing must be wrong. The whole Law of Love, freedom of sex must be wrong. Because if it is wrong for 16-year-olds & 23-year-olds to have sex together, then it must be wrong for my Mom to have sex with somebody that isn't my Dad."

What's the difference? We can't put boundaries & ages & things on it! It's Love! The guiding principle is what is loving, not what is 16 or 18 or 23 or 40 etc. So you can't differentiate it like that. If the Law of Love is right, then it applies clear across the board no matter what age it is. ... It covers a much broader spectrum, it covers our whole Family & our whole foundation, & our whole faith in the Letters & faith in Dad, & faith in the Lord. It's a very crucial point. That's probably why the Devil has fought so hard against it & fought us tooth-&-toenail & tried to make it look so wrong, & tried to get us to abandon it, abandon our belief in it even.--Because we need it, we have to believe it. If we don't believe it we've turned our backs on the Lord & His Word. If we try to cut the Law of Love up into ages & say, "Well, it applies for this age, & it doesn't apply for this age!" We know that's not right & it's ridiculous. And if we say it's not for one age then we have to say it's not for any age, & then we have to say it's all wrong.

So I don't know if we're going to have to backtrack, & we're going to say, "Sorry, folks, we did the wrong thing. We wrote our Statement the wrong way, here's a new revised Statement!" Ha! Or, "Here's an addendum to our Statement." Or just for the Family just discuss this & put it in black-&-white for the Family, & then of course our enemies will get a hold of that so they will be properly advised, ha! Maybe that's the best way to do it.

THERE WERE MISTAKES MADE IN THE PAST, SO WE NEED TO PRAY 8/20/92

And we really have to pray against those backsliders, that the Lord will confound them & confuse them & somehow show them up for the evil Judases that they are. Now, it's pretty difficult in a situation like this when a lot of these backsliders have to say is not all lies, there is a lot of truth in it. On these weaker fields, & even on all our fields, there were a lot of mistakes made, there were a lot of weak, immature, irresponsible leadership & a lot of very weak people. And together they did an awfully lot of damage, & there were a lot of mistakes made & a lot of "crimes" perpetrated. And even those who were well-meaning & pure in heart, & trying to follow the Letters, just often didn't get the right balance & they went to extremes.

And there were many excesses, while even these very wholehearted 100% disciples were trying to grapple with applying the principles in the right way. The job that our poor leaders have of our Homes is monumental.--Trying to supervise & administrate not only a very very large Family Home composed of multiple families with all the same problems of the System, as far as all kinds of people, all kinds of children, all kinds of learning abilities & disabilities, & likes & dislikes. Different levels of intelligence, of talent, of maturity.

Trying to put all these people into one pot & get them organised & living together & working together in unity, & trying to help them solve all the problems that arise, not only in a Home but in a school, in a church, in a business. It's a monumental job. And on top of all that, they have to take care of their own needs, & they have to seek the Lord & follow Him closely & work to have unity with their teamwork. Their job is just almost superhuman & it can be done successfully & it is being done successfully. But the people who do it have to stay very close to the Lord & very dependent on Him & very much in tune with the Lord & His Word.

So the problem with these backsliders' testimonies is a lot more difficult than just having our lawyers find that they've perjured themselves & they've fabricated stories & therefore their testimony is inadmissible & they can throw it out. We have a tremendous team of lawyers, thank the Lord, & if our witnesses are lying it would be very easy for them to prove that. However, the problem is that many of them are not just telling the lies, much of their testimony is the truth.

Unfortunately, many of the things that they are alledging did actually happen. Of course, they've got an awful lot of lies mixed in with their truth & this makes it even more difficult to distinguish which is which. Of course, if they can find that our witnesses are telling lies, then their whole testimony can be discredited & thrown out. But sad to say, much of what they are saying I would imagine is the truth, from what I've heard.

It's sad to have to admit that such problems did exist & such excesses took place. But with such a huge job & a young movement trying to establish itself & growing & changing constantly, things were very difficult. And especially before the RNR when we had a lot of leaders who were not only young & immature, but were also selfish & greedy & power-hungry, it's entirely possible & even probable that many of these things did take place.

Now our past shouldn't really have anything to do with our present, but of course so much of a case is judged by public opinion, & affected very much by it. And people are very unforgiving & very biased & tend more easily to believe the bad than the good. And as many ex-criminals have testified, "once a criminal always a criminal in the public's eyes". Your record always follows you, & prejudice is always there. And in spite of the fact that many of them do change & cease to live outside the law.

Just like they judge politicians by one indiscretion in their past & try to use this against them to influence people's decision about the future. So even if it were not possible for our enemies to win a case, they would certainly do all they could to bring up our backsliders & all the negative they can find from the past to turn the public against us to hinder or try to destroy our work.