



For effective communication, use brevity. Jesus said, "Follow Me." Now that's brief!

DECEMBER 1, 2003 CM/FM

"Deep in the Heart of the African Jungle..."

By the West Africa JT board

Deep in the heart of the African jungle, surrounded by rumored cannibal tribes and isolated jungle communities, we set our scene. Our story begins the day before with a 14-hour drive to reach our destination. After three flat tires and an hour wait in an African shed with lepers begging on either side of the road, we pulled into what would be home for the next week. For some it was a regular day, for others the sights of roasted worms and craters large enough to swallow a truck were new and fascinating experiences. We are all familiar with the sights and sounds of Africa, but West Africa has a prevalent electric air about it that stretches from its harsh stormy skies to the rich harmonic shades of its jungles, and the warm smiles and enthusiasm of its people.

Some people cried, "It's impossible," when we suggested an area-wide fellowship/training course for young people (ages 12–17) throughout West Africa. Some of the air tickets to fly within West Africa cost as much as it does to go to Europe, and you can't drive between countries due to civil strife. Visas cost a lot,

not to mention all the paperwork that has to be done. The Homes have minimal personnel, so to let their young people travel basically meant things ground to a halt. Nigeria threatened a nation-wide strike which would have thwarted all our plans, the petrol prices basically doubled just before we had to transport everyone across Nigeria, and that's just a few of the scare tactics the Enemy threw our way. But everyone pulled together, fought all the harder, and laughed in the face of the Devil! We collectively traveled over 50,000 km to attend the first-ever meeting of its kind in West Africa, and now we can shout even louder, "All things are possible through the keys—because we have proved it!"

In the south of Nigeria the Lord supplied a beautiful location free of charge with a gorgeous swimming pool, sports facilities, and great accommodations.—A real oasis for this part of Africa! The daily classes concentrated on missionary training, and the basics of being a professional Christian. The afternoons were packed with

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



UPCOMING GNS

By Mama

Dear Family,

Happy Christmas, dear ones! Peter and I love you all very much, and pray that our wonderful Husband is blessing you in many ways, and will continue to do so in the year ahead.

Recently, our enemies have launched another attack against us, this time targeting the artwork in the GNs, in the hope of discrediting the Word and the things that the Lord has shown us are going on in the spirit world. Some of you may have seen this already, or have received it via e-mail from an apostate. We

have written up an explanation that helps to clarify things and put them in perspective, and it will be posted soon in a GN on the MO site.

We pray that this GN will answer questions that you've had regarding this latest attack, and that it will also keep you vigilant in prayer against the insidious and vicious tactics of the Enemy to hurt the Family and the Words the Lord has given us.

The Lord has also shown us to work on a GN exposing the different aggressive spiritual assaults that the Enemy has been aiming at our Family young people, whether through physical and mental afflictions, intensified spiritual battles, or other such avenues. We can be sure that Satan is mad about the

Lord's effort to strengthen the Family, because he's fighting us hard, but thank the Lord that with Him we are more powerful. We have the keys, and if we are faithful to use them in prayer and in praise, then, like the key promise says, "No power of the Evil One can stand against those who hold the keys in desperation and praise."

Please do keep the work on these GNs in your prayers. We love you, and are praying for you. Keep fighting!

Love and prayers in the keys,
Mama



sports events. This all led up to the climactic last night of talents, comic portrayals of all sorts (better left hidden in the memories of us attendees!), dances and acrobatic capabilities, that definitely deserve a mention!

Most of all, we discovered that we aren't alone in our service for the Lord. West Africa is a difficult field—not only are the distances great and the obstacles even greater,

but the battles can sometimes seem daunting, and the darkness overwhelming. It's definitely a place for frontline soldiers, and lives up to the title of the "land of the brave." But for those of us who live for challenge and diversity, it's the land of no impossibilities—and during this training course we found young people who possess not only the guts and stamina to make it, but a deep love for the Lord and

the lost. With our West African team of dedicated and inspired young people we are going to prove that this is where it's happening! So world, hold your breath, because West Africa is gonna explode!

[Editor's note: Check out the MO site photo section for more action from the West Africa JT fellowship at http://www.familymembers.com/artphotos/thms.php?cat_id=70!]

Captions from photos on page 1

- 1 All of us—attendees and organizers
- 2 The boys—(back, L-R:) Stefan, Peter, Daniel, Ben, Sharif, and Jonny; (front, L-R:) Etienne, Ivan, Johannes, Martin, and Stephen
- 2 The girls—(L-R:) Su, Joy, Eve, Elene, Tamara, Marianna, Joan, Rima, Rachel, Jenny, and Carol

East African Professional Camp

BY BRIAN, SYLVIE, AND ROBIN,
EAST AFRICA JT BOARD

The Lord had shown our JT board to host a camp so that each of our sacrificial young people—JETTs through senior teens—would be able to benefit from being together, learning from each other, and forming new bonds and friendships. But the obstacles seemed to be so many and so huge! For example, visas for some of our countries cost as much as US\$50 each, and some teams would need to pay for three visas as they travel overland. Our Homes are spread across an expansive distance of over 4,000 km, the north of which can't be traversed by land due to serious rebel activity and war. This meant that some of the attendees would need to fly, which would cost over US\$500 per person—and that was the discounted price! A couple teams would have to travel over 6,000 km by jeep by road—and *what* roads!

We had our eye on the city of Mombasa, which is on the Kenyan coast. Our Home in Mombasa knocked on many doors, God bless them, and all the Homes in the area were praying desperately for the Lord's timing and perfect location. When it fell into place, we were in awe at His incredible hand in it all!

Only weeks before, dear Stevie (16, who had leukemia), had returned from London, having decided to put his life into the Lord's hands and to trust Him for His ultimate plan. He had come back to spend his last weeks with his family and friends in Mombasa—a place he had loved so much. We believe that Stevie, who had been looking forward to the camp, had a great deal to do with it falling into place so incredibly just a few weeks after he'd gradu-

ated to his role in helping orchestrate things from the spirit world. Suddenly, the Lord opened the door and a beautiful hotel offered us a very good price. Thanks to a generous donation from the Nairobi dance troupe, and two free shows from the Mombasa dance team, the hotel was ours!

This was no ordinary camp place either—it was a gorgeous four-star hotel, laden with palms and bougainvillea, situated right on a beautiful white sand beach on the Kenyan coast. The Lord spoiled us in every way possible by giving us 12 beautiful ocean-view rooms, for five days and nights, with a fantastic daily smorgasbord breakfast and dinner included! We also had ideal conditions in which to hold our classes and activities—a large air-conditioned conference room, complete with PA system, TV and VCR. Jesus also provided multiple sports facilities for our get-outs.

The Lord led us to have the theme for the camp be "Professionals!" We had many classes along those lines—discipleship, commitment, missionary living and relating to the locals, hearing from the Lord, heroes of the faith, the Word, our role in communal living, comparing, etc. We also had some classes specifically for our senior teens, like the Law of Love class, leadership lessons, etc., which were more related to the voting-member attendees.

We had an SGA and FGA staff who were each just wonderful. All together at the camp there were 33 of us, from five countries—Eritrea, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

We believe one reason the Lord poured out such an unusual amount of blessings

was because of the sincerity of these particular young people, who time after time yield and commit to their small surroundings, wanting to be the missionaries He has called them to be, even when it means quite a lack of fellowship with their own peers. The camp was extremely moving, ending with each one praying/reciting "The Creed," which Nyx put together based on Dad's challenge in "So You Want to Be a Disciple?" (ML #3458, GN 1043), and then they received their well-deserved Certificates of Achievement for attending and passing the course.



Julie, Vijay, Mikey, Joanna, and Anthony



Mikey with Creed and Certificate of Achievement from the camp

ERA OF ACTION

Teachers Training Seminars in Eastern Europe

BY AARON AND LISA, PRESENTLY IN EUROPE

In September 2003 we had the opportunity to hold three training seminars in Montenegro, Hungary, and Romania. We want to first of all thank the CGO boards in those areas and those who helped to organize these seminars so effectively. They put in many hours of hard work, thought, and prayer into making them take place, and these seminars wouldn't have been possible without them. It made us want to come back soon.

Each of the seminars was very different, as they all took place on different fields, where the needs and Family are very different. One thing that each field has in common though was that every attendee was looking for a practical way to implement the Activated vision in their area, establishing an outside church, etc. Everybody had the burden to see the "Era of Action" GNs come to life both in their lives, their Homes, and in their area.

As a team, we had spent the previous six months on the road in Western Europe, and had held seminars in seven major capitals across the continent. We'd not only been experimenting with different types of witnessing, but experimenting with various ways of feeding the sheep deeply, such as getting prophecies for people on the streets, giving seminars and classes, and developing an outside church. We made lots of mistakes, too. All of this helped us in these seminars, because what we were talking about wasn't just theory, but it was something we had actually experienced and found solutions for.

Everyone who attended the seminars had to teach a 10–15 minute class for the entire group of people. It was exciting to see them get so enthusiastic in both preparing and delivering their classes. In Montenegro that meant teaching to about 60 people, in Hungary about 50, and in Romania over 70. So this made everybody very desperate to want to do their best.

Romania

Romania was a very exciting program. We want to thank Christian, Paul, and Romanian Kris for doing all the hard work of putting that program together, as well as Jana for helping staff the camp.

This seminar was attended by a lot of junior and senior teens, YAs, SGAs, nationals, and some FGAs. The Lord punched through, and brought to life



Attendees at the Romanian seminar

the Word and testimonies that were shared to help answer different questions people had, and the struggles they were facing. The seminar challenged them and gave them ideas to not only put into action at the seminar, but that they could take home with them, too. It was an opportunity for each attendee to sharpen their gifts and talents along the lines of feeding and teaching others. For a lot of younger people that came, it re-envisioned them as to why they are in the Family, and that the Family is a place where we can fulfill our calling to be the teachers of the End.

During the Romanian seminar we had Job (of Ruth) come from the Ukraine, and in the evenings he gave Bible studies to anyone who was interested. His room was always packed with people wanting to learn how to give well-rounded Bible studies. It was exciting to see everyone gravitate towards the Bible study.

Montenegro

The Montenegro program, which was co-hosted by Andrew and Miracle, had Family members from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia, Ukraine, and even two Family teams from Holland. It was hosted in a beautiful setting on the Adriatic Sea in a pension right on the coast.

In this particular camp we had quite a few live-outs as well who joined in on the teaching. For all who came it was a life-changer that envisioned everyone with what they are capable of and definitely what the Lord can do through them. (See GV #165 for more details on the Montenegro A.T.T.S.)

Hungary

In Hungary we had the blessing of working alongside John and Ruby from the CGO board there. We also had the blessing in both Hungary and Romania of having the VS teams represented at the seminars.

In Hungary we had many more SGAs than in Montenegro. The SGAs came from all kinds of backgrounds, Service Homes, outreach Homes, etc. All the attendees were excited to put themselves into action—learning how to teach at the seminar.

Also in Hungary, there were many more FGAs at the seminar, and each of them being able to dust off the cobwebs of their teaching gifts was a real strengthening and a faith booster for all to see what's possible.

MISSED YOUR PUBS?

BY THE WS ADMINISTRATION TEAM

Recently, WS has received a few questions at various WS e-mails regarding missed mailings. It seems that many people aren't sure where to write concerning these matters. If you have missed a mailing, or have questions about your mailings, please contact your reporting office. Your reporting offices are the ones who handle the details regarding any missed mailings, as well as any questions you may have, and will work with your NPC to resolve any issues that come up.

Thank you so much! We love you, dear Family!

BUILT ON HEARING FROM THE LORD

BY PHILIP, MARIA, MATTHEW, AND MAGDA, MIDDLE EAST

After a full year of establishing our new Home here in the Middle East, we wanted to write up some highlights and glorify the One Who has the plan and the pre-vision, the provision and the program, and leads us to His waiting sheep. He is the Author of anything good that ever happens, and never ceases to surprise us.

There are countless big and little miracles that have gotten us this far in 15 months, and what made us see and appreciate this all the more was when we were sitting down with the officer of a Foreign Cultural Center recently. Three ladies were there who have tried to establish their activities and programs for months and months, but without results, and they're *still* struggling to get through the red tape and checks. We felt sorry for them and tried to help them, but when walking away, we could only praise the Lord that we've escaped similar unfruitful roads by receiving and applying prophecy as often as needed (a lot!), counseling about every little thing with our local helpers, and taking any little hint and check from them, our shepherds, the Lord and others seriously.

We thanked the Lord for His wonderful insight and guidance in teaching us over the years the importance of hearing from Him at every turn. It is so easy in these countries to make a wrong move. The counsel we have been given in the Word to "go slow in order to remain here," has been a major deciding factor that has made us fare so much better than those who lean to their own understanding and try to import their own Western culture into these countries without really understanding the mentality and mores of the country.

The *Motivated* magazines are touching lives right, left and center! (Thank you for your donations!) One young man wrote us, and when we went to see him, he was so thrilled to meet us and very curious to find out more about what he could do with

us. Upon seeing our PR album, he said that his very large and successful company (made up mostly of young, single people) would be missing the boat by not sponsoring performances that count in improving society, such as the ideas and important values our show promotes. So he set up an appointment for us to meet the manager in charge of activities and sponsorship who took to us right away. Things are already moving for them to sponsor our shows and maybe educational and motivational seminars in several towns, including some CTPs!

This all happened in one week, and was a little scary because we had stayed safely "tucked away" under our local NGO umbrella until then. When we asked this man how he'd gotten the *Motivated* mag, he said a friend of his had to do an improvement course for his work and the first *Motivated* issue was part of the pack!

One lady especially stands out, and her eagerness never stops amazing us. She is a Muslim, but was raised in England for a good portion of her life. Now back here and married with three small kids, she's wealthy and very successful in her library/bookstore project, mostly catering to the foreign community. She's a terrific salesperson who really knows her material. In short, a real dynamo of a lady!

It started when we decided to venture out into a little fundraising for an orphanage at Christmas/Eid time. Since most of the teachers of the institute are foreigners, this lady bought our Christmas CD cards saying they just about saved her Christmas gift giving, and that she wanted more to sell in her shop. Slowly, we showed her others of our tools like "Mottos for Success" and *Treasure Attic*, which she put in her shop, raving to people about them. One time, there was a *Kiddie Viddie* in the *Treasure Attic* pile, and she got real excited about it. She told us that eight years ago her sister-in-law had gotten some in England, and that they couldn't find any more after that. After her sister-in-law had searched for the *Kiddie Viddies* and hadn't found them, she made a copy of them. Our friend's kids then watched this video over and over until the videos were worn out. She said the songs affected her kids permanently and very positively so that even a few days ago, when something potentially dangerous was happening on the road, her boy sitting in the car reminded her about the guardian angels watching



(L-R): Matthew and Magda with daughters Anita (5) and Sonia (6 mos.)

over them, proclaiming that there was no need to fear.

Every time we see her, she's got more tales of how our materials have great value and are having such an influence on people. She is so excited that she wants to become a distributor for Aurora. Recently, she went to a very large book fair in London. Out of 22,000 booths, and thousands of people walking around, one brother of Aurora approached her and greeted her with a very friendly, "*Salem Aleikum!*" in Arabic after reading her participant's tag. Upon returning, she raved about the booth and all the goodies, saying what a nice presentation it was. She said she just couldn't get over how amazing this coincidence had been. She's gotten even more serious about these wonderful tools, and her customers are asking for them too.

Once we were sitting in her shop after bringing her more things, and her sister, whom we didn't know, dropped in by surprise, as we were having a conversation about doing activities with a theme at birthday parties. They were saying that the only thing available locally for these occasions is a magician who sometimes scares the kids half to death when he pulls out his snake! The younger sister said she even has pictures of panicked kids climbing on their mothers at the parties!

Then out of the blue, she asked us if we knew So-and-so in her region (naming one of our sisters that we know very well), and to our amazement, her sister has known the Family really well for the past few years. Once again, our friend was just speechless, as it was obviously more than coincidence that our paths were crossing.

Later we also showed our friend the *Motivated* mags. Her reaction to them was overwhelming, and even her husband got into them. She has begun using some of the stories and discussions in English classes at the institute, and wants to have them in the shop for people whom she personally knows would benefit from them. She made bookmarks out of the best quotes and sells them in the shop.

She goes on and on about how we have kept some lost art in our material, values like teaching a seven- to eight-year-old



(L-R): Gabe, Philip, Maria, Marty, and Matthew

boy how to be a gentleman, such as in the song “Manners,” and says the *Treasure Attic* videos and *Kiddie Viddies* just have that “magic.” Her little daughter has such a fascination for some of the more spiritual songs. This is all a confirmation of how children can get saved by watching them, as mentioned in the Letter “What Is Jesus?” so long ago! Last week, the headmaster of a large private school wanted her very favorite video—*Wear a Great Big Smile*, but they were sold out and so she had to plead with the kids to let go of their copy temporarily, so they could make many other children happy!

Another 24-year-old sheep works with us as the emcee of our show. When her father passed away 12 years ago, she became diabetic. As a very active, ambitious and enthusiastic person, she has a great expectation of love and life naturally, but the tragedies of this world, such as the war in Iraq and the endless fight for peace in Palestine, have left imprints of anger and despair, and many deep unanswered questions. All this came out while we sat together with our show team comprised of six of us Family members and four friends. Everyone had a lot to pour out that night, and we are slowly trying to fill the need for the answers.

Before we do a show or even a rehearsal, we all stand in a circle and pray. This has become totally normal to them now. We introduced prayer for other things we needed as well, and each of them is seeing how we depend on this means, and that God is helping miracles to happen. We felt this was important, so that we don't get the credit because of being foreigners whom a lot of people look up to as more “together or organized.” We've been careful not to come out with any strong statements; instead we've let our sample of our one wife vision, love, and unity speak for itself.

A cute thing happened one day before a show, when five-year-old Anita was crying because she had to say goodbye to her new friend, and stay in the changing room till her time to perform. Our emcee took her there when her daddy's reasoning hadn't done the trick yet. We could hear her saying to Anita, “Should we pray and ask God to help you to stop crying? You know He will help you!” It was so cute. Anita cooperated, prayed with her, and everything turned out okay.

One night, after a fundraising show for a handicapped center, Anita was seen having a rather intense conversation with our technical director and close friend. Later,

he confessed that he'd gotten a good lecture from her on the bad effects of smoking, ha!

We really aren't experts, and simply cannot let our zeal run away with us, which is sometimes a little hard, but reading the prophecy in “Mama's Birthday 2002, Part 3” gave us a lot of renewed courage, and we are seeing how He is fulfilling this promise!

“In such cases where it would not be wise to witness more openly, or where you have to go slower, in those cases where you are doing all you can and following Me step by step to woo and win the people of those lands, I magnify and enhance even the simplest witness that you're able to give. I am able to enter into hearts that receive Me simply by receiving you, even if they don't understand it all. I go where I am wanted, where there is a vacuum. And in many of those sensitive fields, the vacuum is so great, and yet you must go so slow in order to remain there, that I choose to override the natural ways and means of bringing My sheep along, and I enter into hearts that even simply desire your fellowship, the light in your eyes, that partake of the love you give” (ML #3446: 76–79, GN 1032).

board news

A full one-day camp

BY FLOR (20), FOR THE CP BOARD, PHILIPPINES

Wanting to initiate more get-togethers for the kids in our area, we held an inspiring one-day kiddy camp/birthday party. We started out with a fun, rousing inspiration to get them jumping, and then moved on to a challenging Bible game. It was great fun to see the kids get excited when having to look for the books of the Bible, and not only that, but having to arrange them chronologically.

They then had a fun class with Simon (of Maria) on Daniel 2 and the rise of the Antichrist, which put their Bible knowledge to the test as they were called upon to look up references and verses. After the Bible class we played some extreme indoor games like Tug of War; Duck, Duck, Goose; and Noah's Ark to name a few, which kept the kids excited and laughing. It was inspiring to see all the kids participating and joining in the games and activities together! It was definitely a loud house!

In the afternoon, Simon and Chris took the kids out for a vigorous soccer match, while back home the young people prepared a delicious barbeque dinner. Upon returning from the park the kids jumped in the pool for an hour and a half of wild water fun.



A fun barbeque dinner

The delicious barbeque dinner concluded the day, along with cake and ice-cream in honor of our birthday celebrant. Thus ended our one-day-camp, with the promise of another in the near future.

Do-it-yourself weekend JT camp

BY HEIDI (OF DAVE), CZECH REPUBLIC

If you're bored, you don't have to wait for the boards. Thanks to the initiative of a couple of resident YA/SGA guys—Jerry and Zeth—and a handful or more of adventurous, crazy spirit helpers, the OC, JETT, and JT in our Home set out one Friday afternoon into the nearby woods for a weekend of fun, adventure, and survival training with Jerry and Zeth.

The morning Word class and devotions was followed by wood carving, hunting for small game, building fires, cooking basic food stuffs in “primitive conditions,” and generally living like “civilized savages” for two days and two nights. Spontaneous stuff like that lives long in the memories of those born with a streak of the wild wind of God in their blood!



Team beginning to feel the effects of forest living

MACHI CHARITY EVENT WITH THE FAMILY IN TAIPEI

BY SASKIA (24, OF DAWEI), TAIWAN

A former member friend of ours was visiting Taiwan, and she and her boyfriend invited us out bowling one afternoon, shortly before they were planning to return to the States. Her boyfriend, who is "ABC" (American-born Chinese), is a film director, and as such rubs shoulders with a lot of Taiwan's rich and famous. Many of his friends are local celebrities, film and pop stars. As we stepped out of the bowling alley it so happened that he spotted a group of his friends who used to be part of a famous boy-band here, called LA Boys, and in a moment we had all crossed the street to see them. I didn't really know who they were, but Dawei, who has lived here longer than I have, had heard of their band. We were introduced very briefly, the boyfriend chatted with them for five minutes, and with that the encounter was over.

By the next week, our friends had gone back to the U.S., but out of the blue, a mutual friend called us up and said that one of the guys, Jeff—who was one of the original three in LA Boys—was launching a new hip-hop band this year, and had been trying to contact us to ask if I would be willing to be part of the shoot for their debut music video, and maybe do some dancing for it. The timing wasn't good for us, because the scheduled date for filming was just the day before the ACTON young people meeting began. The morning in question, we were supposed to be on a bus driving down south to meet up with many other young people from all over the island, as well as China and Australia. It was something we'd been looking forward to for a long time, and after calling around to some of the camp organizers, it seemed like making our own way there would be very difficult.

Nevertheless, we took it to the Lord and asked Him to tell us what He thought about it. The fee for five days at the camp was about US\$150 each, and if we did the shoot, taking some stress off of our newly pioneered Home. The Lord didn't say anything about the money, but He did tell us to go ahead and get in contact with Jeff and work things out with him. We got his mobile phone number, and came to an agreement on the terms of payment, the shooting time and other details. All of this was worked out only about a day or so before the video was going to be filmed.

Getting ready for the meetings seemed like a jam already, and adding a full day of filming that would begin at the crack of dawn and most likely go until late, started sounding like a major hassle to me. After finishing the job, we'd still have to find transportation to the other side of Taiwan so we could be at the meetings when they started. Our newly weaned eighteen-month-old daughter was also about to be left at home for the first time. Too much was happening at once, and I was starting to feel under pressure. Having had experience with modeling and video shoots, I wasn't looking forward to all the work I knew it would entail.

The night before I was supposed to go, I started complaining to Dawei about how stressed I was feeling about it all. Little did I know just how precisely the Lord would take me at my word. I was midway through a sentence when the phone rang. An agent who was contracted for the shoot for Jeff's new band called over, annoyed that Jeff had solicited an outside model and abruptly let us know that her agency would be using their own models for the job, and that our "agency's" model was "no longer required."

I was so surprised when Dawei hung up the phone that I was almost speechless afterward. My stream of complaints had frozen midstream and suddenly, the source of all my complaints was removed. There was nothing to say. I



Maria, Lily and Joyce performing their Hindi dance number

was relieved, but at the same time I had to wonder if I was somehow failing the Lord in not having the faith to do the job, and because of all my grumbling, He cancelled it. *Poof!* With these thoughts in my mind I went to the ACTON meeting, where I quite easily forgot all about it.

But the Lord works in mysterious ways, and it turned out He wasn't through with Jeff yet. In the months that followed, Dawei and I started rotating a weekly voluntary English class with Johnny and Sunny's Home at a juvenile detention center in Taipei County. We use the opportunity of teaching as a way to witness to the juveniles when we can, and we often get the newcomers saved. One class, comprised of some of the toughest cases with the longest sentences at the facility, started to enjoy learning rock and hip-hop songs as a medium for learning English. We had done some performances at this institution in the past, and we taught them

songs like "Behold," and gave them copies of our CDs.

One day, during a discussion with the boys about their preferences in music styles, they showed Dawei a CD of their all-time favorite band, Machi. They seemed shocked that he didn't know them by name, since they were apparently taking Taiwan's youth by storm with their homegrown blend of hip-hop and rap. Week after week the boys would talk to Dawei about this band that they idolized so much, until one day, somebody mentioned the group's ties to the LA Boys, and it all started clicking.

"So this is a new band?" Dawei asked them.

"Yes," they responded.

"And ... do they have a guy called Jeff with them?"

"Yeah, yeah, that's him! Now you know who we're talking about?"

Dawei smiled. "Uh-huh! Actually, I think I have Jeff's number in my cell phone right now..."



Dawei (second from right) with Jeff (far left) and Machi band boys

The next time Dawei went to the facility, he had a surprise for the boys. "If you guys study well and learn our songs, I'm gonna ask Machi to do a charity show for you right here at the institution!" The enthusiasm with which the boys responded couldn't be put into words. They were totally flipped out. Our former-member friend's boyfriend came back to Taiwan, and Dawei asked him what Jeff would think about doing something like a charity concert for the juvenile delinquents we worked with. He replied, "Go for it, I know he likes to do stuff like that. I'm sure he'll say yes." And he did.

Over the next weeks, negotiations between the *Warner Brothers Company* and our coordinating middleman, Dawei, were flying back and forth, and Johnny and Sunny helped secure a date with the relevant authorities at the institution.

The show took place on August 20, on a rainy, muggy afternoon. The hall's air-conditioning was out of whack, and the sound equipment left a lot to be desired, but the three Machi rappers who came for the show did their best to gloss over the imperfections, and the show was a success. They rapped in native Taiwanese, and also shared a message with the boys about giving life your best shot.

The boys also prepared their own dance which they performed for Machi as a courtesy, and Jeff presented them all with their own official Machi caps after the performance. Everybody was dripping in sweat, but the excitement was paramount. The show of five or six songs was followed later by a signed album and picture taking.

The Machi guys themselves were very sweet, and we got to talk with them and explain about what we do here in Taiwan. They were very impressed, and said they were happy to be a part of what we're doing at the institution. The second half of the show was given over to the Family, but the Machi band couldn't stay. When they made their exit we shook hands and thanked them for coming.

One of the guys, Steve, told me, "It's no problem, really—you're very welcome!"

With the last pictures being taken of them in the wings, our YA girls Maria, Lily, and Joyce, started their dancing to "Behold" and "War No More." Then Frankie, Nat and I did the Dr. Chainbuster skit. (I came close to grabbing the Machi album as a prop to pull out of the sick guy's heart, but anyway...) The last two songs were a Portuguese number and "*Mehboob Mere*" in Hindi.

The authorities at the center were very happy about the outcome of the show, and the boys thanked us over and over for making it happen. I couldn't help but think that we didn't deserve the thanks. Sure, Dawei did a lot organizational work, but it came together in a way that we couldn't have conceived of or dreamed up ourselves. To me, this story highlights a classic example of a trip down the trail of God's little miracles. To the inmates of the detention center, Machi may still be the biggest thing that has happened all year, but long after the excitement of the day fades out, there will still be the miracle of a hundred troubled youths making the single-most important decision a person can make in their entire lives, by inviting Jesus into their hearts.

We may not sign autographs or give out baseball caps, but knowing we're regularly and consistently doing something to make a lasting difference to these boys and the people of Taiwan is an honor that can't be minimized. At the end of the day, what really has the power to change a life is not how many celebrities you can get in one room, but how many make room in their hearts for Jesus!



Saskia and Troye with Machi album

You Never Lose by Giving ... to the Board Vision

BY SIMON SIMPLE, INDIA

With four adults in our five-adult Home on four different boards, sometimes I used to get tempted to worry about how our Home was going to make it, because just about everyone in the Home was involved in various area projects. It was a baseless fear, and the Lord has proven to us time and again that we never lose by giving. Each time the Home has "sacrificed" by sparing Home members for board projects, the Lord has abundantly blessed us. Two examples come to mind right away:

A few months ago, one of us was requested to help with a countrywide teen/YA camp. The Home was tight financially, so it was a bit of a "sacrifice" to pay half of the Home member's travel expenses. (God bless the JT board that paid the other half.) The day our Home member left, the same morning our king unexpectedly gave a very good donation, which was ten times the amount the Home had spent on travel expenses!

Another time, two of our Home members went out of town on board work for a week, and even though we were short on two members for a week, that month turned out to be our best month ever as far as tool distribution!

It's a lesson the Lord seems to be hammering away at again and again—that we just never ever lose by giving. The Lord is teaching us to look beyond our own Home and lives, and that if we give to the larger Family, God will abundantly bless our own immediate situation!

Tip: Feeding the Sheep!

BY THE BOTSWANA HOME

Being a small team with so much to do, we sometimes wish there were at least 26 hours in a day. We have a list of 2,000 friends and contacts—plus or minus a few—and to keep them regularly fed is quite a task. Recently, we started to log on to the Family's GP Web site and subscribe our close sheep to a *GP Daily Might*, *Treasures*, *Reflections*, *Tract*, or *From Jesus with Love*. In this way our sheep get a daily, weekly, or whenever feeding they have been subscribed to, and this helps them to grow in the Lord without it taking up much of our time.

Subscribing our sheep to one of these options has made life so easy for us. Thanks to those who make all of this possible! I've found that often Family members will type out a whole tract or *Reflections*, and then send that to their sheep, which takes so much time. Subscribing people to one of the GP tools found on the Web site is much faster, easier, reliable, and one way of making sure that the sheep are getting well fed.

Ridbits

Tidaporn, born to **Mook and Joe** on September 3.—Thailand
Troy Jordan, 2nd child, born to **Beth and Tim** on September 29.—India

Ryan Philippe, 1st child, born to **Michelle and Philip** on October 17.—PACRO

Carlin Andrew, born to **Shine and Timothy** on October 18.—USA

Lia Brooke, born to **Maria and Samuel** on September 28.—USA

tidbits

New CM/FM disciples...

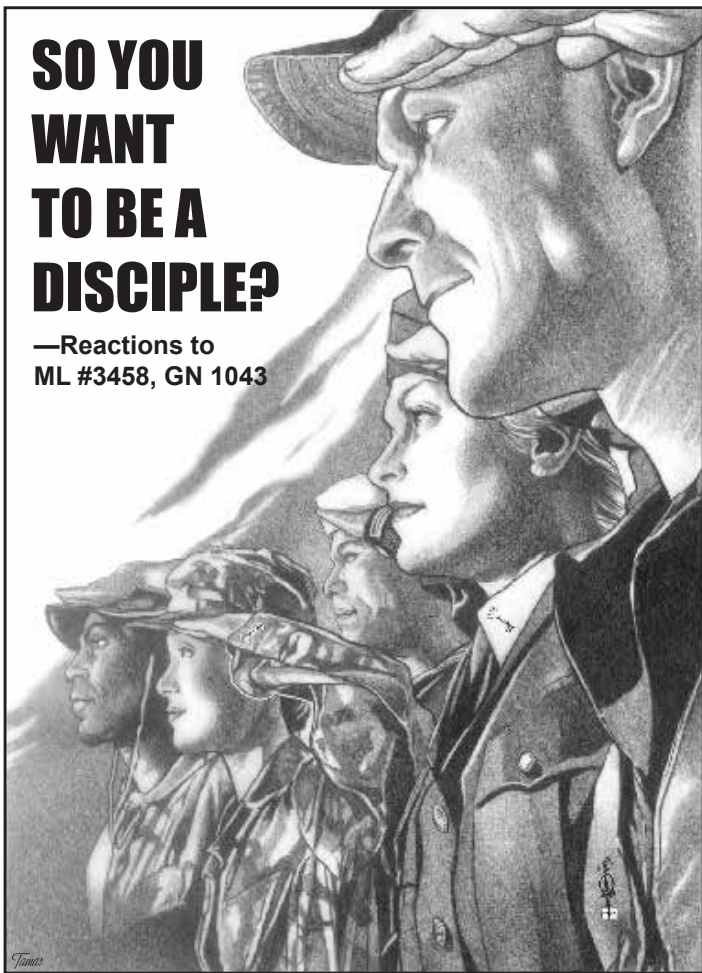
Celeste (20) and daughter **Alexandra** (1) joined in the USA

Hannah (25) joined in the Philippines

Rema (25) joined in India

SO YOU WANT TO BE A DISCIPLE?

—Reactions to
ML #3458, GN 1043



“To whom else would I go?”

Mary Love, Taiwan: While at university, before joining the Family (though I had grown up in the church, and was even a Sunday school teacher), I passed through a stage of agnosticism, because I saw no one sincerely trying to live what it says in the Bible—not even the Jesus People that I had met. I was on the verge of giving up my faith when I met the Family in 1972, and through the conviction, sample, and love and patience of a couple of brothers, I received Jesus, and my faith was kindled, and I’ve been serving my dear Lord ever since.

I think it’s wise for the Lord to expose us a bit [via the GNs] to some of these traps that apostates are caught up in.—It reminds me of how many of the kings of old used to take small doses of poison to get their body used to it, and build up an immunity, so that if anyone tried to secretly poison them, they could survive it. I would much

rather hear of the dastardly traps the Devil’s caught our former brothers and sisters in, *within the safety of a GN and Mama’s shepherding*, than to someday have some of these things I’d never heard of before be dumped on me out of the blue from an outsider, so the Enemy could use a weak moment to try to weaken my faith.

In par. 44 of “So You Want to Be a Disciple” (ML #3458, GN 1043), one of the things Mama says will make us fall is getting our eyes (and we can say ears, too) on man, and not on God. A couple of weeks before I met the Family, a bunch of negative propoganda came out about the Children of God in the small town where I was going to university. My landlady, who lived in the house with me, was very influential and trusted in the community. She went on and on about this terrible sect, and how they just brainwash everyone, and break up families, and take the young people away, and give all their money to David Berg. It sure sounded terrible! Less

than a month later, I met two brothers who were on a road trip to my town. They needed food and a place to stay, which I helped them with. Then they witnessed a lot to me. I felt the conviction of their words, most of which were shown to me straight out of the Bible. After two days I received the Lord. On the third day I received the Holy Spirit and dropped out for Jesus, and I’ve been serving Him ever since in His wonderful Family.

In making that decision, I had to look at Jesus, when all my colleagues, professors, my landlady, and the president of the university told me I was making a big mistake in my life. I didn’t stand on what people said or hearsay; I got down on my knees and went straight to the Lord and asked Him! It was scary, because everyone around me was pulling on me *not* to serve the Lord, but Jesus was very gentle and sweet, and asked me if I was willing to leave all that behind to follow Him. After making the decision, it didn’t matter any more what others said or did, because I had my eyes on Jesus.

So when my family kidnapped me to get me to come home and live like them, the Lord gave me a wonderful dispensation of grace. I was able to witness to my family, and some even received the Lord, while others never spoke to me again. Those were their decisions, and I’d made mine.

I’m on an Eastern field now, where the predominant religion is Buddhism and ancestor worship. Many here have been taught that Christianity is bad—a western god who has nothing to do with them. As we witness, we meet those who have listened to the lies about Christianity and cannot draw close to the Lord, nor even receive Him. Then others tell how they’ve heard at different times from teachers, family, and friends that Christians are bad and to stay away from them, and yet they receive Jesus in their heart, and want Bible classes. I find this somewhat

of a wonder—it seems to show that the barrage of the Devil’s lies are always around and he’s always on the attack, but it’s up to each individual which things they drink in and believe and follow. If we have our eyes on Jesus, truly none of these things will move us.

In the 31 years that I’ve been in the Family, I’d have to say I’ve almost been through it all—the good and the bad, from hireling shepherds, to brethren who misread the Letters and hurt others, to even most of us in the Family a few times getting way off and missing where the Lord was leading. So why am I still here? For sure the reason is the Lord’s grace and keeping! I can also say: Who else has the Words of life for today? Who else is visibly changing the world from the foundation on up? Who else is taking a radical stand against evil, and has the power to do anything about it? Where else can I find people who are willing to lay down their lives for me, and in whom I can trust and depend? Where else are there honest, loving, sacrificial shepherds who we can trust to lead us into this Endtime? The Lord’s given it all into our hands—to whom else would I go?

Turning to the Word

Female, Italy: A while ago the Lord gave me a few reminders about the contact I had with some former members who were constantly dissing the Family, and how I should refrain from having contact with them. I realized that at the time it was hard to see how it would affect me, because it’s something gradual. It’s easy to start thinking you could make it good out there, or maybe you’re going through a rough period in your life, and you can easily get sucked down if you’re not careful with the input you get as well as the need to have quality time with the Lord.

The Lord helped me to see this before it was too late, and showed me the effect it was having on my spirit in time. It’s taken a while for

me to get cleansed, and even then it's something I need to stay on guard about, especially if I get hit with negative thoughts or doubts. One thing the Lord is helping me to do is to fight an offensive battle, like not just pray a quick prayer against any negative thoughts or doubts, but to really get mad at the Enemy and call on the keys.

I can't say I've never had doubts, but the Lord's helped me to go to the Word every time they've come around. I can testify that when you do He is always faithful to dispel the doubts, and help you to see things as He does. The keys really work and are real. Thank the Lord for giving them to us.

Thank you, Mama and Peter, for bucking the tide and giving it to us like the Lord gives it. I'm not perfect and I still have a ways to go, but I'm so thankful for the Lord's meat of the Word and everything that makes us unique and radical. My prayer is that with the Lord's help and the power of the keys I can continue to change and become the radical and best disciple that I can in this army.

Refuse the Enemy's propaganda

Delight Galahad, Mozambique: When it talked about not listening to your enemy when fighting a war, I was reminded of what happened in World War II in the Pacific. The Japanese had a girl with a very seductive voice, speaking very good English, transmitting radio programs to the American forces. She was called "Tokyo Rose." She would say all kinds of discouraging things, and was having a bad effect on the morale of the American servicemen, so much so that the commanding officers had to forbid the men from listening to her programs. So how much more should we soldiers of the Lord refuse to listen to the propaganda of our enemies?

Final outcome depends on you

Heidi Butterfly, USA: I loved the explanation about Lucifer not having a legitimate excuse for turning against the Lord. I believe after watching the reactions of our teens while reading this Letter, that it really spoke to them, and especially addresses issues in regards to many who have been affected by

their peers or siblings having left the Family, and who now speak against us. The section "It's Not Your Circumstances, It's Your Attitude" helped me to see how easy it is to let your "feelings" get in the way. We have been given the new weapons of rising above and the keys, so no matter what happens, if we trust the Lord He'll work out things for the best.

It was helpful to put things in perspective as far as realizing that the Family is made up of human beings—just like in any other organization—people will make mistakes, and it's in how *you* personally react to the things that happen that will determine the final outcome. The key is in trusting the Lord and in our relationship with Him.

From whence we came

Julian, Japan: I think many of us have forgotten what it took to become a disciple in the early days. The requirements are basically the same; Mark 16:15 has to be why we are here—someone obeyed and won us to the Lord and the Family.

Now that we have the Activated program, feeding the sheep has never been easier. Getting them to subscribe to the mag is not an easy thing in Japan. But many who we have fed faithfully for years come back later and say that they are glad we kept sending them spiritual food, they are glad we kept meeting them even when it seemed like they were not so interested, and they are glad we didn't give up on them.

Now that we have the boards, they can encourage, share the vision, share the Word, offer training, instruction, counsel, cheer the troops on, organize unifying events. But when it all comes down to it, each disciple's decision is going to be what makes us or breaks us as a movement. Our life as disciples is about learning to rise above the difficulties we face daily, and make it a habit to constantly be claiming the key promises, the promises from God's Word, and being desperate to have that special link with the Lord's mind. There is a huge battle raging in the heavenlies.—It's a battle for not only the souls of the yet unsaved people, but it is a war of wars for the minds and hearts of those trying to serve the Lord, and especially us, the Lord's Endtime army.

ACTIVATED NEWS

Activating Albania

By Dust A. (of Smile), Albania

Since the CvsC series I have asked myself and prayed about how to bring our contacts closer and how to make them more of a part of our Home and work. What a better way than to ask them to help us push, promote, and sponsor *Aktiv* (Albanian *Activated*)! So after a lot of prayer and calling on the keys daily we have been approaching them one by one. The Lord has really done it!

Most of our contacts have sponsored subscriptions for their own employees, from 15 to 50 at a time. Though sometimes it was a battle due to different delays of the Enemy, as always, key power helped us to make it through. We got over 200 subscriptions, and that in itself was a total miracle as we have such a small Home, and we can only send out one team a day!

We believe that one of the key factors was the prayer list of the people we were approaching, posted all around the house. We also tried to make sure to tell our contacts that they were being missionaries in their own office and they were all so happy about helping to spread God's Word!

Glad I didn't quit!

By Simon Simple, India

Six months ago, while flying back from a trip to another city I found myself seated next to a man who seemed to be having a bad day. He was letting the poor air hostess have it, and seemed pretty stressed out. In an attempt to defuse the situation, I cracked a joke. Thank the Lord, he thought it was funny and burst out laughing and relaxed. We started chatting and he turned out to be a pretty sweet guy who was quite concerned about his kids. As the plane touched down, we exchanged cards, and he asked me to contact him.

Two days later, I gave him a call and he said, "I'm a little busy today. Can you call me next week?" I called him the next week and he said, "I'm traveling tomorrow. Can we talk in ten days?" This continued for *six months*! I started getting a bit weary in well doing, but every time I prayed about him, the Lord said to keep trying. Well, I finally got to meet him, and he turned out to be a sweet, needy sheep. He is a top manager for a big multinational company, and he's very receptive to the Word we shared with him. He loved the *Activated* mag and said, "I really need this!" Then he asked how he could help us, and we showed him the "Mottos." He ordered 50 right away and asked us to keep in touch.

Lesson learned: Don't give up!
Perseverance will eventually pay off.

A WITNESS TO THE WILD!

—Our Visit to a Russian Music Festival

BY ANGELINA (SGA), EUROPE

Backpacks full, lit packed for the thousands, *Activated* mags with subscription cards ready, tents, sleeping bags and guitars on our backs—we were prepared for the camping life and 24-hour witnessing awaiting us at this year's bard music festivals. Some of us traveled for days by train to attend this yearly festival where you can burn free with witnessing and winning souls. Every moment was worth it, even those of sleeping on your carry mat in your sleeping bag with your toes and nose frozen for the four hours of sleep you could squeeze in. (That's if you could even sleep through the night racket of music coming from three different stages, in addition to your three neighboring camps having sing-a-longs, while banging on their guitars and screaming their "hard rock" songs at the top of their lungs.) There weren't any showers that week, except the bathing in the cold Volga River where thousands of other people were bathing. It was wild, crazy and basic, but great.

Throughout the festival the sheep were coming over from morning till night, or more like from morning till morning, as some would stay around our campfire till the wee hours of 4 or 5 AM. The general schedule was dividing into witnessing teams for the morning and afternoon to win souls, and inviting people to our campfire when we'd regroup for our evening jam of singing songs that made the Revolution and getting high on the spirit. Our get-togethers would end with saying the salvation prayer with all present.

We were able to win over 150 souls, personally witness to countless more, and pass out tracts and posters freely, subscribe several people to the Russian *Activated* (thanks to the wonderful price-cut our CEAD



Singing around our campfire

has equipped us with for the three summer months). We had a refilling of that spirit wild and free, which the Lord and the Family have given us through being able to reach out with the radical salvation and Endtime message to the hungry, lost and desperate sheep we met on our path. We sang with all our hearts around the campfire every evening with several newly met sheep—songs like "Jesus the Light," "Sea Wash Over Me," "In Your Arms," "What You've Come to Be," and many more, all in Russian, which reached deep into the hearts of our new sheep who drank in every word. We also had some wild and free Gypsy dancing one night around our campfire. It made us very thankful for the Family songs of the spirit the Lord's given us. They have such power!

One evening one of our teams went over to our neighbor's camp, as every night they would play terrible hard rock songs full of foul language, yelling and screaming, keeping many of us awake during the night. Two of these guys ended up receiving the Lord that night. The following day one of them came over to our camp and was witnessed to more, and got activated. Then the next day one of the guys who

got saved came asking us to come to their camp to talk with one of his other friends. So we went over and that guy got saved as well. Then the next day the same thing—he asked us to come over and witness to another girl, who also got saved. It was inspiring to see the Lord work in these guys' hearts. Although they seemed so rough on the outside, they were actually very sheepy and just searching for the truth. Thank the Lord we've learned not to judge a book by its cover, or these guys would never have gotten saved.

Sonny, Pauline, and Nina did several performances on the different stages, which were a blast! They rocked! We, Valerie (23), Michelle (21) and I had one unusual performance on the local Hare Krishna's stage. We had met the man in charge of the stage a few days before, who we'd witnessed to. He invited us to sing on the stage, and introduced us to their crowd as "girls singing for Jesus." He was happy for us to pass out tracts to everyone in the crowd, and we personally witnessed to many of them and led many to the Lord. There were a lot of lost sheep flocking to the Hare Krishna camp that we were able to witness to, who in turn became addicted to

coming to our camp night after night. For instance, one evening Val, Michele, Elia, and I were walking back from some witnessing near the Krishna camp when we struck up a conversation with three young people who were on their way to their camp. We prayed with them and sat down on the side of the path to sing them some of our songs. They then turned around from going to the Krishna camp and followed us to ours. They got high on the Lord's Spirit in our camp, and came every day for the next four days, and at the end they got activated!

Amongst many other souls that got saved, we prayed with the lead singer of a jazz/reggae boy's band who came from Germany to perform at this festival. They were very popular and had a lot of fans, and were living under tight security, but through a string of miracles we were able to make a connection with this young guy who's originally from South Africa, and deeply witness to him along with giving him a free ticket to Heaven and swapping e-mails for further follow-up.

There are still so many hungry sheep waiting to get the meaty Words of David! The harvest is plenteous but laborers are few.

"IT'S A DAY OF MIRACLES"

BY SARA, PHILIPPINES

My sister came to the Philippines to pay us a visit. We'd lost contact for 20 years, so you can imagine that her coming from Hollywood (she lives in Los Angeles) to the Philippines to find her younger sister with a crew of eight kids, serving the Lord full time and living by faith was quite different for her. She lives in a very different situation that is money minded, fast moving, and stress filled. She was going through some trying times, as she had just

gotten divorced, and was very near a nervous breakdown. She was very favorable and supported us well, and after hearing about our desire to open up a Home in the southern islands of the Philippines, decided to buy plane tickets for our whole family to go to Cebu, not only to give us a vacation to spend more time with her, but also to help us find a house that she would buy for herself but leave open for us to stay in and open a mission. Unfortunately, we didn't find one, so instead she said she could help us pay the rent on a house of our choosing.

My sister brought her ten-year-old son along as well, as she was hoping we could pass on to him some of the Christian heritage he failed to receive while growing up in the States, that had virtually turned him into an atheist. He read his Harry Potter books like they were his Bible, played computer games whenever he felt bored, refused to eat the food if it wasn't McDonald's, and switched from *Cartoon Network* to *MTV*—and he's only ten! Besides these rather adolescent attitudes he is still a child at heart. He got saved, and with the posi-

tive peer pressure decided that passing out tracts is cool after all. After watching *Kiddie Viddies* just once he was singing the songs, and said, "Those songs get stuck in my head," and "All the kids in those videos are always smiling!" He loves *Treasure Attic*, too!

My sister has two adult sons who live here in the Philippines who are into drugs, smoking, stealing—you name it. But they both got saved and activated! My sister also subscribed to *Activated* and said, "These magazines are very feeding, and they prick you to the heart."

THRILLED BY GOD'S LITTLE MIRACLES

BY ANDREW AND MIRACLE, YUGOSLAVIA

We are so very happy to be called to spread God's love in this needy field. We have been so blessed to be able to freely sow the seeds here in the Balkans for the past eight years, and we are well known locally for our "good works." It is awesome to see daily what the Lord has up His sleeve for that day. To be able to learn His ways and how He is leading and guiding us is a real thrill.

We have been doing lots of shows/meaningful theater/songs/games for kids, and one of these programs was in a remote village for folks that had just returned to their homes after being refugees for years. It was such a joy to give them an hour of happiness that they will never forget, and to be able to lead them to the Lord. Everyone was so happy for the words of encouragement they received. Afterwards, we visited some of the more needy families, and were able to give them clothing, toys, food, etc., for which they were very thankful. Most have no employment. They are just living off of their land.

We have lots of friends in the different military bases

here, and one day we went to one for some business and a cup of coffee. While sitting in the cappuccino bar, Miracle asked if they had any of the delicious 100% grapefruit juice left that had been drastically marked down as the expiry date was nearing. He said, "Yes, look," and pulled back a curtain behind him revealing 72 liters that had just gone past the date. They graciously gave all that to us, plus cakes, cookies, and more that was also set aside. It really pays to ask. Then in the next shop, the owner who has been our friend for over two years had left an envelope for us. Inside we were shocked to see a donation sufficient to cover our rent! Although he has taken lots of CD cards to sell in his shop, this is the first outright gift he has given us. And on top of that, he has promised to do the same every month! This is the fruit of feeding him the Word over the long term. When we first met him he gave us a generator for the long electricity cuts of Kosovo, and has given tons of clothing for our CTP over these two years.

The next place we visited was a friend who has helped us each Christmas by going office to office in his NGO selling our Christmas CD cards to his co-workers. He was not in his office, so we started to chat with the sec-

retary. She told about another NGO nearby who she had "heard" might have some funding available to sponsor our programs. We followed her suggestion, and sure enough, they were happy to sponsor us after we submitted a simple proposal.

Once, while at one of the military bases we ran into one of our sheep. He was so surprised that we had found him sitting in a café, as he had been out that whole day. We told him that we had prayed that morning for the Lord to lead us. He is learning more about how the Lord operates (he is a former Muslim), and was amazed that the Lord would go to so much trouble. We found out that since the last time we had seen him that he had been witnessing to the chaplain of his base. The next time we saw the chaplain, he was interested in us and what we had been doing with "his sheep." Ha! Miracle told him her testimony, and once he was satisfied that we were not too much of a "threat," he offered us a donation to sponsor our work in his area.

And what shall we more say? Time would fail us to tell of all the people who have gotten *Activated* magazines and booklets, and want to help us in so many ways. The thrill of it all is that in this life of faith you never know

what is going to happen that day. It is so exciting! Even our Sundays are exciting!

On Sundays we have open house, so when our doorbell rang we thought that our visitor was one of our "regulars." But to our surprise, we saw one of our Italian military friends who we had not seen for quite a while. Standing with him were four Italian journalists who were visiting Kosovo to do stories about the current situation here. They were sent by one of the biggest newspapers in Italy! They had heard from our friend about our work here, and wanted to write a story about us.

The next day we visited another base, and happened to meet two sweet Scandinavian ladies who worked in the café there. We told them what we do, and they were amazed at how we had known to come and see them at that particular time, as they were emptying their shop and had a lot of extras to give away. They gave us lots of frozen fish, lamb chops, drinks, etc.

Well, that's just a glimpse into the exciting job for the Lord we have here, and how He takes care of all our needs. Each day is full of miracles and excitement. There is really no comparing! When we put His business before ours there is immediate success!

homeschooling corner

CVC education and Family training

BY VERA (OF DANIEL), UKRAINE

To join the Family I dropped out from one of most prestigious universities in Kiev—The State Pedagogical Institute of Foreign Languages. My parents had to force themselves to accept this idea, since none of them managed to graduate, so they were hoping I would. I was meant to be a fulfillment of their dreams as far as higher education and being a teacher and a translator went.

After serving the Lord for almost 11 years, I have applied for five CVC certificates—Childcare, Primary Education, Foreign Language, Teaching English as a Foreign Language, and Oral and Written Translations. When my parents heard that I've been studying in a Texas-based International Christian Vocational College, they were elated! They are so proud that I have a job I love, a wonderful husband whom I met thanks to the Family, five lovely children, *and* now the prospect of becoming a certified teacher and translator as they had hoped long ago. My mom said, "I can see that by choosing to follow Jesus and the Family you didn't lose anything. To the contrary, you gained so much more ... plus your certificates!"

Our neighbor, Tania, has two older children who are both studying and working at the same time to support themselves and pay off for studies. They are both in their mid-20s and being totally engrossed in studying and work, have no time for themselves. The mother was expressing her concerns, "I hardly see them. When I come home from work, I am so exhausted I go straight to bed. My son comes back late and doesn't even have time to eat. He keeps studying and studying until the wee hours of the morning. And then he runs off to work. My daughter gets so emotionally and physically drained at her work and university that she doesn't even want to talk with us anymore. She comes home, shuts the door behind her and that's all. Time is flying, and they are by themselves, with no friends or prospective husband or wife. To get to know young people, you have to spend time with them. And my kids simply do not have time for their personal lives because of pursuing careers and more or less decent jobs. At their places of work there are only married folks or older ones. It's tough for them, and as a mother I am concerned."

Hearing her heartcry, I was thinking of how blessed we, in the Family, are. Many of the certificates that CVC offers could be obtained in the System only by studying in universities or institutes, or going to expensive courses (e.g., writing articles and becoming a journalist, being a teacher, doing computer work, publishing, management, business, secretarial, etc.). I was always interested in expanding my horizons as a teacher and a translator, but going back to the System for that didn't seem to be worth it. With the CVC the desires of my heart have finally materialized! I get excellent stuff to learn and apply on a daily basis, plus my knowledge is getting officially certified! I am so thankful for the CVC. It's truly fantastic!

Miraculous provision of educational materials!

BY SARA, MEXICO

Recently, the Lord mightily blessed us with beautiful educational materials in Spanish for all of the children in Mexico City.—A real answer to our prayers. We calculate the value of these precious tools to be several thousand dollars. What a miracle!

Donated encyclopedias!

BY PROMISE, VENEZUELA

Encyclopedia Britannica donated over a ton of encyclopedias and reference books in Spanish! There were enough complete sets to give one set, along with a dictionary, and also a four-book set of a dictionary/atlas, to all CM Homes in Venezuela, and to the two FM Homes who have teens working on the CVC. The individual reference books have now started our VEN FED Library, available to all for their reference needs.

Uncle Dan's Algebra videos

BY CHRIS, MEXICO

We have finished the first video of Uncle Dan's Algebra, and feel it is a real blessing and a wonderfully done course.

Helpful A Beka sample DVD

BY KARYN, USA

Recently, I ordered a sample from A Beka Academy of their DVD homeschooling course. The DVD covers samples from each year and is quite complete, giving samples of all subjects in all grades and shows how to cover

all the material in each lesson. You get a good look at how they operate their daily classes, and how they set up their classrooms according to the material being taught that day.

It was a tremendous help in understanding how to present the material laid out in their courses, as for those who have used the *A Beka* curriculum guide for any of the grades, there's quite a bit in there to cover and a lot of materials you can use, and sometimes you can wonder how they teach it all in the amount of time that they allocate for each class. But when you see the DVD samples you get to see how concise and structured and fast moving it can be. I would recommend anyone using the *A Beka* course order the DVD from *A Beka* and view it, and glean whatever tips you can from it. It helped me tremendously in knowing how to present the material, especially review, which was very simple and not time consuming at all.

Education + missionary teacher training

BY DAVID, DANIELLE, AND ABNER, BRAZIL

Esther (16) and João (13) had been studying at a city school for the first half of the year, but we decided to take them out, trusting the Lord would do something and provide someone to help us. Then we found out about a school where Virginia and Esteban are taking Cristiano (16), where he can, after studying at Home the whole week, come for just one day to do the tests. The best part about this place is that they're all Christians and are super turned on about our Family teens (their sample and superior levels of intelligence, behavior, sociability, and accomplishment). The school has asked Cristiano, Esther, and Joao to teach the Bible in English to the other students. They not only like us for our faith and religious style, but they also want us to win their crowd to the Lord.

Our kids now are having a chance to study at Home, while at the same time they have the responsibility and the goal to regularly prepare to be tested, have all their logs kept, and are receiving missionary training as Bible teachers. They use our Family materials and literature to do so—Cristiano gave them a tremendous class watching *Beyond Armageddon*, and then powwowed it in English. It's a great combination—education and a certain dose of missionary training as teachers.

Pray!



Healing key: Pray for those in need of health using the keys, and I will rise up speedily to answer your prayers.

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

Kristina (SGA), South Africa: I had been having a lot of problems with my back this last year. The pain would become almost unbearable at times, and it became increasingly difficult to do anything—sitting, standing, and lying down were uncomfortable. I had been seeing a chiropractor for six months, but it got to the point where he didn't even know what was wrong or what to do about it. But after sending in my prayer request the Lord has been miraculously healing me, and I haven't been in severe pain for quite some time. I am still taking it easy, but I know that the Lord has healed me this far and will continue to do the rest. Thank you all so much for your prayers!

Marianne (of Mark), Bosnia: I had a mild heart attack in September. Thank the Lord the recuperation was quite fast, and I feel a lot better. A heart felt thank-you to all those who prayed for me. By the grace of God I am learning to go slower, and lean harder on our dear Love. It gives me more time to pray and get answers from our great Physician!

David and Peace, Guinea: Our daughter, Mercy (13), had an ear operation to remove the longstanding infection she's had. The Lord provided a good surgeon, free of charge, and everything went very well. The next day Mercy was back home with us. Thank the Lord there were no complications!

Elisa, Italy: My son, Stefano, who had a severe accident one and a half years ago, is making lots of progress in his motor development. He can walk basically without a cane, except for going up stairs and steep places. It is a miracle that he walks at all, as the doctors gave no hope of him ever walking after the accident.

Jonathan, Japan: Thank you so much for your prayers. After ten days in the hospital I am home and healed of the shingles. What could have been very painful and damaging to my transplanted kidney turned out to be a very light case, and I am just fine. Jesus has done the miracle yet again! Your key-powered prayers were a tremendous preventative power against serious complications, and I thank you for them.

Europe and Africa

Gregory (18 months): For the holes in his heart, as well as other malformations, to heal up naturally so they will not present any heart problems as he grows up.

Helen: Against sickle-cell anemia, which four of her siblings already passed away from. She's been taking a stand of faith and has been doing okay. Against the pain in her legs especially, and for strength and encouragement.

Jemima (of Zac): Has also been sick in bed most of this month, and was admitted twice to the emergency ward. She's been undergoing various tests, and has had to have regular doctor visits. She was suffering dizziness, loss of balance, heart pains, cramps, etc. The doctors are not entirely sure what the cause is. Please pray for complete recovery for Jemima, as well as wisdom and insight for the doctors.

Joseph (21): He recently suffered a serious breakdown, followed by a mental collapse. Please pray for Joe, for leading and guidance for those caring for him, and a real breakthrough in the spirit for Joseph.

Joy: Her eye was hurt when a violin string broke and flicked her eye, and then she contracted pink eye. She has not regained sight in this eye, and the doctor said it could take months. Please pray that her sight comes back quickly and that she can see clearly soon.

Lily (of Peter): Scoliosis, which is causing pain in her spinal cord, neck, and skull. Osteoarthritis in her hip joints. Also against pain in shoulder joints and bone in left arm, and for a complete healing of her right wrist, which was damaged in a fall several months ago.

Tatiana (of Peter and Praise): A recent eye checkup revealed that she has a slight dystrophy of the retina. She will need a laser operation done by next year unless it gets better. Please pray that the Lord will totally heal her and that no operation will be required.

Tina (18 months, granddaughter of Mark and Marianne): Digestive problem with pancreas; vomits frequently, for weight gain, and against dental erosion.

Pacific

Tabitha (of Stephen): Cough that developed into bronchitis, which usually takes a lot for her to shake. Please pray for complete and speedy recovery.

North America

Chris, Ivan, Mari, and Oliver: Had a car accident, in which the car they were in was totaled. Chris is presently undergoing medical treatment. Ivan, Mari, and Oliver are all recuperating from their injuries. Please pray for complete healing for them all.

Faithy: Pneumonia; was in hospital for a couple of weeks due to the pneumonia. Please pray for a complete healing, no relapse, and for renewed physical strength.

Time spent reorganizing

BY RUTH FAITH, UNITED KINGDOM

I spent a great deal of time this month reorganizing my school records, and reviewed all of my last year's records and the children's portfolios. These are all now updated. I can now start this year a bit less hazy, and I have a clear picture of where the children are at in their schooling.

Teachers' meetings and training

BY RUTHY, JAPAN

Visitation from Kumon: We are using the Kumon method for teaching Japanese, and we get regular visits from a Kumon specialist. It's been helping us as we improve our homeschooling. Although they give suggestions, they respect the way we teach our kids. Their point of view as someone from outside, helps us a lot as they give us tips and ask us questions regarding our schooling. It gives us more inspiration and vision to stir ourselves up in our schooling.

Teachers' meeting: We found it helpful to have teachers' meetings occasionally, aside from our regular childcare meetings as a Home. The teachers are able to share their ideas, and it has helped us to know what's happening in the other age groups, and to know each other's needs. It broadens our vision.

We decided to read the childcare-related Word from the CVC reading list with the teens who help with childcare on a daily basis, to give them the vision for childcare. Also, we are planning to schedule ministry time for OC/JETTs when they help the teachers as assistants, and at the same time receive training from the main teacher.

Portfolio hint

BY JOHN, INDIA

In response to the need to get educational portfolios done, our Home started having workshops every week. The six JETTs, junior and senior teens participated, and they basically have done it themselves once we got started. That was a victory, because for the parents to do it seemed an impossible task in our short-staffed Home. But it wasn't impossible, because the Lord knew how to do it by inspiring the young people to do the work. They just needed a little help with some materials and making things look neat.

entertainment

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

MATRIX REVOLUTIONS, THE (2003)

Keanu Reeves, Lawrence Fishburne, Carrie-Anne Moss

Conclusion of the three-part *Matrix* series. The human city of Zion defends itself against the massive invasion of the machines.

(*Jesus:*) If this movie were to stand on its own, it might not be worthwhile, as in itself it doesn't have outstanding qualities that would make it stand out from other action movies. However, it's the finale of a longer story, the final piece in the puzzle, and therefore I give consent for those who wish to, to see it.

On the whole, the *Matrix* story and series is a movie with good parallels that can be drawn to dropping out of the System, fighting for the right, etc. The lessons from this last one are the culmination of the last three—the final fight and stand of those who no longer want to be dominated by the machines, and who want to be free.

There are a lot of spiritual parallels in the *Matrix* movies if you search for them. It's good to look for spiritual parallels, but be careful that you don't go overboard in being too theological about it, or become tripped off in linking everything in the movie to something that has to do with your spiritual life for Me, or the sacrifices I made for you. To do so to the extreme almost minimizes the greatness of My sacrifices for you, which cannot be compared to anything or any movie.

This last part of the *Matrix* is more violent than the others, and also isn't as interesting or mentally stimulating as the first two movies. I don't approve of violence, killing, fighting, gore, and hurt—and the glorified portrayal of violence in this series is another worldly avenue to beware of. But sadly, people in the world today enjoy and desire violence, and to make a movie that sells you have to include a fair bit of it. In this third movie, though, it was somewhat necessary to show the scenes of violence, because the movie was focusing on a great battle, and you can't have war without hurting, fighting, bleeding, and dying.

This part of the series has more cursing and realistic violence than the other two; because this one takes place largely in the "real world" of humans and not so much in the world of the matrix. It's overall a little grittier with a bit more realistic pain and suffering. In many ways it's not as rich or powerful, mentally or visually, as the others in the series.

Something portrayed that was not quite on target was the concept that machines could partake of emotions and would someday become so real that they would feel emotions. The comments and discussions portrayed in this sense could be interpreted in a variety of ways, and it's not a major issue, but it's important to remember that I am the only One Who gives life, and only those who are alive can feel love. I will not allow machines or computer programs to get to such a state as portrayed in this movie; but using this analogy of computers and computer programs has provided a platform for a very interesting and intriguing story that has gotten a lot of people in the world to think, and to understand some basic spiritual parallels, and I'm happy with that and the movie makers who brought that about.

You, My children, can be encouraged to see the lengths to which those in the film went in order to preserve what they loved, and how hard they fought for their Zion. Each person gave their all, sacrificed things dearest to them, and many gave till their very last breath, to fight for what they believed in. They didn't give up. They kept fighting.

There are times when you have to fight, not even understanding exactly why, and not being completely sure that you understand what's going on or being fully aware of the strategy or tactics of the battle—but just knowing that your Commander said "fight," and therefore you fight. Other times you will have to will yourself to fight on just because you choose to, because you know it is what you must do, because you know it is your destiny.—Even if you're weary, struggling, discouraged, bruised and broken and seemingly defeated, there will always be victory to be found for you, My Endtime brides, as long as you keep the faith.

No one is forcing you to fight for your faith, to serve Me, to play a part in our war of the worlds and to preserve your "Zion." It's a choice you have to make. But if you make that choice, there will be no stopping you, because in choosing My way you accept the help of all of Heaven, and all of the power of the spirit world is at your command to defeat the Enemy and to help Me bring peace on Earth once more.

BEYOND BORDERS (2003)

Angelina Jolie, Clive Owen

A tale of the turbulent romance between two star-crossed lovers set against the backdrops of war-torn Africa, Cambodia, and Chechnya.

(*Jesus:*) It is good for the Family to see others who are laying down their lives for the causes that they are committed to. This film is well worth My Family's time. Family members who have worked in trouble spots around the world will be able to relate to this movie. However, it's definitely not a movie for the faint-hearted, or sensitive viewers, as there are number of graphic scenes, where the suffering of the people is real and painful to see.

This movie is a bold statement in defense of the poor and needy, and a reproach to the rich and indifferent. I will have mercy upon those who have mercy upon the poor. A movie like this pricks the consciences of those who watch it. They are either convicted and want to do something to help, or they must find fault. Don't get caught up in the faults and flaws. See deeper into the point that is being made. As you have learned yourselves, to do the right thing pretty much separates you from the world right away. They will hate you and fight you, and help you only when it serves their own interests.

The poor will always be amongst you as long as there are greedy, selfish hearts. This is therefore your commission—to change hearts. You can be right there on the ground with the hungry and poor and needy, ministering to their physical needs, but it is a drop in the ocean compared to what is needed, and basically a losing battle. It is not that it is of no value, for it is a great calling and one worthy of giving your life for. But you have within your hands the ability to reach beyond and to change the situation even more drastically, by helping Me to change the hearts of others. It must happen, one heart at a time. It must be a true change of heart. It must be a heart changing from its ways of selfishness to ways of unselfishness and giving.

So, go, and with renewed vigor and inspiration, preach the Gospel to every creature like never before. Let this movie break your heart and cause you to weep for not only the sick and dying, but the spiritually lost and hardened, those who need love—My love, your love—so that they may find true peace and happiness.

This movie portrays how in some countries the NGOs and aid services are often abused and used by governments to their own ends. As for the premise of doing evil that good may come, I say that for you, My children, you should never have to resort to doing evil that you may receive compensation to help you survive. As you minister on the fields that I have

led you to, trust that I will never leave you nor forsake you, and you will never have to resort to the means this doctor did to receive money.

One day I will rescue all My children from this evil and corrupt world. I will wipe away every tear, heal every pain, and soothe every heartache. In that day it will truly be Heaven on Earth, as I have promised; there will be peace and plenty, laughter and freedom, and no more tears.

Movies Rated for Junior Teens and Up

THE BANK (2001)

David Wenham, Anthony La Paglia, Sibylla Budd

A young mathematician who has discovered a formula that accurately predicts fluctuations of stock prices may hold the key to the future of the financial markets.

(Jesus:) It's good when a movie is entertaining and interesting, but also has a purpose. I especially like it when movies expose the System and its greed, and show how easily it can all turn to dust or husks. When power and money are the main goals in someone's life, it seems they can never get enough. They always end up wanting more and more, until they're willing to do almost anything to get it, even sell their soul. But in the end, as My Word says, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Unfortunately, some learn this lesson the hard way. But learn it they will, either in this life, or in the life to come.

It is unfortunate, though, when people start taking things into their own hands and feel they are the ones to seek retribution and mete out punishment to the wrongdoers. I am the One Who judges those who are not motivated by love and care and compassion for their fellow man—either in this life, or the next. It is not My will for man to take it upon himself to do so, for this does not give Me a chance to work in the wrongdoer's life, and bring him around in My time and in My way.

Movies Rated for MCs and Up

SEAL MORNING (1985)

Holly Aird, Jane Lapotaire, David Birney

The discovery of an abandoned baby seal on the remote Norfolk coastline brings an orphaned girl and her reclusive aunt together, and attracts the interest and assistance of a helpful naturalist.

(Dad:) This is a sweet movie that even younger kids can relate to. It has a lot of beautiful nature and scenery and helps kids to better picture what it was like not

that long ago, when not everyone had cars, electricity, running water, and they still were happy and learned to get along.

It is also sweet in showing how two different people who were going through tough things could help each other and use their trials to encourage one another. It's a little bit sad though that they didn't bring the Lord into the picture, as people at that time had a lot more love for the Lord than people nowadays. When people turn to other things like pets or animals to make them happy, and then their pets die or something bad happens to them, it can seem like the end of the world for these people. You can bring out this point to the kids—that they have Jesus to be their stability and their anchor even in difficult times, and He will always be there for them and never go away.

It's a sweet movie for the kids to see and learn to count their blessings, that they have loving parents and so many other things, and most of all that they have Jesus as their best friend.

MCs may need someone to explain the dialogue and situations as they progress, otherwise it's a bit over their heads, but it's not harmful for them. Important parts to explain are the woman's difficulty in giving love, and the way real love helps her to have a change. The young girl also learns responsibility, courage, and to share love even when she doesn't feel like it. These topics of romance and personal relationships can be a bit deep for the MC age range, but will be understood if explained.

Other Movies

[Editor's note: Before watching a movie rated in the "Other Movies" category, Homes and individuals should ask the Lord whether it is appropriate. If considering showing an "other movie" to teens or JETTs, parents or shepherds should preview and pray about it.]

MATCHSTICK MEN (2003)

Nicolas Cage, Sam Rockwell, Alison Lohman

(Jesus:) This movie is a portrayal of the dog-eat-dog society that much of the world has become. It's much worse now than even 10 years ago, and will wax worse and worse and worse still. It also shows how love can change hearts. The movie is, however, a bit of a downer. It deals with the life of a man who has a number of obsessions and compulsions and has let his neuroses run wild. The dependence he has on medication is just to give him a feeling of peace and safety—which he does not have on his own—which is sad to see and experience.

It portrays life as a criminal pretty accurately, and gives insight into how crime doesn't pay and that like many things in life, it will all come back to you. It also subtly promotes con-artistry, showing the advantages of it, but at the same time is against it, and that makes its message confusing. For that reason and others, many people will be disappointed with it. The movie is watchable for some, but it's not going to strengthen the resolve of Family members to continue doing a better job. It's more a testimony to those who are not in the Family, and who live their life "by hook or by crook." If you plan to watch this movie, ask Me if it's okay for you before viewing it.

Non-Recommended Movies

FAR FROM HEAVEN

(Julianne Moore, Dennis Quaid; 2002)

(Dad:) The movie is a good portrayal of some of the attitudes and prejudices of the '50s, as it's pretty true to life. However, with the very prevalent homosexuality angle, it's just not a pleasant or inspiring film. I'd have to say the bad outweighs the good by too much in this movie, and the Family should avoid viewing it.

REMINDER TO USE THE NEW GRAPEVINE ADDRESS

By the Grapevine team

We love you and pray that this Christmas is fruitful time of witnessing—telling the world of our dear Lover and Husband. This is just a little reminder to all our readers that the *Grapevine* snail mail address has changed. (See front page of GV #163 for the full explanation.) Please be sure to use the new address for mail you send to the *Grapevine*, as well as mail directed to other WS pubs. The San Diego address will no longer be in use for *Grapevine* or other pubs mail. The new address as mentioned in GV #163 is:

**The Grapevine Family,
c/o TRIAG,
Aussergrütstrasse 2,
CH – 6319 Allenwinden,
Switzerland**

Please be sure to put in the lower left-hand corner of the envelope specifying which pub your mail is designated for. Thank you so much! Happy Christmas, dear Family! We love you!

Shine On—October 2003

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
SOUL SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003		
Rosita H.H., Mexico	2,250	4,500
Pablo T., Ecuador	1,800	3,600
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	1,675	8,377
Belen/Ezequiel/Rejoice, Brazil	1,257	8,800
Rosita H.H., Mexico	1,000	2,000
Faithy/Isaac/Josue/Joy/Rejoice/Stephen, Mexico	676	4,055
Angie/Maria/Mariana/Miguel, Colombia	420	4,200
Charity/Happy/Joshua, India	411	4,108
Daniel/Lily/Melanie/Pawel, Brazil	250	1,502
Abner/Martin/Mercy, Mozambique	198	1,384

TRACTS SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Love/Victor, USA	3,306	13,225
Christian, Japan	3,167	9,500
Alcides/Maria/Stephen, Peru	2,313	18,500
Sweetie of Dad, Mexico	2,250	4,500
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	2,116	10,581
Dulce/Matthew/Perola/Priscila, Brazil	1,714	12,000
Crystal/James/Spring, So. Africa	1,429	10,000
Eric/Ester/Josiah/Joy, USA	1,333	8,000
Angela/Ant/Michaela/Talitha, So. Africa	1,319	9,230
Lily/Mathew/Rose/Steven, Cameroon	1,317	7,900

ACTIVATED DISTRIBUTION SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Bonita/Mark/Renee, India	528	5,282
Pavel/Sam/Vicka/Yuliana, Romania	503	2,010
Anaik/Joy/Sharon/Tiago, Brazil	500	4,000
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	472	5,667
Joe/Samuell/Sara, Mexico	440	1,760
Celeste/Chris, Mexico	309	1,234
Claire/Ginna/Marc/Peter, USA	241	1,928
Lisa/Luke/Ruth/Stephen, United Kingdom	230	919
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	213	850
Angelo/David/Dawn/Peter, USA	173	1,385

ACTIVATED SUBSCRIPTION SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Esther/Joseph/Phillip/Samuell/Sarah, Hungary	241	
Ester/Juan/Melody, Brazil	201	
Angela/Faithy/Priscila/Victory, Brazil	118	
Christy/Johnny/Micah, Taiwan	107	
Christina/Iris/Joseph/Michael, Brazil	90	
Angela/Angie/Brian, Brazil	82	
Beth/Car/Crystal/Jon/Joy/Kar/Mamta/Sam, India	47	
And/Angel/Deepa/Hos/MaryAnn/Steven, India	43	
Jimmy/Joy/Tabitha, Taiwan	39	
Eman/Juju/Katrina/Tigo, Brazil	34	

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
POSTER SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003		
Rosita H.H., Mexico	1,375	2,750
Angie/Maria/Mariana/Miguel, Colombia	1,260	12,600
Martin/Fighter, Mozambique	1,167	3,500
Rosita H.H., Mexico	1,165	2,330
Dust/Mercy/Nathan/Rejoice, Japan	964	5,786
Christian/Maria/Michael, Japan	794	4,766
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	564	6,763
Andrew/Claire/Peter/Ruth, Japan	545	2,180
Gentleness/Joan/Philip/Timothy, Ukraine	482	2,890
Abner/Martin/Mercy, Mozambique	451	3,160

TAPES/CDs SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Ann/Byron/Mary/Mercy, Switzerland	1,282	14,100
Jonathan/Marc/Theophany, ME	316	1,895
Angela/Joy/Paul/Philippe, Australia	108	1,297
Angela/Elias, Spain	100	200
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	97	387
US3970, USA	87	261
Jeremiah/Mary/Tim, Japan	84	252
Angie/Angie/Brian, Brazil	72	504
Abe/Mercy, Taiwan	66	132
Ivan/Leila/Tamar, Brazil	65	911

BOOKS SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Ann/Byron/Mary/Mercy, Switzerland	2,545	28,000
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	276	1,103
Mateus Conviction, Brazil	238	476
Charity/Happy/Joshua, India	181	1,806
Abigail/Ezra, India	145	290
Isacco Oasis, Italy	135	406
Meekness/Philip, Namibia	122	243
Jacintha/John/Juan/Marie, India	118	473
Joy, Ukraine	110	220
David/Faye/Lovely/Nehemias, Italy	107	426

VIDEO SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Gab/Rejoice/Virginia, USA	82	493
Mateus Conviction, Brazil	46	92
Daniel/Rejoice/Spring, Indonesia	42	378
Hannah/Philip, Canada	33	65
Maria/Philip/Svieta, Russia	28	196
Elisabeth/Emmanuel/Felicia/Simeon, Indonesia	27	108
Anaik/Joy/Sharon/Tiago, Brazil	27	213
Alex/Ama/Dove/Jessica, Mexico	26	460
Joanna/Kristina/Michael/Yanek, Russia	19	77
Pablo T., Ecuador	19	37

Personals

This is Alisa (of Martin and Mercy), and I'm looking for **Bella** (of Steven and Mary). My address is mozamfam@tropical.co.mz. Thank you.

Hi, I'm Chris, and I'm looking for **Johnny**, who I lived with in Florianopolis, Brazil. It's been a long time since I've heard from you. My e-mail add is chris_soprano69@yahoo.com.

I'm also looking for **Angelica** (Ian's mother), who I last heard was in Joinville, Brazil. Please write me at the above address. God bless you.

QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION STATS BY DESK

Activated Desk	August	September	October
Brazil	309	856	1,167
Chile	14	11	76
Colombia	21	20	34
EE and Russia	266	133	327
Europe/Africa	122	173	187
India	284	405	378
Japan	50	49	47
Mexico	28	84	126
N. America	3	33	25
Philippines	112	95	83
Taiwan	75	N/A	223
Total	1,284	1,859	2,673

The news and views from Family members published in the *Grapevine* do not necessarily reflect WS policy. Suggested reading age for this publication is 14 years and up. Selected portions may be read by or with those younger at parents' or shepherds' discretion. All Family members in China use pen names for their contributions to the *Grapevine*. The *Grapevine Family*, c/o TRIAG, Aussergrütstrasse 2, CH – 6319 Allenwinden, Switzerland. E-mail: gv@wsfamily.com Copyright © 2004 by The Family

Importance of Staying Sweet

BY NINA (16, OF ELIMELECH AND MARIA), VENEZUELA

I was witnessing at a gas station when a car pulled up in front of me. The man in the car didn't seem very nice, but I figured it wouldn't hurt to try, so I went up to him and showed him our material. Before I had finished explaining what we were doing and about the CDs, he said that he wasn't interested as he didn't have any children, and besides that, he was an atheist. Well, in a way this discouraged me as there were other cars I could have gone to, and I thought I had lost some valuable time on this man. So I said goodbye with a smile and a "God bless you."

While I was walking away he called after me and asked, "What religion is this?" I answered that we simply believe in God and in loving others and in working with everyone no matter what their religion is. He answered, "How do you think you are going to Heaven? What if you get there and an angel asks you?—What will you say?" I told him that Jesus loves all of us, and in His mercy and love, He died for us and for our sins, so that by His Name we can be saved and have eternal life. I asked him, "Would you like to ask Jesus to come into your heart right now?" He was silent, and then I asked the others who were in the car if they would like to receive Jesus, and they were laughing. I didn't understand why, and one of the girls in the car said, "Honey, he is a pastor, and was only testing you!"

The man turned to me and said, "I liked your answer a lot, and also the way you asked me if I wanted to buy a CD was very nice." He then bought two CDs. It turned out he was the pastor of a church where we had done a show when I was younger. They remembered my mom, and were happy to know that I was one of the little girls who had sung at the church, and that I was still working with my parents as a missionary.

For all those who witness a lot at gas stations or office to office, when showing the material it pays to keep sweet, as you never know when you will need to be prepared for whatever question someone may ask you so you can witness to them about Jesus' love.