



The Family International

WORLDWIDE ACTIVITY REPORT

JUNE 2005

Every day, in over 100 countries spanning the globe, full-time volunteers from the Family International work to bring happiness and God's love to others. Following are some highlights of their recent activities and experiences, as reported by the Family members involved.

New Leadership at Community Project

From Gabe and Kina, Mexico

For the last five years we have been assisting low-income families in a small community of wood-and-tin-sheet shanties. Every week we would bring them food and other needs ranging from clothing and building supplies to wheelchairs and refrigerators—all items that had been donated to our charitable work by members of the local business community.

Each week we also taught Bible-based classes to both the adults and their children, which often included skits, songs, games, and other teaching aids. The adult group, made up mostly of housewives, truly appreciated these classes. After they all prayed with us to receive Jesus as their Savior and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, their faith grew and blossomed. After each class we would pray together for the specific needs they or their families and friends had. Over time, they experienced many answers to their prayers, and the group grew as word of these miracles spread.

Occasionally we also held special events such as picnics, bazaars, raffles, and children's drama workshops. We even took some of the children with us to perform their plays at the orphanages and other places where we have ongoing volunteer projects.

Recently our work with these families took a radical turn when we realized they still depended on us for certain things they could do themselves. It was time for them to



Before and after. Kina (right in left photo) teaches women at a low-income community in Cuernavaca, Mexico, who now lead their own classes and community projects (right photo).

put into practice things we had been teaching them for years.

We put a proposal to three of the women who had shown leadership qualities: If they would each teach the adult class and oversee the children's class one week each month, we would continue to visit and teach once a month, as well as give them materials and help them prepare for the classes they would teach. They were apprehensive at first, but with time and practice they became good teachers.

Then they did something that amazed us. There had always been a few women in the group who didn't know how to read, so our three leaders organized reading classes for them, with wonderful results. This sacrificial initiative has created more unity and outgoing concern in their community, and some of their students are now able to read the Word of God for themselves for the first time!

(Note: Don't miss Gabe and Kina's latest report on their volunteer work at an orphanage coming in next month's Worldwide Activity Report.)

"Angels," Answers, and Love from Above

From Angie, South Africa

As Phil and I were explaining our volunteer work to the young manager of a music store, she abruptly asked if we prayed for people. When we replied that we did and how that is, in fact, a very important part of our work, her eyes filled with tears. She said that something very



Learning and growing. Our work with children in a low-income neighborhood has included delivering donated shoes (left) and recruiting a dentist to give an oral hygiene class (right).

traumatic had happened to her recently, which she wanted to explain and have us pray for. We arranged to meet and do that the following day, during her lunch break.

It turned out that she had asked God to give her a boyfriend, and He had seemed to answer by sending her a young man who was everything she had asked for and more. She couldn't have been happier—until she found out that he was married! She couldn't understand why God would do that to her—seem to answer her prayer, and then take it away—and she got upset at Him. She couldn't forget and get over her love for this young man. Every day was a nightmare. She had prayed for God to help her make some sense of it, but didn't feel like she was getting anywhere. She was frustrated and at the end of her rope.

We talked to her for about an hour, mostly assuring her of how much Jesus loved her, that He “never takes something away without giving us something better,” and that He must surely have a good reason for allowing her to go through such a difficult experience. We also gave her some *Activated* magazines to read, and arranged to meet again in about a week.

The next time we saw her she was a new person. Her face was beaming! “Where are those magazines?” she asked. “I need another one! They have helped me *so* much. I feel like I'm finally beginning to understand God better.”

Since then we've visited her often. Once when I went to her house, she showed me all the magazines and other Family publications we had given her. They were all underlined and had many notes in the margins. She hadn't just read them, but had really studied them. “These are treasures to me,” she said. “I constantly thank God for them—and *you!* You must be God's angels, sent to me just when I most needed His help!”

Heart to Heart

From Simon, England

Paul, Meeya, and I visited an immigration detention center to bring a message of love and encouragement to the women there. Many of them have lived in England for a long time, but due to paperwork problems they are now on the verge of being sent back to their countries of origin, all over the world.

We opened our program with a few upbeat songs, and the women joined in enthusiastically. We then had a quiz (taken from the Easter issue of *Activated*) on the last words

that Jesus said on the cross, and closed that with a prayer in which we committed our futures into God's hands, as Jesus had done in the Garden of Gethsemane and again on the cross. After a few more songs we read a touching story about how setbacks and seeming defeats can work for our good if we take them to the Lord.

Then Paul sang one of his original songs, “Beautiful Moment,” which is about forgiveness, and he told the story of how he had written it. There was hardly a dry eye in the room, as we had all been so touched by God's Spirit working. Then Paul explained how he and his family had returned to England from their mission field in Southeast Asia due to his wife Michelle's life-threatening illness and paralysis. They were very touched by Paul's faith in spite of these difficult circumstances, and prayed for him and Michelle.

At the end our program we opened our bags to offer some of the Family's inspirational books to the women, and within minutes they were all gone—the books, that is, not the women! When the center's pastor saw the women's spiritual hunger, he ordered more books so that all of the women in the center could have copies. “We have had other groups here with lots of people and fancy equipment,” he commented, “but they haven't touched these women's lives like you have, because you shared your *hearts*.”

Mystery?—Or Miracle?

From Claire and Lily, Japan

A young woman we met told us that her two-year-old son had a serious sickness that had required him to be hospitalized again and again. The doctors hadn't been able to figure out the cause. In spite of what was clearly a very distressing situation, this young woman had a positive attitude and a beautiful smile.

The next day we emailed her that we had prayed for her son. She replied immediately, and later visited us at our home. She thanked us for our prayer and then, for the rest of the day, shared her life's story with us, received Jesus, and read God's Word with us.

Shortly thereafter, she sent us another email saying that her son had been released from the hospital. His vomiting had stopped, and he had a hearty appetite. Even his doctor was surprised and didn't have any medical explanation. “I feel everything's going to be all right now,” she wrote, “since the Lord healed him and brought me to you.”

The Family International is a nonprofit, volunteer organization. Each of the activities you have just read about was made possible through donations from businesses, associations, and concerned individuals.

If you would like more information about the Family International, or if you would like to help sponsor Family volunteers or projects, including those mentioned in this report, please contact us at one of these addresses.

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