



## The Fountain of the Father's Goodness

The Prayer Garden was completed in the early 1980s, yet there was still something missing on our Land of Canaan: *The Fountain of the Father's Goodness!* This tribute to our Heavenly Father, which Mother Basilea established on the Land of Kanaan in Germany, belongs now to every "Canaan" as a tangible illustration of what His ever-overflowing heart is like. Inscribed around the rim are the names of God referring to how He revealed Himself on Mount Sinai (Ex 34:6; see also Ps 86:15 and 2 Cor 1:3). He is a Father of Love, Goodness, Grace, Faithfulness, Mercy, Patience and Comfort. These are His everlasting attributes and all of us have experienced them.



*Sisters assisting as foundations are laid*

We Sisters had been dreaming of such a fountain. Would it ever become a reality? In the spring of 1986, a friend surprised me by placing \$1,000 into my hands! We took it as a go-ahead signal from heaven! Not knowing exactly how to start, we asked our friend Dean, who had given us sound advice so many times before. His reply was, “Can you wait one or two days?”



*Bob supervises*

Yes, we could, and how important this was! Later, we realized that this first donation wouldn't have gotten us very far. Dean had foreseen this and sparked the interest of a Christian businessman, Bob. He and his brother Skip had built thousands of swimming pools in the Phoenix area. They provided all our materials, even

tiles from Japan and Italy! Later on we heard Bob say, “No one will remember the 20,000 swimming pools we have built, but all the angels in heaven will rejoice over this Fountain. May it spring up to the glory of God!” Bob also brought along Mark, an engineer whose help proved invaluable.

Dean and Mark spent many, many hours of hard work in the hot Arizona sun, selflessly donating their time and talents. There were many challenges: the Fountain was to be patterned after the original one in Germany, bearing the seven names of



*Mark setting the bowl in place*

the Father’s character around the rim. A faucet was needed at each name. And how was the upper bowl on the pedestal to be made? This was no easy task. It took a while until our friends found a modified satellite dish!



*Indispensable Dean*

Mark, the engineer, had to develop a unique system for the water supply and circulation. Dean carefully leveled the dish, built a small “fortress” to protect the pump, constructed the four handsome, strategically placed benches

around the Fountain, and so much more. Over the course of the summer, the Father in heaven Himself provided all that was needed. The dedication of the Fountain that fall was a most joyful event.

Since then, we've learned that the maintenance of a fountain in the desert heat costs a lot of time and energy! Some of our friends have gone out of their way to help us, especially with the cleaning. Thank you, Curt!

Today, framed by the backdrop of our beautiful mountains nearby, the waters of *The Fountain of the Father's Goodness* cascade into the bowl. Even the sound of the rippling water brings refreshment in the desert, and God's names inscribed around the rim glisten in the sun and in our hearts!

Mothers bring their children and how they enjoy it! "Mom, drink from 'Patience!'" a little voice might suggest. A friend brings her six grandchildren for a sweet family liturgy. They call on the Father, fill their cups at the different faucets, lift them in a "toast" and drink in faith that their prayers will be answered. Brian, a seven-year-old, visited the Fountain with his mother the day before his fifth brain surgery. When the anesthesiologist asked him, "Brian, are you afraid?" he replied, "Don't worry! I'm filled up with Jesus' water!"

One visitor wrote that when she wants to get away from the world and come close to God, her favorite place is the Fountain. "It's unlike any I've seen. Suddenly, prayer becomes so simple..." Yes, prayer becomes simple in the face of His unending goodness. This Fountain, reflecting God the Father's loving heart, flows for all of us day by day. Just come and drink!

*Sister Rebekka*

