



The Family International

WORLDWIDE ACTIVITY REPORT

APRIL 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.

Vohangy's Team

From Françoise, Réunion

The hardest part of leaving Madagascar last year to open a new Family project in Reunion was saying goodbye to Vohangy and our other Active members. After we moved, Vohangy missed our fellowship so much that she made the over 2,000 km (1,300 mi) round trip to see us.

During the several years that we were in Madagascar, Vohangy would often come along when I went to talk to people about Jesus or do volunteer projects, but she was quite shy and was always happy to let me take the lead. So when she visited us in Reunion, we explained to her that the Lord is counting on her to carry on the work we'd started in Madagascar, and we prayed with her to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Within a month of returning home, Vohangy had subscribed nine young people to the *Activated* magazine—all of them now dedicated Christians—and began taking them out witnessing. Together, they have won more than 200 others to Jesus and organized new volunteer projects in two jails and a center for delinquents. They also won 11 more students to their Activated team, and started holding regular Bible classes.

Vohangy closed her last note with, "Thanks to your prayers, I am not shy anymore!"



Vohangy (third from left) with the team she has gathered to help reach Madagascar with the message of God's love in Jesus

A Spoonful of Love

From Joshua, Taiwan

While downtown the other night, a woman whom we did not immediately recognize came up and started lavishing thanks and praise on us. It turned out that her young daughter was a patient at a large local hospital where, for the past three years, we have made weekly visits to cheer up the children.

When we first visited her daughter, she had been in critical condition in the intensive care unit. The little girl had refused to take her medicine, and hadn't responded well to the prescribed treatment. "A spoonful of love helps the medicine go down"—to paraphrase the proverb—so I had talked to her and promised that I'd make her a new balloon figure every time I saw her if she would take her medicine and cooperate with the doctor. After that she started taking her medicine, and is now on the mend. The mother couldn't say enough good things about our work.

Sometimes we don't see the results of our volunteer work and begin to wonder if it's really worth the time and effort we put into it week after week, but this mother's encouragement was just what we needed to keep going.

"Spirit of Victory" Sports Event

From Samuel, India

We organized a large Olympics-style sports event for underprivileged children in celebration of Indian Independence Day. The event, called "Spirit of Victory," was held at the International Tech Park (ITP) grounds in Bangalore. About 500 children from various children's institutions were invited to participate in fun-filled activities, which included archery, long jump, javelin throw, and much more.

When we arrived at the grounds to get ready for the children, dark nimbus clouds loomed overhead, threatening to soak us in a cloudburst at any moment. We prayed for it not to rain, and it didn't the entire day. But as soon as the event was over and the last batch of children had left, there was a downpour that left the grounds totally flooded! We also witnessed other small miracles that day—miracles of God's love at work in people's lives. For example, the chairperson of one ITP company watched the event from his office window, and then came down to say a teary thank-you to our volunteers.

Smiles on the children's faces and our sponsors' contented looks rewarded us a hundred times over—truly the "spirit of victory"!

Computer Classes for Teenagers

From Christina, Russia

About a year ago, we started a project to set up computer classes in local youth clubs and centers. This project began when a friend introduced us to one of the managers of an airline company that was upgrading its computer system and he wanted to donate the old equipment to a worthy cause. We explained about our work with teenagers and the youth club, and he really liked the project and decided to donate all the equipment to us, which included over 200 computers, many printers, and other well-worn but working pieces of office equipment. For the next few months, trucks from different cities arrived at our club, loaded with computer equipment.

Meanwhile, we were in contact with various other youth clubs, schools, and institutions in our area regarding creating a computer training network. We found a number of places that were interested, some of which are reform schools for delinquent teens. By September 2004 we had begun transporting the computers and setting them up in the various locations. Since then, we have been working with the teachers and teens via the Internet.

The Best Children's Stories

From Thaddeus, Iceland

The Family's *Stories to Grow By* series of children's books is having an impact here. A psychiatrist uses *Jimmy's Lamp* in her therapy sessions. A management executive uses *Needy and Greedy* to teach business ethics to his juniors. A professor at a teacher's university uses all the books in her classes. Kindergarten and primary school teachers read them to their students. We have received a number of reports from these people and others that these are among the best children's books available, and that the children listen in absolute quiet to these stories, as opposed to the bored, restless reaction they often have when other stories are read to them.

Instant Healing

From Lily, Japan

A woman who has been coming to our Bible studies for some time was hindered by sickness for many years, including a growing tumor in her womb. Her hearing was also seriously impaired. About a month and half ago at one of our classes, she asked us to pray for her healing. The Lord honored her childlike faith in Him, and poured down His Holy Spirit upon all of us who prayed for her. Then the miracle occurred.

Every attendee felt God's power moving as we prayed. A few people testified of seeing lights from above and many of them talked about the warmth that filled their heart. This woman told us how she felt a strong current, like electricity, go through her whole body, and she felt a very warm, loving feeling come over her. She hadn't been able to hear with one of her ears for nearly 50 years, and now she proclaimed, "I can hear with both ears very well! I also feel a difference within my womb!" Praise God! "The prayer of faith shall heal the sick, and the Lord shall raise [her] up" (James 5:15).

A couple of weeks later, she and her husband invited us to their home for a party to celebrate what the Lord had done for them.

Two weeks later, the woman's husband attended his first Bible class. "I've seen what God did to my wife, and now I want to hear what the Bible says."

"To Be Honest, I Want to Go to Hell!"

From Francesco, Moldova

While my son Emanuel and I were taking photos in a botanical garden, a tour guide said he was interested in the photos we were taking and would like copies, if possible. As he and I were talking about that, out of the blue, Emanuel piped in. "Do you believe in prayer?" It was quite an unusual question, coming from a six-year-old.

"I guess we all need to believe in something," the man replied.

"You mean in God!" Emanuel continued.

"I guess so," said the man.

"And do you want to go to Heaven?" came the next bubbly question.

"To be honest," the man said, "I want to go to Hell."

"Why?" asked Emanuel.

"Because I want cigarettes, loud music, and women," came the reply.

"You don't understand," Emanuel said. "Heaven is a place that is better than all your dreams. It's the *best* place. All people should go to Heaven."

"Okay," the man said, "if you say so. What do I need to do?"

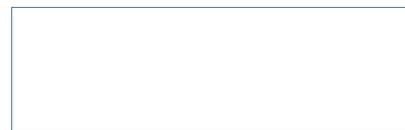
Emanuel proceeded to pray a salvation prayer with this man, and soon we said goodbye.

Later Emanuel told me, "You know, Daddy, I don't know what that place called Hell is. I never heard of it, but I figured that it can't be as good as Heaven!" Ha!

Emanuel had been speaking with the man in Romanian, which isn't Emanuel's first language, and hadn't understood the word for Hell, but he didn't let that stop him.

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.



Web: www.thefamily.org
E-mail: family@thefamily.org