

What you do today will determine where you are tomorrow. Are you moving forward or standing still?

Dates of Feast 2005!

By Mama and Peter

Dear Family,

We love you so much, and are so proud of each one of you and the steps that you're taking to become the professionals and winning teams the Lord's called you to be. This is such an exciting time in the Family, and we're thankful for each of you, our mates and coworkers, and the ways in which you're rising to the challenges the Lord's presented in making us a stronger, more professional, and radical revolution.

Over the last few years the Lord has generally led us to set aside time during the month of January for our annual Feast; however, for 2005 the Lord has a little different timetable in mind. So the dates for Feast 2005 will be either February 24 to 26 or February 25 to 27. (As in past years, your RSs will be announcing what dates your area will hold the Feast.) A further, more detailed explanation about the Feast will be coming out in a GN, but for now we wanted to let you know the timing, so that you can plan accordingly, and reserve these dates for a Feast as a Home with our wonderful Husband.

We love you!

Much love and prayers in our fantastic Key Master, Mama and Peter

Family-Wide Fundraising Day in December for More WS Books

By the WS pubs team

Dear Family,

We love you and keep you in our daily prayers for your health, inspiration, and supply.

We hope that by the time you receive this notice, you will have already received the books that were printed in what we have termed "the first book printing," and that you and your children are enjoying them and benefiting from them to the full.

We have another batch of books ready to be printed. Judging by the responses we have received from the first book printing, we feel confident you'll want and enjoy the books slotted for the second book printing just as much.

These books are:

• Lifelines 25

(for 16 and up including the Loving Jesus Letters, Law of Love Letters, and other 16-and-up Letters)

• Lifelines 26

(begins with ML #3171, "Freedom Through United Prayer" till ML # 3245, "Witnessing and Follow-up Pitfalls")

• Lifelines 27

(begins with ML #3246, "Mama's Memos, No.10" to ML #3303, "Stay on the Wall!")

• Lifelines 28

(begins with ML #3304, "Understanding Prophecy, Part 2!" to ML #3360, "Teaching Children to Hear from the Lord")

Lifelines 29

(begins with ML #3361, "Coming Persecution?" to ML #3403, "How to Be On Guard Against the Selvegion")

The Techi Book

- DB 13
 - (condensations of Volume 4)
- Eve, Book 1 (issues 1–28)
- Kidland, Book 1 (issues 1–30)
- Heaven's Library, Volume 2
 (for 7 and up)
- Heaven's Library, Volume 3 (for 7 and up)
 - Statement Book (spiral bound for easy updating, containing all the revised Statements)
- HLB 027: The Surfer
- HLB 028: Anja
- HLB 029: Endgame
- HLB 030: Warriors at the Final Fray

We do have some funds which are left over from the last fundraising day held in 2002, but we don't have enough money to cover the costs of printing and shipping all the books listed above.

After receiving approval from the RSs, we would like to call for a Familywide fundraising day for the second book printing.

It is our prayer and hope that this time around, we will get these books to you much faster than the books that you received in return for the 2002 fundraising day. A few big differences this time around are:

• We are calling for a Family-wide fundraising day in December. We are announcing it in a publication, so everyone will be aware of the timing and will be able to hold the fundraising day during the same month. • We have some funds on hand to begin printing, so we don't have to wait for all the funds to come in before determining how many books we can afford to print.

• We will begin printing by faith, assuming that most every Home will want the new books and will want to contribute towards the fundraising day.

• We have already pioneered the distribution system and that will hope-fully go smoother and faster this time around.

We are suggesting this fundraising day for the Christmas season, as December is a month when income is good; so, it is our hope that it will not significantly inconvenience you or your Home.

As a Home, you have the option of devoting a full day to this endeavor, or a half-day, or just giving a donation if you're not able to devote a witnessing day to the endeavor.

As a Home, you can choose which day during the month of December you would like to put toward fundraising for the books, so long as by your January 25th TRF you have contributed a donation towards the book printing. Please designate your gift to "Book printing 2005," in "Unknown country" (by clicking the "other" button when selecting recipient country in the TeleTRF).

Unlike how we did it last time, where only the Homes who helped got books (which turned out to be rather complicated to manage), we will assume that *every* Home will help with a donation, *unless* you specifically write in to your office saying your Home doesn't want the books, and then you won't need to send a donation or participate in the fundraising day.

If all goes well, we anticipate that the books included in the second printing

Modifying Our Family Name

By Peter

[Editor's note: This article was posted on the MO site in August 2004, but we're printing it here for all those who didn't have a chance to see it on the site. The changes referred to in this announcement have already been implemented in our pubs.]

During the Summit/IB meetings in October 2003, the PR board suggested the name of the Family be modified slightly to help differentiate us from other similarly named groups. After much prayer and counsel, Mama and I have agreed to this change, and the Family will now be formally referred to as **The Family International**.

With Family Homes in over 100 countries around the world, one of the purposes for changing the Family name was to help our "parent" name reflect the broader, more international flavor that the Family really has, while also helping to distinguish between us and other System groups or organizations which have nothing to do with us, but who have "Family-associated" names, and with which in some parts of the world we have at times been confused.

Nevertheless, as Dad expresses in the prophecy at the end of this notice, though you are welcome to freely use our new name in your work and presentation of the Family, this does not mean that everyone needs to change to or operate expressly by this name alone. Homes, areas, and individuals can still use The Family, Family Missions, the Activated Family, or the other Family-based names you may presently be using. The intent is to help bring all our present Family names under the same umbrella.

In allowing variations of the Family name under the umbrella of The Family International, we're not suggesting that Homes or areas use names such as the "Jones Family," or the "Happy Family," or the "Family Clowns." Names such as these generally would not fall under the umbrella of The Family International. With some exceptions for established Family names that are currently well known and used, Family names are those that in some way refer to or indicate the Family's should reach you by April or May of 2005. Please pray for the printing and shipping of these books, and we will be praying that your fundraising day goes very well. Thank you so much for helping.

We are very happy to be able to provide each Home and family with enduring records of our pubs, and we will continue to work towards putting together more books. It is our goal to send out new books once every year or two. Thank you very much for your contributions.

Love, Your WS pubs team

mission or ministries of reaching and helping others, either in the name or in the accompanying motto or subtitle on your letterhead.

As you may soon notice, there will now be slight changes in the pubs to include this; for some simply a change in the copyright line, for others it'll be more pronounced, and the pub's masthead will be changed or adjusted to include the new name.

Here are excerpts of what Dad had to say when we asked for counsel concerning this change:

(Dad:) The name "The Family International" on the one hand doesn't change things much at all on the Home front. Some areas are already using that very name, because they can't present themselves solely as "The Family," and other areas are using a number of other variations of the Family name-things such as Family Missions, or the Activated Family, or the Africa Family, and on and on. And still other areas are fine with using "The Family" as it is at present. The beauty of the name change is that those names and usages can remain the same if you change the formal umbrella name of the Family to the Family International.

What the Family International does for you is that it sets you a bit more apart from the other "families" that aren't you. The change is enough of a difference to formally set you a little more apart, so as to avoid initial confusion or questions, but not so different that it changes all that much for the Family at large. The Family is the Family, and should stay the Family, but sometimes the initial perception of the Family to the outside is to question what kind of family are you. They are sometimes not at first sure whether the Family has to do with family planning, or is one of many other registered family-associated groups concerned with health and parenting, or in some cases may be part of the Mafia or even the Charles Manson family, and this would help make the distinctions clear.

Homes worldwide could and should still use the Family name in any of its many and already used variations, as many have been doing, to operate under the name of the Family. All of these variations are part of the greater umbrella of the worldwide Family—or the Family International. By expanding the official name of the Family to the Family International and retaining allowance for these variations on the same name, the inference becomes clearer that the Family International is the parent organization and in a world sense unites the many local Family Missions and Activated Family chapters.

Consider, too, that it's coming time, and already is in many respects, for the Family to step more fully onto the international stage taking on a growing worldwide presence and role. This is what the Lord has been talking about and preparing the Family for, for quite a while, and a name such as the Family International sends a clear signal of you and your growing presence in the world. It's what you are becoming increasingly more of—The Family International. (*End* of message.)

We love you and are very thankful for your love and faithfulness to the Lord and His work as you command our Husband, the Keeper of the keys, to work on your behalf through the power that He readily and freely gives you.

Love, Peter

BACKTRACKING...

Correction in "God's Trampolines" (ML #3508, GN 1098)

On page 8, in the last sentence of paragraph 47, it says "Remodeling is when you strip the house of everything that isn't essential to the structure, or that is faulty or damaged, and you rebuild and replace it."

The text should say "*Restructuring*" instead of "*Remodeling*": "Restructuring is when you strip the house of everything that isn't essential to the structure, or that is faulty or damaged, and you rebuild and replace it."

Sorry about that!

Surf, Sand, and Salvation

BY SASKIA (OF DAWEI), TAIWAN

It was the night of August 14th, 2004. A steady stream of weekend vacationers from every corner of Taiwan poured onto one of Kenting's most popular beaches. Wannabe surfer types and their tanned girlfriends mingled with families and a dominating sea of aimless young people. For some the beach was a retreat from the heavily commercial town with its bars and tourist joints jostling for the attention of the crowds. Many sat around in groups along the wall behind the beach, drinking beer and doing nothing in particular. It seemed just another balmy night in this tropical setting, with nothing out of the ordinary beyond the beautifully clear moon rising over the lulling ocean. No one was prepared for what was about to happen.

Suddenly, it seemed, out of nowhere, the beach was hit with a wave of energy. It arrived in the form of about fifty young people making their way onto the beach with a purpose in their steps that belied the casual dress and beach slippers they wore. As many of them were foreigners speaking in English, it was attention-grabbing enough, but these were obviously not English teachers looking for a quick game of volleyball or checking out the late evening surf! About seven of them were carrying guitars. There was a girl with a tambourine.

In a matter of minutes, this curious group had morphed into a giant circle, holding hands. They seemed to be praying. Then came the joyful noise. The guitarists launched into a lively song, strumming energetically and lifting their voices above the din of the beach. The rest of the young people joined in and soon they were dancing wildly. They linked arms, jumped up and down, twirled, and spun around. The onlookers were mesmerized.

As if this wasn't enough to make for a pretty unusual sight on any Taiwan beach, the happy mass of people began to expand. At first it wasn't clear where all the extra people were coming from, but it soon became evident to the cool surfies and other loafers that their own friends were being ripped off right under their noses and carried away into the giant melee of music and fun. The foreigners and their friends started inviting anyone and everyone



Over a hundred young people singing and dancing at a beach in Kenting. What an extraordinary sight!



to join them. Some accepted the invitation with enthusiasm. Others protested shyly. But within minutes everything else was forgotten, and soon people were dancing along, holding hands, smiling, and laughing. As the time whisked past in a blur of high spirits, the expansion continued until there were more than a hundred people participating. Those who didn't get to dance and sing along had a pretty good time watching.

But there was a question hanging in the air. Why *were* these people dancing? And what were they singing about? They might have just been having fun, but what made them want to include everybody else on the beach? It wasn't long before these questions found their answers in the form of colorful tracts, which the freespirited young people began passing out right and left.



The attractive cartoons featured on the tracts were both humorous and meaningful. They conveyed thoughts on the meaning and purpose of life, social issues and other topics of interest to teens and twenty-something-year-olds. And more importantly, each extended an invitation to the recipient to reach out and accept a little of God's love into their lives. The purpose of all this dancing and the smiling faces-in fact, the reason behind it all was that these young people knew Jesus in a personal way. He had enriched their lives and filled them with joy, and they wanted to share this with others. Through the effort of these young people, on a very extraordinary night in Kenting, which no one who attended will soon forget, eighty formerly aimless beachgoers had made a decision to accept Jesus into their lives!

brief ad

In case you haven't seen it yet, you can find a new Post-It GN on the MO site, entitled: "Mama's Visit to Central America" (Post-It GN #14). (You can find this GN under the "Pubs" section of the MO site.) You'll want to check it out!

In addition to this, you'll also find reactions from some of the young people Mama was able to meet on this visit. These can be found on the MO site at: http://www.familymembers.com/overflow/pubs_overflow/article.php3?tntid=37.

WS Personnel Want Ad

Dear Family,

Lots of love and many warm greetings come your way with this note. We pray that you're having a wonderful year, full of the Lord's joy and blessings through the power of His love and the keys of the Kingdom.

The reason we're writing is to let you know that we have some urgent, specific needs for new personnel. During this unprecedented time of restructuring, our WS Homes and members have been doing all we can to stretch and grow right along with the rest of you. Over the past months, we've been making some pretty major changes in our modes of operation, and we're determined-as we're sure you are-to do all we can to accomplish the great tasks our Husband is calling us all to. But in order to keep up and better meet the ever-growing needs of you, our wonderful Family, we desperately need more help.

Life in WS is a specialized calling, and it's not for everyone, but we trust that as you read this ad, the Lord will be speaking to the hearts of those of you who are needed, and that you will take the plunge and pray about whether it's His will for you to apply. Even if the Lord isn't calling you personally, we greatly appreciate your prayers for us, for the specific personnel that will help WS to become all that is needed in order to meet the needs of the Family of the future.

Following is a brief list of some of the personnel that are needed in WS at this time:

→ Childcare helpers and Teachers: Men and women who feel called to teach and train and win the hearts of our children, and to inspire them to want to give their lives to Jesus.

→ Handymen:

Each of our units is different, and each has specific needs regarding handymen and/or vehicle repair.

→ Secretaries:

More than one of our units need people with secretarial skills, including the FED/ CP IBCs and the Web team.

→ Pubs / Text people:

People who have experience and/or the aptitude to work on any of the various pubs. The most important need for a text person is a clear channel, and the willingness to hear from the Lord about everything. Editing skills are of course very helpful.

→ Computer programmers:

At least three of our WS units are in urgent need of programmers for the various teams based in their Homes, including the GP pubs team, and also the FED/CP team. One of the computer teams wrote this explanation of what kind of person is needed: "We need people with experience in, or the aptitude to learn the following: C/C++: Java; Net Programming; Shell Scripting and System Integration; Cross Platform (i.e.: Linux/Windows) Development; Web Application Development; XML and Document Systems Related Work.

"Experience in these areas is a plus, but when it comes down to it, all you need is programming aptitude as well as a desire and ability to learn. If you're familiar with Linux and Unix, or have done some system administration, then that's even better. You'd be working in a small development team, in order to come up with various programs, and solutions together with others. We've got many projects going, ranging from distributed/online applications, network security systems, to open source development, all of which need help. We're working on some pretty cutting-edge stuff, so if you have a burden and feel that you'd be able to help, don't hesitate to write in."

→ Computer technicians:

This position requires general troubleshooting skills, along with some hardware knowledge, as in building computers from parts, and diagnosing hardware and software problems, etc. Networking skills are a plus, and any scripting or programming skills would also be very useful. You'd be working with others in a team, as well as with the users themselves, so you'd have to have the gift of helps, and a desire to serve. Much of this job involves routine maintenance of servers and workstations, so attention to detail and the ability to not get bored with the mundane is important.

→ Layout people:

You don't need to be an artist to do layout, but you do need to be artistically creative in some way. You'd need to be able to take an idea or a concept and translate that into something visual, something that will help to paint the picture of what the Lord is saying through His Words. Generally someone who thinks in pictures, or who can easily visualize an idea or concept in their head, will have a certain measure of creative talent. You don't necessarily need to be well versed in the programs we use, but you would need some computer knowledge and aptitude, and be willing to tackle and learn the technical aspects. If you have samples of things you've done along these lines, it would be helpful to send them in.

Most of the above positions involve a lot of very mundane and repetitive work, without much variety, and with basically no public recognition for what you do. So in order to remain happy and fulfilled, you'd have to be willing to put forth the spiritual effort needed to keep the vision for what your behind-the-scenes work is helping to accomplish, and to stay close to the Lord by obeying the Word, striving to hear from the Lord about even the most routine aspects of your life and ministry, and determine not to allow negative, worldly influences to get in and mar your channel.

If you strongly feel that the Lord is laying it on your heart to apply to WS, but you don't think you could fill any of these exact positions, please don't be afraid to write in anyway. Recently one young man applied, saying that he probably didn't have any of the gifts or talents or training that WS needed, when in reality, he was exactly what one of our Homes had been needing for a very long time. So, please take it seriously, stop and consider it, and of course pray about it, and if the Lord confirms to you that it's His will for you to apply, then please do so without delay.

Along with asking for more help, we also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank each of you who have at one time or another, stepped out by faith and sent in an application. We've tried to get back to each one of you as soon as we could with an answer, and we hope we haven't missed anyone, but if at any time we failed to send you a response, it was definitely an oversight, and we're very sorry. We know it's not an easy thing to apply, and we admire and appreciate you who have been willing and have had the courage to do it.

Even if, for whatever reasons, we couldn't bring you at that time, we've loved hearing from you and getting to know you. Each of you is very special to the Lord, and to us too, and you always will be. We love and pray for you and for your Homes, and keep you very close to our hearts. And you never know when we might need to call on your help. Just recently, for instance, the Lord led us to bring to WS someone who had first applied over four years ago.

It's often very difficult for us to be able to fully explain the reasons why we can't bring someone to WS, especially via a long distance note. If you're someone who has applied to WS in the past, and you received a note explaining that we couldn't take you, and it was never clear to you why, you're probably wondering why we're now sending out yet another want ad asking for more personnel. If that's the case, we pray the following will help.

(Excerpt of letter to a recent applicant:) As you can probably guess, there are many, many factors to consider when praying about bringing someone to WS. Each unit, in each location, faces myriad challenges in regards to forming a winning team and Home. Not only does each unit need to be able to fill the various personnel needs of the Home itself, but they must also have the right amount and mix of personnel in order to make sure that each department and team based in that Home can effectively fulfill its own specific mandates to the Family.

Then, not only is each department faced with the challenge of finding the right mix of personnel, but before we can bring in the people they need, the Home must of course have enough room for those new personnel to be able to live and work efficiently. Finding adequate housing for each WS unit is always a big challenge, and an important prayer request—just as it is for other Homes and offices.

Another factor is that each of our Homes must deal with the specific visa requirements and restrictions of the particular country they're based in at the time. In today's world, with things becoming tighter and many governments becoming stricter, this is becoming an increasingly bigger challenge for each of our units. We know that these situations aren't unique to WS. Many other Homes and offices the world over are regularly faced with similar challenges, and more. These are just a few of the many facets that have to be taken into account when considering new personnel. But not only do we have to think about our *own* needs, and the needs of each of the various WS departments and teams and Homes, we also must take into account the needs of the person who is applying, the needs of their children, if they have children, and the needs of the field they would be leaving as well, all of which are of course just as important to us as our own needs.

There have been many times when we've wanted to bring someone to WS, but when prayerfully considering them, the Lord showed that regardless of how much we needed and wanted them, and regardless of how much they wanted or were willing to come to WS, it just wasn't His highest will, at least not at that time. In some cases, even though they would have been a tremendous blessing in WS and a great addition to any of our Homes, it just wouldn't have been a wise investment to have them here behind the scenes, when their specific gifts, training and experience, or perhaps their language skills, background or nationality made them exceptionally needed as a witness and strong pillar on the field.

Something people often write and ask is whether or not we accept families in WS. The answer to that is of course yes, if it's the Lord's will, and the timing and all the conditions are right. We love families, and we love children. But again, there are many factors to take into account, and when children are involved, the needs of those children are paramount. As you can probably imagine, because of our unique situation and the need to guard our security, it can be quite a challenge to give our children the experiences and opportunities most children want and need, especially once they reach a certain age.

When discussing and praying about all these factors, and others as well, it can sometimes seem like a gigantic puzzle, and very difficult to know what to do. We're very thankful that our wonderful Husband is able to see the big picture, and then reveal His will to us! He's the expert at putting all the pieces of the puzzle together in just the right place, and at just the right time. It's His puzzle after all, His chess game, and we're all His chess pieces. He knows where each of us is needed, and what will be best in the future-not only for each WS unit and the work, but also for each Family member (including you)-much more than we do.

We love you very much, and pray that the Lord will open just the right doors of

service for you. You're in our precious Husband's strong and loving arms, close to His heart of love, and that's a very special place to be!! So fight to stay there. As He promised in a recent message, "My brides who hold to the Word, use the keys, and maintain a trusting spirit will remain in a protective bubble that will keep each one safe, well cared for, and in My perfect will during this transition into the era of obedience, the restructuring of the Family, and the resultant changes. I hold each one in the palm of My hand, and will lovingly care for each of My children. I have a place of service and blessing for all who give their hearts and lives to Me, and this restructuring will not change that. I will care for and provide a blessed place of service for all My children" ("Forward, Always Forward!" ML #3479:18). (End of excerpts of letter.)

* * *

Dear Family, we hope the above explanation doesn't discourage any of you from applying. We just wanted to share it with you so that those of you who we've not been able to bring would be assured that it wasn't at all because of you or anything personal. You might have met nearly all the conditions just perfectly, and been just the kind of person we would have loved to have, but because of perhaps just one of the above factors, or others which we weren't able to explain, it wasn't the Lord's time or will.

If after reading this and praying about it, the Lord gives you the go-ahead to write in, please send your letter of application, with a brief explanation about yourself and your experience, to Stephanie, at **questions@wsfamily.com**.

And thanks to all of you for keeping us and our needs in your daily prayers, just as we pray for you and your needs. The Lord told us to write and explain our needs for personnel in faith, knowing that where He guides, He will always provide, so thanks for praying for us-not only for the personnel that we desperately need, but also, as we explained above, for adequate housing. "The keys open the full floodlights of Heaven upon you and your loved ones and your needs, whatever you claim them for. And nothing can withstand the floodlights of the love of Heaven."

Much love and prayers, Stephanie (for the WS shepherds)

With Him on the Mountain



BY SIMON AND VICKY (SW EUROPE CGO BOARD), ROME, ITALY

The Lord laid the desire on our hearts to organize a "sheep retreat" for all the Homes in our area. During one of our CGO board meetings, after confirming it with the Lord, we decided to have a retreat. We could see that the work in Italy had grown considerably, and we needed something of the sort to help us all unite around the vision of feeding His sheep.

Beside our Homes' regular Sunday Church of Love and weekly 12 Foundation Stones Bible studies, in the last few years we had also personally been organizing various events with large gatherings of our sheep, such as the Christmas, New Year, and Easter celebrations. These were mostly one-day events with our Home's close friends and sheep. So this was the first time that we were going to organize a weekend-long sheep retreat for all the Homes in the central-southern area, and we felt quite incapable and inadequate.

The Lord encouraged us right away, as the first place He led us to check into had all the requisites that we were looking for and perfectly suited our needs. It was in a beautiful location (only 20 minutes from our Home), right in the center of Italy, which made it easily reachable for most of the sheep scattered throughout the area. So during a national CGO meeting (attended by delegates of all FD/FM Homes in Italy) we asked for volunteers for the retreat committee.

We distributed amongst ourselves different responsibilities, starting from a color invitation brochure containing all the information of the Retreat (dates, program, location, pictures of the place, prices, etc.). This was then sent to all the invited sheep. It was a blessing to be able to receive all our instructions directly from the Lord. We also want to thank our precious Family in Brazil for sharing their lessons and experience in the FSMs on organizing these types of retreats. Their testimonies have been a tremendous help and have made it easy for us.

Our retreat lasted a weekend, with everyone arriving before dinner on Friday, and departing on Sunday after the afternoon meeting. The place we rented took care of our full board and lodging (three meals included) for a very reasonable price. That was a blessing, as we were then able to concentrate on the spiritual side of things.

The retreat was organized with two classes each day, plus an evening activity. These were led by different brethren and composed mostly of Word, songs, skits, and testimonies. The subjects covered were:

- Getting closer to Jesus, the true Friend Who you can count on in times of need. (Touching on praise, prayer, prophecy, obedience, and the importance of the Word, new and old.)
- 2) Being a positive and dynamic influence for the world around you. A challenge to witness and win souls, with the help of the *Contatto* (Italian *Activated*) mags and program.
- 3) Finding your place amongst the great Family of God in the world. Introducing the Family and how it has been changing the world during the last 35 years.
- Being aware of the times that we are living in and God's plan for us as a body. (Touching on the Endtime and our role as Endtime witnesses.)

On Friday evening, we held an inspiration to give everyone a chance to get

-1st Italian Contatto Retreat



acquainted with each other. Most people arrived at different times, and everyone seemed a bit shy at first, not knowing what to expect. Some of us tried to break the ice by singing on stage, but with little participation from the public. We desperately prayed for the Lord's intervention and afterwards the spirit totally changed! People began introducing themselves, hugging each other, and everyone joined in the singing! From then on it was a total escalation of the spirit of love and happiness!

On Saturday evening we had planned a Loving Jesus night, but the Lord had a different plan. Different ones got on stage to share their testimonies, with beautiful, moving, touching stories that brought each one closer together. Some even shared songs that they wrote to the Lord. We praised, we danced, we sang, we cried. The spirit was so heavy that it was difficult to leave the room and go to sleep that night.

The fellowship continued especially at meal times when, contrary to the first day when most people were just sitting with those they knew, now everyone was mixing freely to be able to get to know others better.

The most difficult part was the last day, when it came time to leave. As it says in Psalm 133: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for the brethren to dwell together in unity." We all had a little taste of Heaven and a renewed vision to bring many others to Him, to help our national church to grow and meet again with many more converts next time! When? As soon as possible! Everybody was so excited and it meant so much to each one, as their lives in the System are not easy and they have to fight on many fronts. But now they had a new strength and realization of being part of a larger Family, brothers and sisters who will pray for them and stand by their side in times of need.

The ball started rolling and, as a snowball, we believe that it will grow bigger and bigger! Our retreat was attended by 75 people, although this didn't include all the Homes in Italy. We feel that this is just the beginning of a big explosion of Active members that will set this country on fire and reap the last large harvest before night falls!

Here are some of the reactions from the attendees:

Max: The atmosphere created was simply fantastic! Friendship, love, happiness are some of the virtues that Jesus left to us to be able to live in this world attacked by evil. It's our duty to share it with others, so there will always be more of us to witness the Words of our Lord. Thank you from the heart of a shy friend for this beautiful experience.

Lucia: Thank You, Lord for giving me these two days of love and friendship with true brethren. I inhaled Your perfume infused with a unique essence that only those Who know You can smell.

Elisa: You could breathe the air of love and brotherhood. We all had the same loving thought, solid, united. Jesus is growing in us and changing us for the better. God bless you all! I love you.

Maria: These days have given me lots of happiness, being together with brothers and sisters, new and old. I felt my soul enriched. It was a beautiful experience to live all together and to talk of Jesus. It was a natural light and I feel His love now and forever.

Anna: I felt so alive in my heart! Listening to the testimonies, His Spirit and closeness filled my heart with joy. It was like being able to touch Him. And now, filled with His love, I will go back home to share this love with others. Thank You, Jesus, for calling me.

Michele: I feel greatly blessed to have been able to spend these two days of meeting with special brethren like you! In these days I found the answers that I was searching for. The love of Jesus is wonderful and I feel compelled to bring the love that He gave me to all the people that He will lead me to.

Attendee: "Do you believe in miracles?" If anyone would have asked me this question just a while ago, I would not have been able to answer sincerely. But today I can answer with absolute conviction, "Yes!" The greatest of all miracles for me is to have found new confidence and belief that changes are possible with Jesus' help. To know that with Him all things are possible, and that the greatest strength we have is to surrender to His love.



TextAloud to the Rescue

Ever have a growing list of GNs, Letters, and pubs that you want to reread and study over, yet just don't seem to get enough time for? I sure have. One of my prayer requests has been for some good, practical solutions. And prayer has sure changed things for me!

Over the past couple of months, I had heard quite a few accolades for using some of the text reader programs such as TextAloud. I thought I had already tried that, and not only "been there and done that," but "been there, done that, and didn't like it." Ha! And then one day when praying about what to read, the Lord encouraged me to try it again, this time not only listening to the program read the text aloud, but to also read along at the same time. I have to admit, it does take a little bit to get the hang of it and get used to the voices, but now I'm sold on it! Here are some of the benefits for it that I've found so far:

• Since the program reads at a steady pace, I can set the reading at a pace I can keep up with. This way it's consistent, making for good, steady progress. (If I want to read a bit slower, or meditate for a moment on a certain point, the program can be paused and I can read over the text before continuing on.) As you get used to it, or according to the type of text you are reading, you can speed up or slow down the reading. **12 FOUNDATION STONES TEACHERS' TIP**

By the International CGO board

12 Foundation Stones Songbook—Highlighted Features

The 12 Foundation Stones Songbook is part of the Teacher's Supplement, and its latest addition. The song sheets are organized by category, such as songs on "Love," "Praise," "Witnessing," etc., as referred to throughout the classes themselves. The song sheets collection comes in two versions—one with chords and one without.

A key feature is the overall song listing, which includes the title of the song and alongside it the original tape/ CD where the songs can be found. This might especially prove helpful in situations where there isn't a musician available—you can just play the song from the tape or CD. Or, musicians who aren't familiar with the song can refer to the recording to learn it.

[The 12 FS songbook can be downloaded from the MO site at this link: http://www.familymembers. com/pubspages/search.php3? searchpub=29.]

Ad: Charter Q&As on the MO site

If you haven't had a chance to read over the Charter Q&As posted on the MO site during the renewal, you may be interested in going over them, in case they're questions you've had. You can find them at: http://www. familymembers.com/announcements/ index.php3?anid=70. We love you!

By Elise, Chile

• Hearing the text read while reading along at the same time helps my concentration. I don't daydream as easily, nor am I so easily distracted, as I am many times when reading on my own, and thus I get a lot out of what I read.

• I was pleasantly surprised to see that I could read and study through two or three times more than I had previously been able to in the same amount of time.

Another idea for Word time is to download the condo versions of the GNs from the MO site and use these for study, reading along with the TextAloud program, if you so desire.

activated news

Think Activated! By the Delhi Activated Home, India

Don't ask us to explain this scientifically. We still haven't quite figured out how this works, but whenever we push Activated. the blessings come in and when we don't, they don't. We have found that it's really important to have an Activated goal each month-because God blesses Activated-consciousness. The months we have had high Activated goals are the months when we have done well financially and have had more than enough. We never go out the door without Activated mags and subscription cards. And if we are on the lookout for them, the sheep pop up!

Activated is the Answer!

By Miracle Pillar, Europe We recently followed-up on one of our Activated members who has been receiving the Activated mags for about six months. Normally she is so busy (we often meet at her work) that she doesn't have much time to talk with us. She confessed that she had not been taking time to read the Word, and admitted that she was stressed out, could not sleep at night, and when she finally did fall asleep, she would have terrible nightmares. She was at the end of her rope. We suggested she read the Activated issue containing the article on the mind. We had given that one to her on our last visit, but she had been too busy to read it. We then read part of it with her right there, and she was so amazed at how fitting it was, and begged us to leave another issue of Activated with her

She confided in us how she had had an operation a few months ago that required a general anesthetic,

and after the operation the doctors found out that she had been pregnant, but because of the anesthetic her baby died. That was the real reason for her depression, as she blamed herself for the death of her baby. It was almost like the Devil was torturing her constantly with this condemnation and she had no rest. We counseled her to seriously take time to read her Activated mags, as they were made to help people who were having those kinds of problems. We then gave her a Fear Not CD, and told her to listen to it at night before going to bed, and not to think or especially worry about work. When we saw her again two days later, she said she was having no further problem with her sleep as she had found sweet peace in the arms of Jesus!

Activating Botswana with the spirit of Livingstone

By the Botswana Home, Botswana

We are privileged and honored to be in the best Family in the whole wide world! And to top it off we are based in Botswana, where Livingstone made a major impact with Christianity. This is where Livingstone built the first water irrigation system in Botswana, built the first school in Botswana, converted Chief Sechele to Christianity; translated the Bible into Setswana (Setswana is purportedly the first African language the Bible was translated in), discovered Lake Ingami, had a hospital named after him, and while pioneering Botswana discovered diamonds but gave them up for greater riches that he found in Jesus. This is the country where he lost his daughter and buried her right here in Kolobeng, which is practically on our door step. Livingstone certainly made an impact here, and we intend to continue to activate this land, by the grace of God.

The Family has been here for eight years, setting up a lasting work and getting the job done-do or die, activate or bust! At first our Home was slow in catching the Activated vision. You all know the normal excuses about how it can't be done. Well, this testimony is not about how it can't be done, but rather how it can be done and how the Lord is doing it. Things started to turn around after the Activated meetings were held in Durban, South Africa. We all realized that if our Home did not get on board with the Activated push, we would be left behind. This realization didn't occur overnight but after taking it to the Lord He showed us that Activated is like "brushing vour teeth." You have to do it daily, make it a consistent habit and not just something you do when you get around to it. We are a witnessing Home and do it every day-365 days a vear!

We are all average people with our fair share of problems. We have our fair share of obstacles to overcome. namely trying to obtain longterm visas, overcoming the it-can't-be-done attitude, lack of proper housing, lack of personnel, sickness, and the list goes on. (And if none of that gets to you then rest assured that the heat will! Botswana has extreme temperatures and at times it gets as high as 48°C!) We desperately got on our prayer bones and decided what to do, how to do it, and that we'd get on with it

Activated is not a financial thing where you see loads and loads of finances coming in. Rather it's good old-fashioned hard work. The one thing we've seen repeatedly is when we are fully behind the Activated vision the blessings come in so many unexpected ways. Gifts come in from the most unexpected sources. People call out of the blue to ask how they can help. Outreach goes better. The Lord leads us to new people, new pledges are cultivated, provisioning is on the up and up, and everything runs much smoother. The Lord keeps us healthy and under His protection. The Home here distributes 5,000 Activated mags a month, and the response has been outstanding. We do not lack in any way and we see miracles every day!

We have a sign at the entrance of our Home. which says: "The Family ... Activating the World!" One company donated the signs, which we've put on all the vehicles and our two front doors. This is a tremendous testimony and witness as we continue to make Activated and The Family International household names. When the Family vehicle is in town, people know that the "Activated Team" is in town. We also man a table at the largest shopping mall, which is called Game City. Half a million people pass through each month, and the amount of tools we get out is absolutely amazing.

We came to Botswana with only US\$6 in our pockets, a pregnant wife, one toddler, no place to stay, crazy faith, and the spirit of David. But hey, God told us to come and we obeyed and have not regretted it one bit. Today the team here has covered 600,000 kilometers of African soil spreading Activated and the words of David. We've distributed 25,000 CD cards, 300,000 posters, 15,000 videos, 25,000 Activated mags, 10,000 Activated books, 10,000 Mottos for Success desktop calendars. and 50,000 tracts. Obstacles and difficulties will always be present, but so what? It's a

battle and a fight every day, but the blessings are ever so sweet. "He that saveth his life shall lose it, but he that loses his life for My sake shall save it."

We are enjoying the challenges the Lord sends us every day. They grow us up and make us better disciples.

Federal Bank goes ... *Conéctate*

By Jonathan, Chile It all started when one

of the women who works at the local Federal Bank subscribed to Conéctate. She was working at the office level and started promoting Conéctate in the bank. Soon she began bringing others to our Conéctate meetings. First she invited Ana. who works as a cashier. After Ana got saved and subscribed, her life started to change. Then she began to invite other women to the meetings and soon five people who worked

at this bank—including a supervisor—subscribed to *Conéctate*. They just love the magazines!

The Lord began to do tremendous miracles for each one as well. For example, one woman prayed for a new job, as her salary at the bank was very low. In a few days, she landed a new job, with more benefits and a higher salary! Another woman was very discouraged, because she had been promised a raise in her salary, but never received it. One night during our weekly meetings we prayed together, claiming the keys that she would receive this raise as soon as possible. The very next day at noon she called to tell us that her bank account reflected her new salary with a 15% raise!

All of them are seeing the power of the keys in action in their lives. In total there are five *Conéctate* subscribers from that bank—and more to come, Lord willing!

"letters to the editor"

Re: "Faith for the Future" (ML #3487, GN 1081)

Tender Joy, Pakistan: This GN came very much at the right time—when I needed it the most! We have had a lot of changes recently with moving to a new city and all that that entails (just finding a suitable house took over two months!). We were all learning to work with a completely new team, there were forsakings of different kinds, adjusting to a new city, meeting new sheep to follow up on, taking on new ministries (one being taking care of a Deaf Center), struggling with the local language, learning sign language, and the list can go on for quite a bit more.

I guess I was getting quite tired both physically and spiritually (as I am not getting any younger, ha!). For me when there are seemingly mountains of urgent matters to take care of, it takes a determined effort to really stop, rest in the Lord, and trust in Him! LHM, but I easily give in to that urge to want to take care of this and that matter right now. And when that's done then I will take some Word time. But "then" doesn't often come along, because until the day

Jesus comes back there will *always* be "urgent matters" to take care of.

To make a long story short, I allowed myself to get into the trap of working nearly non-stop, not really trusting that the Lord could take care of those very things while I had some quiet infilling of the Word. The result, of course, was that I got dog-tired, dry in the spirit, snappy, and business-like with the brethren I live with. (I later apologized to them for my unacceptable behavior.)

Thank the Lord for this GN that opened my eyes to how off track I was. I am rereading it slowly, over and over, so I can absorb it into my every fiber. I feel that every paragraph speaks directly to my heart and refills my empty "spiritual tank" with inspiration, encouragement, strength, and faith for the future. I am so very thankful for the Word, as when I read it slowly, letting it be absorbed, it's such an enormous strength and help. You feel your spiritual batteries are getting recharged and you feel stronger to "go on the road of the Lord's service" once again, with your engine tuned up, oiled, no more black "polluting gas" spouting out (in the form of negativity, worries, etc.). I am sure there will be more battles along this line, but at least I now have this experience/lesson under my belt.

Lord willing, I will be more aware of this temptation to work in the energy of my own strength and consequently more on guard against it, more diligently guarding my thoughts and Word time.

Something that has helped me to have more undisturbed prayer and Word time is writing things down that need to be done right when I think of them. Otherwise they pop up and bug me when I'm trying to concentrate on the Lord, and I get worried that I will forget what should be done. But as soon as the points are on paper, I know I will remember to do them later.

I am praying that I have learned and will remember to live this lesson, to have "peace in the midst of storm—peace which passeth all understanding."

Re: "Keep the Faith" (ML #3459, GN 1044)

Victoria, Brazil: I wanted to share a little testimony that really boosted my faith in prophecy and the spirit world. I'm always amazed

by the little things the Lord does for us out of love to give us more faith in Him and His Word. About one year ago we had a city council meeting in our city, Sao Paulo. We got together to discuss and pray about different areas of improvement that needed to be made. During the meeting we heard from the Lord on the particular problem we were having and asked Him for the solution. The Lord showed us a demon that was fighting us in the spirit world, and He gave someone the name "Obtherion." I remember the name so clearly because I even wrote it down in my notebook.

At the time I didn't have 100% faith in the fact that we might have had that particular demon fighting us, after all it wasn't in a GN or anything like that. I didn't doubt the fact that it might have been true, but I also didn't put much thought or prayer into it either. The amazing thing is that when that GN came out, there it was! The Lord had given the name of that same demon to someone else too and confirmed it in prophecy. That gave me a lot more faith to really believe what the Lord shows me personally in prophecy and to fight more in the spirit.

happenings

"Dare to Be Different"

—A play done by the young people in Bangalore



By Beth (SGA, of Tim), Bangalore, India

Last year, 12 teens, YAs, and SGAs formed a CVC group to get the Christian Counseling Certificate. We met every week to read together and we did our homework during the week. We also had a couple guest speakers come to teach us about putting together classes and how to plan a youth meeting. Towards the end of the year we wanted to get experience in planning and holding an Activated event and so we called on the expertise of SGAs Johnny, Michelle, and Tim. We divided all the responsibilities up for the event such as Lights and Sound, Performance and Play, Invitations and Activated, Sponsorship, Food and Drinks. All of us were part of one or more groups and we prayed and planned together over a couple of months. Once the play was written, we got into the practice—two weeks of practice—and it was certainly worth it all.

We had teams out every day selling tickets at young people hangouts. We sold over 600 tickets. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and witness to so many people. Something else that was neat was that we got many of our active members involved in it as well, helping us sell tickets and taking part in the play and music. We all learned so much through it and got some good credits towards our CVC certificate.

The play was a "life after death" experience of this young Indian man who forgot about making a difference in the world for the good of others and got into the money making madness of the society. Thanks to Mr. Jac Buckly who pulls him into it. He ends up in sadness and heartbreak after a near-death experience. Through the help of a close friend, he accepts Jesus and love into his life and finds true happiness like never before.

All of the people who came were so impressed with the play and were also very touched by the witness of it. Thanks to all those who made it possible, each Home and the many individuals in Bangalore who helped out with it!

Affliction with a purpose

By Maggie B. (SGA), Croatia

One month I had been sick for 10 days, and since this is not my usual state (I'm used to running around and a lot of feverish activity), this was a real lessonlearning time for me. Besides experiencing the Lord's healing power, I was able to stop and read all the GNs on "Comfort in Affliction," "Heavenly Thought Power," "Full Possession," and others which helped me to realize what the Lord's been trying to tell me for a long time: work done in the flesh just doesn't do the subject justice. Instead, He's been teaching me to lie in His arms, love Him, and learn to depend on Him in all I do. Every word in the "Comfort in Affliction" GNs seemed like it was written just for me. Even though the Lord is always telling me

to ask Him everything, to do things in His Spirit instead of in my own strength, etc., and I knew the principle in theory, it was really hard to put it into practice. So He allowed me to get sick, and made sure I wasn't well until I finally remembered to call and depend on Him consistently.

I believe when you're young, many times you think you're invincible; there is so much to do and you just want to run around and do it all without thinking or praying about it much. So sometimes the Lord has to teach us young people by afflicting us, or by some unconventional means, to convince us that we're not self-sufficient, and that in fact there is nothing we can do without Him.

Now I realize why those of the older generation seem so close to Jesus. They've been learning to yield to Him most of their lives. Through all of life's struggles they come to depend only on Him. Instead, for us young ones, many times though we know the theory, and we even understand it with our minds, it's difficult to really grasp it, until we've been through the fire ourselves.

All this to say, during those ten days of affliction I learned many valuable lessons, even though I couldn't work and accomplish all that I usually do; I guess that's greater in the Lord's eyes!

A clean bill of health

By Lisa, China

I was on my way to give a class at the house of one of our Activated readers, Melissa, and I arrived at her door at the same time as her mother and father. The mother was seeking comfort from Melissa, as she was in pain and had just been diagnosed that day as having serious liver trouble, possibly cancer. Melissa asked me to pray for her mom right there on the spot, so we had a little impromptu healing class, and we laid hands on Melissa's mother in the power of the keys.

Over the weekend we gave her articles on healing to boost her faith. Shortly thereafter, Melissa's mother went for another medical examination, and the doctors couldn't find a trace of anything—she had a clean bill of health!

Melissa said, "Wow! The Family really has power!" Her doubting sister-inlaw didn't believe it, so she arranged for Melissa's mother to have another check up with a "professional." But he also gave her a clean bill of health and asked her not to come back to check again. Our sweet Lover and Physician is amazing!

–Responses to "Issues, Part 17" (ML #3480)

Great minds and great faith!

Marc and Claire, USA: In our ministry of representing the Family to the public, we often find ourselves interacting with some of society's "great minds," as well as meeting people who carry responsibilities in the government that affect millions of lives. In reading this young man's post and his stance that once the mind is "educated" and "enlightened," it then becomes apparent that faith is not valid, we can't help but note how he and several other former young people have the tendency to paint intellectuals and the System's "successes" with such a broad brush of their own color, that of secular humanism.

Although it is true that many intellectuals worship the mind over faith and have educated themselves out of faith, it's also true that many, many great minds of the past and the present are people of both faith and religious convictions. It's a real ploy the Enemy uses with some of our former member young folks, in presenting this "black and white" picture, that "everyone" in the System "knows" that faith is archaic and that when you study, you automatically discard faith, as knowledge and faith are incompatible. You can see how the Enemy would like to use this to hoodwink our young folks into taking on the false mindset that they have been duped into religion, and that anyone at all intelligent in the System has discarded such beliefs.

We have been blessed to make the acquaintance of many intellectuals and world-changers with strong religious beliefs, even psychologists who are firm believers in Christianity and very strongly disapprove of modern psychology's tendency to categorize faith in the spiritual as "pathological." An article published in *Newsweek* in 1998, "Science Finds God," also seems to indicate that a good number of scientists are religious, despite the pervasive influence of Darwin's theory of evolution:

The achievements of modern science seem to contradict religion and undermine faith. But for a growing number of scientists, the same discoveries offer support for spirituality and hints of the very nature of God.... According to a study released last year, 40 percent of American scientists believe in a personal God--not merely an ineffable power and presence in the world, but a deity to whom they can pray. (Sharon Begley, "Science Finds God," *Newsweek,* 20 July 1998, pp.46,50.)

What's so sad about these arguments from some of our former members is that you can see that the long-range plan of the Enemy is to steal away the radical, world-changing ideals they were brought up with, and to convince them to be like everyone else. It's such a deception, that they have become "individuals" by taking on secular philosophies and being just like everyone else around them.

Dad has gone down in the annals of history as an iconoclast, someone who was different, and the Family as a movement has been documented, studied and written about, because of our unique commitment to the Lord's radical truths. Who ever heard of the guy who followed his psychologist down the broad road of self-serving secular humanism? It sure makes us thankful for the radical truths the Lord has blessed us with, that keep us separate from the System!

[Editor's note: For more on great men with faith, scientists who are Christians, and related topics, see:

- Tornado in a Junkyard, specifically the chapter "Good Company," available on the MO site.
- "Finding God," END #10, pg.1
- "Nobel Laureates Testify of Their Faith," END #36, pg.6

• "Science Encounters Spirituality," END #60, pgs.7–9]

The ultimate thirst-quencher!

A believer, Middle East: I wanted to comment on "Issues 17." I was left with the thought and feeling that you simply have to go out witnessing to know without a shadow of a doubt that what the world offers—with all of its higher education and philosophies—is an empty shell. What we have in Jesus is far greater and more meaningful. People on this field, despite all of the economic and political problems, are for the most part well educated with a bend for higher education. When meeting them they pour out their hearts' burdens and confusions to us "uneducated and ignorant men." When you see the Word answer their questions and give them hope, it is easy to know that what we have is the truth.

If anyone has doubts or questions along these lines, or is in any way drawn to this young man's way of thinking, just go out witnessing. Listen to the heartcry of the people, including the so-called intellectuals who are as mixed up, empty, and confused as the rest of the world, but too proud to admit it. Then you will know that in our simplicity, we have-through the Word and Dad's teachings-the answers their hearts are hungering for. As Lord Byron said, "I have drunk of every fount of pleasure and quaffed every cup of fame, but alas I die of thirst," so it is with free thinking. You can drink all you want but it will never quench your thirst.

This young man presents "free thinking" as some sort of "new" revelation. However, it's as old as time itself and many of us FGAs were raised in this school of thought. As a Home we recently watched some of the Kent Hovind Creation series, and he does a very good exposé on the theory of humanism/free thinking. If anyone has the opportunity to watch it I suggest you do, because he shows very simply and clearly how humanism is an anti-God theory that destroys your faith. When you stop to think about it even logically, it's pretty clear that "free thinking" is in reality nothing more than an intellectually acceptable term for being critical.

I was brought up as a "free thinker" by an atheistic mother, who told me that when I was old enough I could make up my own mind about God and life's issues. She pushed certain intellectual books of thought into my hands from a young age to "broaden my mind." I was free to experiment with any school of thought and alternative beliefs that came my way.

As it turned out, by the time I met the Family at 17, having already tasted

enough of philosophy and vain deceits, I was more than ready for the truth, hungering for something real. Having had little to no Christian religious instruction, my introduction to the Lord was through the Letters—all of which made perfect sense to me and explained things I had felt inside but never knew how to express. At 18 I dropped out, joined the Family, and have never looked back.

To those who question our beliefs and lifestyle I want to say, just try sticking to the simplicity of Christ and enjoy all that's being revealed through the words of David—it'll blow your mind and take you far higher than any worldly education can. And go out witnessing! That's where you see the truth of the Word/doctrine come to life. Don't be like Don Alonso (Don Quixote) whose brain about dried up from too much reading and contemplation about the world and its troubles. Forget yourself and go reach the world with His love. It'll thrill you and change your life!

Breaking loose of Pan's "idealism"

Steve (21, of Estrella), Argentina: A while back my mom told me about a warning she had received as she slept. She said she woke up with a strong sensation that the manifestation of Pan in the field of Argentina is subtle but extremely powerful. (Note: Argentina is a very intellectual culture, with a high degree of interest in world politics, economics, literature, etc.) I think the Lord showed it to her, as since she does not live in this field, she is perhaps not as dull to the effects of this critter. Living in the States, she is probably more accustomed to a manifestation of Lethargy. Yet the manifestations of Pan here in Argentina are quite different, yet equally dangerous.

You see, the typical Argentine (especially the *Porteño*) is governed by the mind; that is his weakness. This intellectuality manifests itself as an excessive interest in world events and politics. The difficulty is that often this interest seems justifiable by the Word, tying into the Endtime. In fact, I have often mistakenly stated that these must be excellent conditions for witnessing, as you can really convince people that there is a conspiracy, and that those behind the scenes are dominating the world.

However, what I'd often failed to realize was that in focusing on the gore and details of all the sick reality, you're only heightening people's paranoia and worsening their condition. What people need is liberation from this pessimism. This manifestation of Pan can be quite deceiving at first, yet in the long run it becomes evident that all this intense talk is not conducive to more witnessing, but rather leads to introversion, anger, hatred, and paranoia.

This spirit of intellectuality is particularly strong in Buenos Aires. I still remember how it knocked me over the head when I returned from our road trip to the interior of the country a few years ago. You see, ever since September 11, I had grown very intensely concerned with the happenings in the world and the country. I sincerely felt that there were injustices that had to be corrected, myths that needed to be dispelled. In fact, I grew so concerned with it that I stopped reading the Word, I started losing sleep over it, and my relations with those around me began to deteriorate.

Then suddenly the Lord dropped me into a situation where I had little or no idea of what was happening in the world, we had no access to TV, we were totally out of contact with the crazy things that were going on back home, and it was in this situation when the Lord was able to actually use me to win people-suddenly my vision was renewed. I can still remember reluctantly coming back to Buenos Aires feeling as if there was a dark cloud of depression hanging over the city. So when my mom shared this with me, I nearly fell over backwards. Suddenly it dawned on me that when I read the GN regarding Pan and Bacchus ("Are You a Disciple?" ML #3365), I had not applied it to my present, but rather had thought of my past, when I was so analytical and wouldn't accept the Word.

But you see, there are certain manifestations of Pan which almost seem (at first) as if they are in agreement with the Word. It's a very subtle trickery, because this intellectuality cloaks itself in idealism and makes you feel as if you have the desire to "change the world." But once you've traveled far enough down that road, you realize that it's actually destructive and leads you to confusion.

When I had first made a decision several years ago that I wanted to serve the Lord and do something with my life—I wanted to change the world—I started reading the Word along with other books from people who also thought they were doing something to change the world. (I was being open minded!) At one point I even got into reading *Mein Kampf*. At first I honestly felt "on fire," yet as time went by I began to get a bit disturbed, and I wound up so confused that I literally collapsed. I still remember asking my Home for prayer, even though I didn't really know what to pray for. I was a bit lost. This drove me to a commitment to not read anything at all that wasn't the Word. (I wound up burning *Mein Kampf*.)

When thinking back on Mein Kampf, I'd always wondered what it was about that book-there had to be something spiritual behind it. In fact, I've gotten a similar eerie feeling when reading other political documents, as if they were sugar-coated poison. So it suddenly dawned on me ... hey, it's Pan! And it was then that I realized that I have long battled against Pan, without even having realized who he was. I have often ignorantly let his influence creep into my life and then taken drastic measures against him, only to once again let him back in. I think the Lord showed me this right now, as we are finally breaking into different circles of friendship and the Lord is beginning to open doors for witnessing here. He just wanted to make sure there would be no PANic influences mixed in there.

Thank the Lord for freedom in the spirit, freedom from the slime and muck of man's "enlightened" thoughts! The world needs love; they've had enough sickening gore.

Is the grass really greener?

Miracle Pillar, Europe: So many Family young people go to the System to see if the grass is greener on the other side. However, for us FGAs who grew up in the System, it has been such a privilege to drop out and spend our lives in wonderful heavenly Homes with likeminded people—what could be more like Heaven on Earth? Many of us would not even be alive today if it was not for the Lord's Salvation and the wonder-working words of Dad. Living in husks year after year is very depressing.

I wanted to write about some situations from my life that the Lord in His wisdom used to engineer me into the right position to bring me into the Family. The Lord gives us "clues" (as He did even when we were in the System) that direct us to receive His truth when the time comes—little confirmations that we are on the right path.

When I was in grade school (45 years ago now), I was living with my uncle who was a very outspoken politician. Each day when I came home from school, he had a habit of asking me in a very sarcastic way, "So, what did they teach you today?" When I would tell him, he would give a completely contrary side of the picture. This was especially true when it came to history. And sure enough, after I finished my school, the history books were changed and the country changed their political stand. This taught me to not blindly trust in those who are in power, and that what is the "truth" today could very well be exposed as "a big lie" some time in the future.

Another example was when I entered university. I had a very good friend there who was doing his doctorate about the origins of certain languages, which had been his main studies. His professors told him that even if he was right, he couldn't express his views that were supporting a contrary opinion to the text books. They would never be accepted or received by the scholarly system, as there were so many books already written supporting the opposite view, and they would not want to rewrite (and reprint) them all. So you are not really allowed to express the truth, as there are so many factors involved. And the "truth" is what those in power tell you, and you cannot change it.

I myself was studying social anthropology, a wonderful subject concerning the many different and diverse cultures of the natives of the world. Then we had a visit from a famous anthropologist who had written most of the books in our study list. After getting to know her, from that moment I knew I did not want to be like her. I got to know the author, lost all my interest in social anthropology, and dropped out of that class.

After that I was able to get a job in England in the Manchester Hospital. I worked in the pathology laboratory. I got this job solely on the grounds that I had studied in Scandinavia, which is supposed to have an excellent educational system. Normally one would need a university degree in pathology to get such a post. My job was to examine tests of patients who had come to see the doctor. I had a book full of pictures of different bacteria, and looked through a microscope to identify what it wasthank God I didn't have to study for four years just to learn how to read that book. When a patient visited the doctor for the first time, he would be given some medicines, take the sample, and was then instructed to return if the medicine did not work. This was an experiment on the doctor's part, and the patient was his guinea pig. When the patient would come back after a week, the test results would be ready, and the doctor would then prescribe the proper medicine. The worst case was when someone would die, and we had to examine the dead body. In most cases the cause of death was something else than what was written on the report. It wasn't long before I lost all my faith in the medical profession and hospitals.

Well, there was one more reason. As medical care for me was free (since I was an employee), I decided to have a small operation done on my toe. I was lying on the operating table, drowsing off after having received the anesthesia, and the doctors started to examine my *knee*. Thank God I was still awake enough to grab my knee and tell them that it was *my toe* that was the problem. They had gotten me mixed up with another girl there who had the same first name as me. That certainly taught me that if God is not able to heal me, no one could.

Then I went to Israel as a hippie, where I stayed for a year in different kibbutz. I hitchhiked all over, lived as a hippie on the Red Sea coast, etc. I discovered very quickly the contrast between the Jews and the sweet Arabs. Just after that I met the Family and read all those wonderful MO Letters and had no problem believing them, as the Lord had shown me so many of those things from my own experiences over the years. You don't need to go out there to see if the Word is truth, just ask one of us who have been there. I am so thankful for this wonderful Family, and that I can live with like-minded people. There are still more out there seeking for the truth.

Sponsoring *Activated* **Subscriptions** for DRC

By John, Kaylee, Rayne, Naomi, Mat, and Gideon, DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire) is a beautiful country with lush green landscape deep in the heart of the Africa. Since 1997 there has been war off and on in the different parts of the DRC. It has really broken the people here, as they have seen and been through a lot. The Congolese people are warm and friendly. They have a deep spiritual vacuum and love for Jesus, more so than any country we've ever lived in. The Words of David are just what these people need right now. As they have been so neglected, forgotten, and feel misused with all the fighting that has been going on.

Many people respond positively to our reading material, as they say it's a refreshing change from the churches. They greatly appreciate the *Activated* magazines and would use them to their full potential but can't afford to subscribe. When reading the "From Jesus with Love" section (on the back page) with our sheep, it brings tears to their eyes that Jesus loves them so much. It's a touching moment for all.

We are a small pioneer team trying to do our best for Jesus. With the power of the keys we'd like to Activate our part of the world—the DRC. Our vision and goals for here are to activate our city and go on road trips to the other main cities to hold seminars, Bible studies, and just burn free with witnessing everywhere we go, promoting Activated all the way. Mainly going to the universities and colleges to reach the youth, yet also reaching the other levels of society at the same time. We're looking for on-fire labor leaders who'll be willing to keep the fires burning in these cities once we're gone.

Right now we have two Bible study groups and one is on the 12 Foundation Stones course. We would like to be able to get sponsored Activated subscriptions for the people who we feel are labor leaders here. Dear Family, we need your help to reach this country. If you'd like to help, it's just US\$13 for one annual subscription. We can use as many subscriptions as we can get here. We promise they will not be wasted. Just the city we live in has a population of six million and there are a lot more cities for us to reach here. If you're interested just send your donations via the TRF to: DC2048 Congo Activated Subscriptions

We love you lots and are praying for you during this time of restructuring.





Healing key: Claim the keys of supernatural healing and the windows of Heaven will open, bringing life and health to your body.

Prayer Suggestion

Stephen Kind, Croatia: I wanted to write a reaction to the answered prayer testimony of Mana in Brazil (GV #167). It is such a touching answer to prayer, as I regularly pray for the prayer requests in the Grapevine. Whenever one comes out, I copy and paste it to my prayer list file. I have prayed several times for Mana, and after hearing her answer to prayer it was exciting for me and gave me a lot more faith to persevere in my prayer vigils. It is hard work, but seeing answers to prayer for specific ones we have prayed for increases my faith to want to do more-not just the halfhour required time, but to pray several times throughout the day, whenever I have a spare moment.

It would be so nice if more of the answered prayers came out in the *Grapevine*, or updates on how people are progressing, as sometimes we get several prayer requests for individuals quite a few months in a row, and then we don't hear anything more on it. I'm sure the Lord is doing more miracles, and it would be so nice to hear about them more often.

[Editor's note: We generally print whatever answers to prayer we receive, or if we run out of space we send them for posting on the MO site. So if you have an answer to prayer pertaining to a request you sent in, we'd be happy to print it or send it for posting on the MO site, so it can be an encouragement to others as they fight in intercessory prayer.]

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

Paul, Peru: We're so thankful for what the Lord has done for us in healing Michelle (14). It started with her feeling fatigued most of the time. After awhile we noticed she was getting very weak physically. We took her to the doctor, who after doing certain tests, diagnosed her with diabetes Type 1. Her glucose was up to 1,200, when normally it should be under 100. We quickly sent out a prayer request and asked for desperate prayer for her. However, the next morning she stopped breathing and was taken to intensive care where she was put on a respirator. She stayed in intensive care for five days until her condition stabilized.

The miracle is that after five days, she recovered so well (due to your prayers!) that the doctors have taken her completely off all insulin shots, whereas before she had to have these shots five times a day. Now she only needs to watch her diet and keep a close eye on her glucose intake. Thanks so much for your prayers and faith in claming the power of the keys for her and us.

Talitha (of Anthony), South Africa: The Lord has miraculously pulled Timothy (our Downs syndrome child) through some major attacks this last month. First he battled with a severe viral pneumonia and had to be hospitalized. There is no medicine available to fight this, so Timothy pulled through solely on united Family key-powered prayer. However, after being discharged he developed swelling and clots in parts of his veins on both of his legs and one arm. When we took him to the emergency room at the hospital, after the nurse saw his swollen veins, she immediately put us on the waiting list. We had to wait four hours before we were able to see a doctor, and during that time we could do nothing else but pray and wait. (Our main concern was that no clot would loosen and go to the heart or brain.)

Well, prayer is not the least you can do but the most! When we finally saw the doctor, she looked at Timothy's veins and asked what the problem was. Only then did we realize that the red clots and swelling had disappeared! The doctor didn't quite believe that his veins had just been swollen, but at least we had the nurse as our witness. She called a specialist and they were both just scratching their heads trying to figure out what happened. It dawned on us that the Lord had healed Timmy while we were waiting-we were just a little slow on the up-take, ha! We left the hospital with Timothy, praising and thanking the Lord for our new weapons of prayer and praise and another one of His key-powered miracles!

Maria (of Felipe), Brazil: I have a malignant tumor in my cervix and have

been receiving treatments for it to shrink. It has been a testimony for the doctor as he said that he had never seen something like this in all of his 30 years of practice and he couldn't understand why I was alive! This just shows the Lord's protection for His children, TYJ. Also, I am very thankful for all the prayers and support that I have been receiving from my dear Family, I can really feel your prayers and it has given me a real peace at this time.

Zeb and Kristy, Mexico: We recently received a substantial donation for our daughter Carisa, who has spina bifida, via her website. We were desperately praying for funds for her new braces and miraculously through a series of people passing on our link, the Lord touched one man's heart to give a donation towards it!

Asia

Faye (YA, of Peter): Herniated disk, and in early pregnancy. Shooting pains in her legs.

Mike (17, of Byron and Meekness): Diagnosed with pectus excavatum (a concave chest), which puts pressure on his heart and lungs, causing difficulty breathing and his blood pressure to shoot up dangerously during strenuous exercise. He will need to undergo an operation for it.

Europe and Africa

Ania (of Andrew and Nadia): Gastroduodenitus; for her eyesight not to worsen.

Asia (8, of Gabe and Crystal): Leukemia (type "ALL") since June 2003. In June 2004 she had a relapse and was given more chemo, but the treatment didn't help much. According to the doctors, she only has a small chance of surviving. They offered "salvage therapy," the last thing they can offer which gives a small chance of putting the leukemia into remission. After that they want to do the bone marrow transplant.

Jerry (of Joy): Sore jaw muscle, after the last operation to put the bone flap in his head; acne on his face; for his left hand and arm to get completely healed; for his speech to keep improving; and for protection from any seizures which resulted from the scarred tissue after the operation to remove the brain tumor. **Gregory** (2): Holes in his heart to heal naturally; anemia; club feet.

Josh English: Post-viral encephalitis (untreatable brain-swelling resulting from a tropical viral infection); against associated symptoms of chronic fatigue, intense cranial pressure (cranial muscle contractions), severe headaches, occasional vertigo, and loss of morning appetite.

Justin: Leukemia.

Julie: Clogged artery on the left side of heart, causing angina and breathlessness.

Matthew (of Conny): Loose retina, causing him to see flashes. The doctor says there is a great possibility of blindness. The retina in the other eye could get loose too. That the retina will grow together again and that the other eye won't be affected.

Michael (of Ana Maria): Muscular dysfunction in colon causing constant pain, bloating, weakness, and sleep loss.

Philip: High cholesterol, high blood pressure, low metabolism, blood in the urine; back pains; for weight loss; hemorrhoids; pain in intestines.

Praise (of Philip): Endometriosis and cervical erosion.

Priscila (of Francesco): Kidney stones, abnormal glycemia and cervical erosion.

Rosemary (of Frankie): Cancer is now in remission and the doctors have told us that her body has been working well with the medicine. However, a recent C.T. has shown a small tumor in the pelvis region, but the doctors do not know if it is cancerous or not. If it is she will have to go through eight cycles of chemotherapy (instead of six; she has had five so far); against a rise in the cancer marker; against liquid in the abdominal area; for a healthy liver.

North America

Jackie: Gallstone in the duct that connects her gall bladder to her stomach, causing excruciating pain.

Joshua (6, of Angela): Cerebral palsy. For his attention level to reach the level needed for prolonged concentration, and for his physical therapy.

Mark (of Mary): MS symptoms, brain atrophy, memory loss, and urinary tract infection.

South America

Amanecer (of Jonas): Underwent an operation five years ago to remove two myomas in her uterus, which grew back and will require a hysterectomy.

Andy (20, of Gabriel and Ruth): For his eye, the doctor says that it needs more blood circulation in the retina to regain vision.

Blanca (of Andrés): Tumor that is affecting her facial nerves.

Cristal (of Timoteo): Cancer in her uterus, but can't receive surgery due to severe anemia. She has lost a lot of blood from prolonged periods, and needs to increase her red blood cell count so that she can have the operation.

Daniel (of Caro): Hepatitis C. David (15, of Gabriel and Ana): Hepatitis A.

Emmanuel (of María): Bad indigestion; fissures in his large intestine; may need surgery.

Kelly: Large nodules in her breast; for them to be benign.

Marcelo: Was hospitalized due to heart problem, loss of movement of his right arm, and low blood pressure.

Maria (of Felipe): Advanced cancer of the cervix and uterus, has now begun radiation and chemotherapy. (See answered prayers.)

Maria Vida: Large myoma in her uterus and needs a hysterectomy.

Pedro Palavra: Hepatitis C; high blood pressure, and a uric acid problem.

Peter Gypsy: Recovering from an internal hemorrhage in his intestines; he lost a lot of blood and had to have three transfusions.

Sergio (of Amor): Has been hospitalized with an illness that is causing his body to degenerate. None of the antibiotics are helping, and the doctors have said it might be lupus. He suffers from an enlarged liver, high cholesterol, susceptible to diabetes, sores, weight loss, and is mostly bedridden; he also has a nervous disorder that causes red spots.

HELP WANTED

Dear Family,

GBY! WLY and admire you for your faithfulness and perseverance.

We are **Peter (formerly Marco) and Cassie and our kids** appealing to you for help. We are right now in China but will, in the next few months, be moving on to Australia. China is a wonderful field, and we'll miss our sweet friends and sheep that the Lord has given us during our stay here. With the recent changes and exciting restructuring of the Family, the Lord has led us to move to a more open field to continue our service for Him.

We need to raise approximately US\$5,000. We really need a miracle and pray that He'll touch your heart to help. Any gift can be forwarded to us via the TRF to CN628.

This is a big move and change for us, as it's the first time in more than 20 years that we'll serve the Lord outside of Asia, so we'll appreciate your prayers as well. We love you and look forward to hearing from you. Please write us at: key@writeto.net

Together in Jesus, Peter and Cassie (CN628)

Dear ones,

This is **Tim, Perla, and Anita**, writing from Romania! A few months ago we pioneered a brand-new and exciting place, and the Lord lead us here miraculously—we even found a place to rent in only two days! PTL! We have already started Bible classes, the Lord bringing the hungry sheep to our door!

Due to this fact, we felt led to ask you, dear Family, if you could be of a help in any way! We are so eager to start with the many ministries here, and the first one being feeding the sheep and reaching the rich here, especially since we speak the language too! There is a little problem, though: The place we rented is completely empty and it needs a bit of fix-up, too. There is absolutely no furniture, which makes it not so easy for people when they come over for Bible class. We know that the Lord can supply, and when we prayed about it, He showed us to ask you!

We need a little help to get started, and if you can help us with a one-time donation, or a more regular one, anything would make a big difference! You can have a part in our activating this part of the world (which has the Activated program in its own language and the people love it) and finding disciples, which are waiting to be reached! If you want to know more about us and the work, write us! We really need you to help give us a start on this poor and needy field! Could you help?

You can reach us at this address: heartsaflame@rdslink.ro or via ABM to R0045.

Much love and prayers, Tim, Perla, and Anita

TIMELY: More Motivated Sponsorships Needed!

Dear Family,

GBY! WLYSM and keep you in our prayers often during this special time of change and restructuring, as we all "Walk into the future with hope, courage, and anticipation, as the keys of destiny and obedience lead [us], [which will cause us] to see everything in [our] life improve for the better."

We wanted to thank everyone so very much for the overwhelming response to our initial ad and request at the beginning of 2003 for sponsorship of *Motivated*. We have continued to receive donations since then on a regular basis, with a few Homes giving monthly, which cumulatively sponsored 22,500 *Motivated* magazines, almost all of which have been distributed already in the ME area, which also includes Pakistan and Turkey. Thank you *so* much! We couldn't have done it without you!

We are presently in the process of finishing up and getting ready for printing six new issues of *Motivated*, issues 6–9 and two special issues: one for Eid (the biggest Muslim holiday of the year, comparable to Christmas) and one for Christmas/New Year.

Needless to say, the yearly holiday season is a wonderful time to get out the Word, and an opportunity to get in an extra witness! It is our prayer that we will be able to get out a lot of these *Motivated* "special issues" out this year to reach as many as we can while we still can, since in this part of the world we never know when the doors could close or when things will tighten up to where we have less freedom to distribute the printed Word as openly as we have been.

We already received a wonderfully positive reaction to the *Motivated* issue for Eid from our Muslim translator, an elderly and well-respected city father, who said, "I just finished reading the issue now and it's wonderful. ... *All* of it is wonderful, every thing in it. I read it from cover to cover, and I liked it so much!"

We expect this issue, as well as the Christmas/New Year issue, to have a real impact on all those we meet and are able to share these words with.

Our finances to print these issues of *Motivated* are limited, and once we print another four issues, we depend on the orders of the Homes, so the funds tied up in stocks are freed and can be used for the printing of the next issues. Receiving your sponsorships has helped us have a greater turnover, and made it possible

for us to keep producing and printing more, as well as helped us get out the message in a much greater quantity to the precious people of these lands. So with this message we wanted to ask for your help once again!

Can you help us get out the most word ever to the precious people in these lands during this year's holiday season by sponsoring our Eid and Christmas/New Year Special editions? (Check them out on the MO site where they will be posted soon in PDF format.) You can send your gifts via the TRF, designated, "Eid/ Christmas Motivated Sponsorship" or just "Motivated Sponsorship."

Thank you, dear Family, for the prayers you've prayed for us and all the help you've already given and will yet give. You (and we) will never know how far your love and giving has gone, until we get to Heaven and we see the grateful faces of those who were able to receive the Lord's love through these words, which help prepare them to ultimately receive Him in their hearts. You have a big part in helping us reach this part of the world! We love you!

In gratitude, Your Motivated ME Family

P.S. If you read this ad too late to be able to help us make a difference during the holiday season; please don't let that deter you from giving! We're working on an issue on the subject of love, with articles from the *Love's Many Faces* book, which we hope to have ready for Valentine's Day! So late gifts will be put to good use, too, and can help sponsor further issues of *Motivated*!

Ad: Looking for a New Field?

Have you been looking for a new field and new team to join where you can be part of a solid, winning FD team? Have you considered the Russian field, Africa, or other needy mission fields, like the Dominican Republic, for example?

There are a number of Homes around the world in poorer fields that presently don't have enough people to form an FD Home with the six-voting member minimum requirement. Because some of these Homes are in remote locations, it's often difficult to find new personnel. So with the need to build bigger, stronger winning teams, there is a need in these areas. Would you be interested? Is the Lord calling you?

Personals

Looking for **Marc and Victoria**, Australia. It seems we, Samuel and Sarah in Chennai India, lost your e-mail, as we haven't gotten any of our mail confirmed for the last few months, so please write. We miss hearing from you and we would love to let you know what the Lord is all doing for us. Write us at: faminact@xlweb.com.

French Marie (a.k.a. Patricia, of André) where are you? We'd love to hear from you! Please write to Sam and Ruth in Belgium c/o EURCRO.

Hi, this is Joan Irish (Elena). Anyone who knew Nigerian Michael (Felix) in India especially **Jeremiah**, **Beth (American)**, **Andrew (of Phoebe)**, and any friends I have lost contact with, please e-mail me at: Eileen t lynch@hotmail.com.

I'm looking for **Mark** who lived in Bangalore (India) but moved to somewhere else; please write me. And also **Sunshine** in Bangalore (India), please write. Hope to hear from you both; my e-mail address is: po_oh_be_ar@yahoo. co.uk. Love you, Naomi

former friends—seeking contact

I'm looking for **Peter Fisherman** (Robert W., 08/06/49, American), last seen in Amsterdam in 1977. Please let him know that Eva Italian is trying to find him and wants to talk to him as soon as possible. Thanks, Odette Janaway (Eva). Please reply to Info@thefamilyeurope.org.

I am looking for **French-Martinique Maryse R.** (a.k.a. Mocumba or Miracle) and her son Laurent. She was in the Family in France and Senegal, but our last contact with her was in 1988. I believe she may have gone to Martinique. Laurent should now be 25. Please write to Sam and Ruth in Belgium, c/o EURCRO.

Please don't just brush the consideration of difficult mission fields aside, because if it's the Lord's will for you, you won't be as happy or fruitful anywhere else. Remember, the center of the Lord's will is the place where you'll have the best discipleship life ever, and where He will bless your Home and help you to meet the criterion of each board pillar.

There are many lost and searching people in these places who need Jesus and the Gospel. Is Jesus calling you to help reach them and become a missionary in one of these fields? If so, don't delay-the fields are ready for harvest! Please write to the Office or RCC for those areas for more information regarding the need.

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 International — FD/MM/FM