



The Family International

WORLDWIDE ACTIVITY REPORT

MAY 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.

Video Sponsorship Program for Orphans

From Tina, Uganda

Through our local and international sponsorship program, we provide orphanages and children's homes throughout Uganda with sets of the Family-produced *Treasure Attic* children's video series. Over the years, we've seen the wonderful difference these uplifting, educational, and character-building videos make in children's lives. The children in these institutions—most of whom are AIDS orphans or were abandoned at birth—are among the most needy I've ever seen.

Treasure Attic focuses on skills that children need most: scholastic development; social, emotional, and moral growth; safety awareness; good manners, consideration, and getting along with others; problem-solving; vocabulary building; creative expression; health and hygiene; and more. Life skills are made fascinating, fun, and easy to grasp, even for the very young. We've seen remarkable results firsthand, even with autistic children and those with extremely short attention spans. Each of the nearly 30 half-hour shows is packed with lively music, meaningful songs, and delightful stories that make learning fun.

The need here is still great. If you would like to sponsor sets of *Treasure Attic* for more orphanages and children's homes, or if you would like more information, please contact us via email at: Tina_Y@gmx.net.



Family volunteer Celly with orphans delighted to receive a set of sponsored *Treasure Attic* videos

Miracle Healing

From Lily, India

Preetom phoned and asked us to pray for his mother. A tumor in her bladder had grown to half the size of the bladder itself. She had been suffering for months, and her doctors said surgery was urgently needed. Preetom explained that his mother believed that the more people she had praying for her, the better the operation would go and the easier her recovery would be. She had made sure Preetom phoned us to ask for prayer. With Preetom still on the line, we prayed not only for a successful operation, but an outright miracle.

When the day of the operation came, the doctors checked her again and were shocked to find no sign of the tumor! They said what had happened was impossible. Preetom and his mother were overjoyed, of course, and thanked us profusely for our prayers.

Where Angels Fear to Tread

From Mike, Turkey

For the past two years, we have been making trips to reach southeastern Turkey. At the moment, however, this largely Kurdish area bordering Syria, Iraq, and Iran is a virtual war zone. The Family International's work there has included the setting up of computer labs in local cultural centers to help provide educational opportunities for some of the poorest people in the region. On our last trip to assist the labs, we visited five cities, one of which was 5 km (3 mi) from the Iraqi border. In each



(Front L to R:) Kaycee and Savannah, children of Family volunteers, with orphans from Noah's Ark Children's Home. Noah's Ark, which cares for 30 young orphans, is run like one big family and is staffed in part by young single mothers, who also receive training in cooking, childcare, and homemaking. We recently presented Noah's Ark with a set of *Treasure Attic* videos after performing our puppet and music show.

city, we were given a police escort for our safety. Our performing team also did shows in each city. Most of the children in this part of Turkey have never seen clowns before, so our show was quite a novelty. We have invitations to go back and do bigger indoor shows during the next couple of months, so we're gearing up for that. We are also looking into the possibility of helping to set up a hospital there in the near future.

“We Need People Like You!”

From Yana, Senegal

We were recently asked to participate in a school event that was spearheaded by the First Lady. Our musical group Crescendo was given a slot in the program, among performances by schoolchildren and popular local artists. We sang “Why Couldn’t There Be More Love?” and gave a short inspirational message. Afterwards the First Lady told us, “We need people like you!”

To the Rescue!

From James, Ireland

The *Mottos for Success* calendars are a hit here. One woman who runs a very fancy shop says that many a quote has saved the day. She keeps it on the front desk of her shop, and so many customers have commented on it that she started taking orders for me to fill and giving people my phone number. Now I get lots of calls asking, “Are you the man with the *Mottos*?” and, “Can you deliver right away?” So I hop on my bicycle and, like Superman, go to the rescue!

Sold on Activated

From Tabitha, Taiwan

Jessica has been on our mailing list for several years, and has just renewed her subscription to the Family’s *Activated* magazine for the second year. She recently received a promotion at work, and now oversees a very large office.

When I saw her not long ago, she said her whole life had changed since she started reading *Activated*. “I can’t let one day go by without reading from the magazines,” she said, “and sometimes I must read them several times a day. I take the magazines with me wherever I go, whether it’s a meeting or a business trip, and whenever I feel confused or need an answer to a question, I pray and find just what I need at the time in one of the magazines or other things you have sent me.” She then showed me her portable file box with the magazines and *Reflections*, all neatly organized.

But the story doesn’t end there. Last week I saw a woman I had met one year ago. She had prayed with me to receive Jesus, but hadn’t been very interested in *Activated* or any of the Family’s other publications and products. This time she said, “I have a best friend named Jessica, and you must be the people with the magazine that she can’t stop talking about! She

tells me it’s opened the windows of her mind and has changed her life!” We gave her a copy of the magazine, and she said she would take it home and see for herself “what magic it held.” She also asked to be put on our mailing list and said, “God Himself must be on my trail!”

The Ultimatum

From Paolo, Croatia

While I was riding a bus in Italy, a rather peculiar fellow boarded and took a seat a few rows in front of me. I couldn’t help but observe his strange behavior. He flipped through one book after another, looking at his watch periodically, as though he was timing himself. When I stood up to get off the bus, I handed him a “To You—With Love” tract. He grabbed my hand and started reading the tract. I managed to free my hand from his grasp barely in time to get off at my stop.

A few weeks later, I was riding the same bus when the same man boarded. He recognized me instantly and took the empty seat next to me. He said he couldn’t believe we had met again, and asked me who I was and what I did. After I gave him a brief explanation of my life as a missionary, he said that the night before I had given him that tract he was about to kill himself. “I gave God an ultimatum,” he said. “I told Him to prove His existence, otherwise I would end my life. Then you gave me that leaflet and I read the words, ‘You are one of My sons, and I love you.’ It was the voice of Jesus speaking to me, answering my ultimatum!”

Twice Saved!

From Daniel, Ukraine

A friend we first met a few months ago owns several hair salons. She received the Lord, and eagerly subscribed to the Family’s *Activated* magazine. In late November, she told us that she would be leaving in about a month with her daughter and grandchild. They were going to Sri Lanka, where they have a winter home on the beach. We told her we would pray for her, and we did.

They arrived in Sri Lanka on December 20. Six days later, they were swimming at the beach when they heard screams of panic and were told to run for the palm trees. A tsunami was coming! Before they could get to safety, they were carried three stories high by the surge of water. Miraculously, all three were able to grab and hold onto trees until they were rescued.

We had prayed for them as soon as we heard about the disaster, and a few days later went to one of her salons to see if there was news. Her husband said that she would be arriving any minute, coming straight to the salon from the airport. Needless to say, she and the others were greatly shaken up by the event. Her husband, daughter, and three of their employees prayed with us to receive Jesus. “He saved us twice,” the daughter said. “Once from the disaster, and once to life eternal!”

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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