

It is not what you say or hope or wish or intend, but what you do that counts. Your choices tell you unerringly who you really are.

YA / SGA CAMP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Written by one of the attendees, Middle East

We had our first-ever Mideast YA/SGA camp, which was a wonderful success, PTL! Despite some attacks of the Enemy, the Lord came through and it was an unforgettable time for each of us YAs and SGAs.

For the keynote, we read some of the prophecies that WS had sent regarding this retreat, which was a welcome surprise for all. The prophecies were exciting and captivated us all as we looked forward to what the Lord was going to do in the days that followed.

The Word classes were alive and absorbing! The first class was given by Joan on the ever-needed subject of absolute discipleship. As an opening class, it was a real wake-up call for us. Following this was a convicting class from Cephas on fully embracing and using the new weapons.

On the following day, Joan showed us the spiritual and practical principles to being shepherds and pillars in whatever capacity the Lord sees fit to place us. Held along with this class was an interesting and informative open forum, about how we as young peo-

ple can take on more responsibility and carry on the future of the Family.

We also had two classes given by David (of Flo—a long-time Muslim-world witness, Endtime/Bible expert, and now CGO board member). One was on witnessing to Muslims, and the other one was about the AAC countries we've been called to live in and the part they'll play in the Endtime. Definitely captivating!

Cephas gave a "call to the rescue" class concerning our JETTs and teens, and the commission Jesus has given us YAs and SGAs to help them and show them the way, as well as a class on having conviction with each other.

The last class, titled "Aflame for God," was given by Cephas. It explained what it *really* means to be desperate for Jesus. This class preceded our ending ceremony (more about that below), and was the kickstart we all needed to get us desperate with the Lord as we prayed our personal "whatever it takes" prayers.

To help the Word classes come alive, there were powerful movie clips, songs, and PowerPoint illustrations.



Band night: (Back row, L-R:) Enrico (Italian national) and Richard (YA); (front row, L-R:) Angelic (YA), DT (YA), Kirsty (YA), Martin (YA), and Celeste SGA

Hilarious skits were also interspersed throughout the classes, in order to drive the points home.

One of our close Arab friends came on the first day of the camp, and he was able to give us a very insightful class (in Q&A style) on many aspects relating to the Arab world and the culture of the countries we live and work in.

The evening activities were variety-filled with times of fun and relaxation, as well as times to bond and get to know each other better. The first night was a talent night and the second was a special Loving Jesus night. Our band/musicians performed live one night, which was a raving hit. There were also a few fun game nights, and we wrapped the camp up with a slower dance night.

On the last day, there was a beautiful and memorable closing ceremony during which we renewed our commitments to the Lord and His service. The rest of the prophecies that WS had sent were saved for this ceremony, including the one introducing our new Arabian spirit helper, Kameel, who is going to help us to further reach these fields, as well as the prophecy that proclaimed our new anointing of love.

Cephas and Joan sat up front, and each young person came up and said a one-sentence prayer to the Lord. We were all given a silver ring, as a symbol of our commitment to the Lord, and we were anointed with oil, as Cephas and Joan prayed over each one. It was moving to hear everyone's personal heartcries, and we all



Outside area where we ate all our meals—(L-R:) Lisa (SGA), Kirsty (YA), and Libby (SGA)

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felt a spiritual rush in seeing each other's commitments! In a final twist, the Lord gave the instruction for each of us to trade our rings with the person nearest to us, to symbolize not only our commitment to the Lord, but also our commitments to each other, as we partake of the new anointing of love that was promised us!

The camp was an unforgettable time of fellowship, relaxation, fun, inspiration and drawing closer to the Lord, as well as delving deeper into His Words. They truly are life-changing Words, and it's our heartfelt prayer that we will carry on the Revolution till the End!



Skit team (L-R:) Shawn (YA), Arthur (SGA), and Marco (SGA) (This humorous skit was about the need for the young people to take on more responsibility before the FGAs die of old age. ...)

A VERY UNIQUE NEW YEAR'S EVE

By Timothy (21, recently rejoined), Croatia

I had a very unique New Year's Eve. You see, this has been my first New Year's celebration back in the Family after having spent two years in the System. And even though I didn't do all the things that I personally would have liked at first, the Lord knew how to make it fun for me.

During New Year's, we invited 20 sheep over for three days, seven of whom came all the way from Brescia, Italy. It was very exciting! We explained to them about the way we celebrate New Year's with a candlelight service, and they all took it very seriously. Some might think that the candlelight service is monotonous or an old-fashioned ceremony you've done all your life. That's the way

I always looked at it. But they didn't.

In the previous two years of my life, I wasted my New Year's celebration at discos, partying, getting drunk and then crashing out in the corner of the disco. My "friends" would drop me off at home and I'd sleep till 5 PM, only to wake up with a hangover. But during this New Year's Eve it was so cool to see these System young people who only wanted to fellowship with us and get fed spiritually, instead of going to discos, or partying, or even spending time with their family and friends. And we had a great time witnessing to them.

One day we went on a trip with them to some of the refugee camps here in Croatia. It was so special to start off the New Year by helping those in need. Our sheep were very happy to be there

with us. They are such dropouts and nonconformists! We went around the camps with a guitar and sang for the poor people in the shanties. We also brought clothes, food, tracts, and *Activated* mags to distribute. After returning Home we had a powerful united inspiration.

One thing I have to say about this Home is that we truly have a united winning team. Each one here is sold-out. I'm so thankful to once again be a part of the Lord's army.



By Marie (of Byron), Philippines

We've recently been praying about our presentation to make sure we're applying the Word and not toning down our message. When meeting people we've generally been presenting our CTP work first, though it's only a small portion of what we actually do on a daily basis. As a Home, we went over our presentation to make sure that we tell everyone we're witnessing to that we are with the Family International Missionary Fellowship, that our main goals are sharing God's Word and love with everyone we meet, and that we accomplish this through working with young people, giving Bible classes, and managing various CTP projects, etc.

We also reviewed a class that our dear friend and king, Victor, gave our SGAs and YAs about our presentation. He shared very good tips and practical application of how to approach executives, from a very successful top manager's experience. Since hearing from the Lord about how to apply the "Show Me the Money" Letters, as well as studying Victor's class, the amount of tools sold each time I've gone out has greatly increased.

Victor is the head of a successful law firm of almost 100 lawyers, and has worked at this firm for over 30 years. He shares some of the same tips Dad has mentioned in different Letters. Here are some of the things he pointed out:

- Never act apologetic for "taking their time."
- Before entering the room, look at yourself in the mirror, smile, and say, "This guy is going to like me."

TIPS FROM THE PROS

- Use eye contact—don't stare, but show genuine interest.
- Be ready to greet the person with a smile, a warm greeting, and a firm handshake.
- After your presentation, when you appeal to their social conscience to do good, make sure you let them know that you understand they don't have time to do this work personally, but that you are there to assist them.
- Also, "never take no for an answer." Exude positive conviction that we have something they need and want.
- After receiving their commitment to help, the most effective thing I've seen is to always ask before you leave, "Before we go, may I pray for you?" They will expect and respect that of missionaries. After asking if they'd like to pray is when we ask them if they've received Jesus in their heart, and if not, we have them do that at the same time. We pray for them, their family and business, their health, and anything they ask for prayer for.
- Then, as you say goodbye again, another firm handshake. This time, as you're shaking hands you might also want to reach out your other hand to touch the back of their arm or hand so that you're grasping it with both of your hands for a moment. Again, smile, look them in the eyes, and sincerely thank them; clearly communicate that it's so appreciated.

We've tried to put these tips into practice in our outreach lately, and we all feel that the Lord has really been blessing it.

By Rachel Scott, for the Vine Lodge Home, South Africa

One of our faithful Active members is Abram, an African labor leader. He has already started his own Bible study group which uses the Family symbol and where we teach the *12 Foundation Stones* course and the *12 Bridges*. He has also started another *Activated* group at work and he wants to start them on the *12 Stones* too. About nine months ago, he asked us to attend his wedding in his village out in Limpopo.

He lives in Johannesburg and has been with his wife for eight years and they have three children, but he had never been officially married in his village. This marriage involves paying a dowry (*lebola*), and huge expensive festivities in both the wife's village and the husband's.

It had taken Abram years to save up to afford this wedding, as without it the village would not recognize him as a man. One of the main reasons he wanted us

to attend is that since he has been born again and left the African traditions behind, he was finding it difficult to reach his village which was still locked into the old African cultural traditions, and in which even nominal Christians do not accept full salvation by grace. He wanted us to come and perform for the wedding and give the "message from God" (as he called it in the printed invitation).

Going to Limpopo with our singing team was quite a trip in the heat of summer, and to be honest, we did not feel like doing it. The trip involved traveling a total of nine hours in one day and we were also not quite sure what to expect when we arrived. But the Lord showed us to go ahead, and so we did.

Upon our arrival, we were told that Abram was visiting the chief of the village. Meanwhile there was a cow slaughtered in preparation for the feast. It was very hot and the children were already tired. However, when it came their time to perform they really did a fantastic job and

the whole village of 500 crowded in and around the tent.

Chris and Meg (SGAs) sang love songs and Rachel gave the message on marriage which quickly turned into an explanation on Salvation. We then prayed with everyone and distributed *Activated*. We were all given honorary African names. We then left as the marriage party continued into African-style dancing for hours afterwards.

Although we had received an enthusiastic response while there, we were still surprised when Abram called us a few days later to tell us what a huge impact we had made on the village. The message, our testimony and lifestyle, and the fact that we were proud to have so many children had deeply affected the villagers, and they were still talking about us. Abram has become a respected man in the village and most important of all, lives have been touched and changed by the miracle-working power of God's love.

IT CAN BE ME!

By Noah (SGA, of Lily), Taiwan

When nearing the end of the month, our Home was reviewing how we had done on getting out *Activated* subscriptions, and we realized we were quite low! With the recent three-month subscription contest in our area, and the reward for the two top Homes only two days away, we were spurred on to some godly competition. As we took to time to hear from the Lord on how we should go about promoting *Activated*, He encouraged us that He wanted to bless us with a prize for being faithful to feed the sheep with our weekly Bible classes. At the time it seemed like a slim chance as we were quite far behind several Homes in the subscription stats.

But the Lord told us to look for sponsors for CTPs, to ask friends if they were interested in subscribing for their friends, as well as using the power of the phone method. For the next two days all we focused on was *Activated*. We called many people, asking them if they'd like to subscribe or if not to help sponsor subscriptions for students at the juvenile prison where we do CTP, or any other needy institutions, etc. Suddenly we started seeing new potential in all the name cards we had collected, the sky being the limit in who was a potential *Activated* subscriber or sponsor.

To make a long story short, the Lord did a real miracle that blew our minds to what He's capable of doing. In two short days we were able to get 72 subscriptions! We couldn't help but yell a big thanksgiving to our Lord who used us to help activate our part of the world! It's only Him who deserves the credit. We just obeyed and did what He told us to do. Hallelujah!

[Editor's note: Noah's Home, known as the Pillars Home, won 1st prize in the three-month "Activated Reward Program"! GBT!]

RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

By Steven (of Faith), Philippines

While in a club where our young people were singing, a waiter came up and mentioned that a man at another table wanted to talk to me. I looked over and saw the CIA-looking man, and proceeded to go talk with him. I greeted him and he simply said, "I've been observing your band and I've been writing these different notes."

I waited, not knowing what he was leading up to. He continued, "I heard you're a pastor doing missionary work. Maybe you can help me?" I eased up a little.

"You see," he went on, "I'm really going through it because my wife and I aren't together right now. She's working in Australia and I've been hearing all these rumors about what she might be doing—having an affair with another man—and I don't know what to do. I need to talk to someone. I don't usually talk to anyone, but since you're a person of God, I'd like to talk with you." I found out that they had been married for six years, and only when his wife left did he realize how much he missed her.

I talked and prayed with him and he received the Lord. I offered him an *Activated* mag, which he subscribed to and was really thankful for. Later on in the week he sent me a note saying: "I wanted to thank you because after I talked with you I had real peace in my heart. I realized it was just jealousy. I talked with my wife about things and we made up."

My wife, Faith, met him again the next week and he told her, "That night I met you and your husband, I could have gone somewhere else. But I felt God tell me to come here and that's the day your husband talked to me and he saved my life. I could have done the worst things in my life. I'm really thankful for your husband."

He also said that when he first met us he'd "prayed the Lord would lead me to a place where I could be by myself and have a beer. Then out of nowhere the Lord led me to where your band was playing." He said, "When I think of you singing, all I can remember is, 'You are God's child, you are God's child.'"

[Continued from GV #178]

Christmas Carolers

By Hannah Servant, Argentina

We didn't have the Christmas we had anticipated, but we had the Christmas the Lord wanted us to have. Christmas Eve was closing in, and so far our busking team had been having a difficult time with restaurant singing, so the Lord showed us to go caroling instead. For the next two days we hit several neighborhoods caroling with the children. It was the most rewarding Christmas witnessing I have done in a long time! People were literally in awe. They not only thanked us profusely and exclaimed what a good idea it was, but they very generously helped us by buying our beautiful CDs. Several even brought their old or crippled family members to the door to listen to us.

When we first started out, Cristina (9) was indignant that we weren't praying with people. So we encouraged her to pray with everyone after that. She was a real shiner and no one refused her offer to pray and many souls were saved. "A little child shall lead them."

The highlight came after half of the team returned home, as it was getting late for the little kids. David, Hannah, Lynda, Claire, and David continued caroling till midnight. We met a man who at first didn't understand what we were doing. We found out he is a doctor and had just returned home from performing an emergency operation.

After explaining a bit more to him, he cheerily said, "I know where I'll take you!" He led us to another house and told us, "Just ask for Augustine. Tell them Roberto sent you." We knocked on the door and repeated this phrase. Minutes later, over 20 people had poured out from all over the house, and last of all, Augustine was wheeled out on the front step. He is a paraplegic young man.

We started singing our carols and everyone was so moved and touched, not least of all Augustine, who struggled to communicate with us in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, wishing us a happy Christmas and even trying to sing along with us. His whole family was soon dancing and making a train, enjoying the Latin Christmas music we sang. They bought CDs and told us repeatedly how thankful they were for our visit. Then we prayed with the whole crowd! It was a Christmas we'll never forget.

Unusual Christmas Witnessing

By Kaylee (of John), Germany

It all started when we had to close our Home in Africa and found ourselves on the

road in Germany. We were literally sitting in a car not knowing where we'd spend the night. It was just before Christmas and we could very much relate to Mary and Joseph those two thousand years ago. We called everyone we could think of and there just wasn't a place in the inn for us. I wasn't pregnant, but had been very weak for the previous six months since an operation in May after having a fallopian tube pregnancy. We'd prayed it'd work out for me to visit a gynecologist for a checkup during our time on the road.

After prayer we took it by faith and headed in the direction where we wanted to follow-up on some of our sheep and supporters. A miraculous door opened for us to stay with an FM Home, consisting of Melody, Svenja, and Nathan. Melody knew a good Christian doctor, having had an operation herself just a few months back. I met him and he agreed to do a checkup for free. I then discovered I had cysts and would need an operation.

As the Christmas season approached I began having a burden to witness in hospitals. By the power of the keys and an incredible set of miracles, I ended up having a free operation in Germany. A sweet Christian professor in charge of the gynecology department in a Christian hospital provisioned it for us from the management.

Not only did the Lord supply completely free surgery, but I also had a great time ministering to the doctors, nurses, and patients. Many of them got saved, including one professor. On Christmas Eve, four days after my operation, two women arrived in my room. The younger one, Sandra, had also had a fallopian tube pregnancy, and I was able to encourage her, as she was discouraged about having lost her baby, and on top of it, having to spend Christmas in the hospital. Both ladies got saved and I'm still in contact with them via email.

Finally, on the last day of my stay at the hospital, I was waiting to be picked up and taken home. I had been sitting down for a couple of hours, which was very painful after the operation, and I started getting desperate to leave. Just then another patient sat beside me and we started conversing. I discovered she was diagnosed with cancer and had been already through three operations, and they still didn't know if she would make it or not. When I told her about the salvation prayer, she was very touched and said that under normal circumstances she'd never do it, but now it was comforting to her. We talked about Heaven too and I could feel how she was holding on to each word. Only after I had witnessed to this precious girl did my ride arrive and I was able to go home.

We then were able to visit the gynecologist again, and we spent two hours witnessing to him. We had a very interesting conversation, and at the end of our time together he gave me a bunch of gifts. One gift, which he'd bought in Jerusalem, was the same kind of oil that Mary used for anointing Jesus' feet. We left him with a *Mottos for Success* calendar, all the *Activated* mags available in German, and a *Hearing from Heaven* book that he was particularly interested in.

We also donated a few *Mottos* calendars to the hospital. I think the most amazing thing for me was realizing how you can witness anywhere—even in Germany, ha—and also how people are especially giving and helpful at Christmas. The manager of the hotel where we stayed even offered to let us stay more days than we'd asked for. She bought five calendars on top of it! Even though we weren't able to go on outreach for as many days as we'd originally planned, the Lord blessed it regardless, and many people were brought closer to His love during this unusual Christmas.

Experiencing the Lord's Miracles

By Mari, Mexico

When we finally realized we were actually in December, it was already late. We were caught by surprise and had no idea of what we would be doing for Christmas. We knew we had to do all we could to reach the lost and get the tools out, but apart from that, we didn't know exactly what the Lord's plan was for us this Christmas. When asking Him about it, He told us that if we had faith He would do great things—and He did!



KIDS' SINGING GROUP, MEXICO

A few days later we received a call from someone in a city nearby, requesting a show. They mentioned that one of our dear friends, who works for the governor of that city, had asked if we could do a show there, as she remembered we had done some shows before in another state. The problem was that we hadn't done

those kind of big shows for a couple of years and that was the last thing on our list of options as we were short on time. But we remembered what the Lord had said, so we took it by faith and after 14 days of preparation, we had the whole show put together. Now that was a total miracle!

The show consisted of nine songs complete with choreography which even the kids participated in creating, and two Christmas plays, *The First Christmas* and *El Convidado del Zapatero (The Cobbler's Guest)*. At first, we were a little nervous, but as we claimed the power of the keys, everything went fine. After that, we started advertising our program in other cities, both near and far. However, our biggest desire was to be able to do the show in the big park situated in front of the governor's house. Initially, it was very difficult to get in touch with those in charge of the grounds in order to make an appointment. Nevertheless, we kept trying, and the Lord did a miracle, and they agreed to let us perform at the park.

In addition to that, we were also able to do five more shows in three different cities. After each show, we received a certificate of acknowledgment and appreciation, and we were also featured in our local newspaper. Over Christmas we held 38 presentations of the show and won more than 5,000 souls to the Lord!

We were also able to do a CTP for 192 children from one of the poorest schools of Villahermosa. We first visited one school three years ago, and each year after that, we'd try to do something special for the children.

This year the Lord worked it out for us to do an even bigger CTP for over 250 people, and with a whole lot more supplies. We performed our Christmas show for them and served each one a delicious provisioned meal. We distributed two bags of food (containing a variety of fruits, vegetables, bread, and milk) to each family, and each child received a smaller bag filled with special treats. It was only by a miracle of the Lord's supply that we were able to do all of this, and we even had supplies to spare for our next CTP!

Several of our friends also helped us with this CTP and had many positive comments after the event.

Sponsored by the Top

By Heidi (of Dave), Czech Republic

While lining up CTP and various Christmas show opportunities for our show troupe—including traditional dances and a skit performed by the children's team, a JETT and teen ensemble, and a YA/SGA hip-hop troupe—Andrew (of



SEVERAL OF OUR FAMILY GREETERS BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

Katrina) contacted a renowned five-star hotel. Although they did not need a show this year, they offered to give us a donation to help support our NGO.

A couple days later we were contacted by a representative of the hotel and were quite surprised to learn that they had decided to use their annual

Christmas show—a performance by the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by renowned director and Maestro Paul Freeman, and accompanied by an excellent visiting American high school choir, and attended by the business community of Prague—as a fundraiser for our NGO! The evening's events also included an abundant and sumptuous buffet following the main entertainment, and an opportunity to meet many of the city's top, approximately one thousand personalities, who attended the event. The hotel had already printed up and sent out the invitations and the commemorative program had been impressively printed in full color on high-quality gloss cardstock.

The evening of the event, our representatives and young folks, attired in their show costumes (designed and created by Jenny [SGA, of Pax]), acting as greeters, were able to interact with the guests. During the performance, a VIP front-row section of the auditorium had been reserved for us.

If one were ever tempted to doubt that the Boss is totally in control, this was proof that He's able to plan, prepare, inspire, orchestrate, and run an entire event above all that we could ask or think, or are even able to do in our own limited sphere!

ADJUSTING OUR METHODS

By John Servante, India

The Lord supplied a stall at an exhibition where various goods and up-to-date products were being sold. Our Home has gone to quite a number of these exhibitions lately, and it has proven to be a great way to get out our tools. People come from far and wide, and the best thing is *they* come to you, instead of *you* approaching them.

On this particular occasion it just so happened there was another religious group, ISKCON*, setting up nearby. We prayed that they would be far away from us, but lo and behold, their stall ended up right next door to ours. *Why, Lord?* (*ISKCON: International Society for Krishna Consciousness)

As the first day wore on, we couldn't help but notice that, compared to us, Hare Krishna was doing brisk business. We were beginning to feel uncomfortable. Obviously, our approach wasn't aggressive enough. They had about six or more people (especially during busy times) calling passersby to their stall and engaging in their own form of witnessing.

We needed to change our approach. Perhaps we were hiding our light. In this city, although caution cannot be thrown completely to the wind, it is nevertheless a lot more open than much of the rest of India. And in this case, we didn't have to be so restrained. Our stall also displayed a big "The Family" sign and a "What Everybody Needs Is Love" banner. So we were already out in the open. We just had to bust out of the mold of being tool salespeople only.

The Lord gave some ideas that really changed the whole scene: Out came the tape recorder; the boys began singing songs live; and we passed out tracts as people passed by, encouraging them to visit our stall.

By the end of the four-day exhibition it was the ISKCON staff's turn to be on the defensive. They also tried to play their own music, but it was so humdrum you were actually glad when it stopped. A couple of them even got curious enough to discreetly take some posters and lit from us.

In the end it was a good thing that the Lord had allowed the Hare Krishna people to set up next door because that really helped us to get more on the ball—and be more professional.

FRUITS OF THE RENEWAL

—And direct fulfillments of prophecy given for Mexico

By the Golden Gate Home, Mexico

Andy (YA) was at the stoplights distributing *Conéctate* mags, when a lady told him to run to the next light so she could give him her business card to phone her. Normally he wouldn't have done this, as the traffic is a bit crazy, but this time he did. Later on we phoned her and her husband, and they came over to the Home for a visit. They explained that when they saw Andy so zealously distributing our beautiful *Conéctate* magazine, they knew that he, and whoever he was with, were just the ones they needed to help them with a special project they had for this Christmas—to distribute toys and give a message of God's love to 15,000 very poor children in Monterrey.

They also wanted to see what other Christian material we had, and when they saw our tracts, immediately they offered to print 10,000 of them for us each month, or more if we needed, as a way to help preach the message.

Their Christmas project for the 15,000 poor children, called *FestiNiño*, has led them to bring us into contact with other different friends of theirs, Christians who are fed up with the churches. When they visit our Home, they say they can feel the Spirit of the Lord's love. We have weekly prayer meetings with them, and it's been beautiful to see them opening up their hearts to us.

Helping with the *FestiNiño* has also required a lot of investment of our time, through seeking help, asking for donations, etc. Gabe and Ruth specifically told the Lord that if by the end of the renewal we didn't see some good results from this investment of time, they would reconsider the effort spent on the project. As the Lord is always faithful when we put Him on the spot, the exact day before the renewal ended, they received a phone call from a lawyer informing us that an anonymous donor wanted to give a donation of 100,000 pesos (US\$9,000) towards this project. Needless to say, this was something to really rejoice and praise the Lord for as we shared the miracle in our end-of-the-renewal morning meeting.

Another large miracle is that the largest cookie company in Mexico has offered to donate 1,000 packages of cookies for this project as well. For several days the owner of this company was definite about sending 1,000 packages to us, however within two hours of finalizing the deal, he changed his mind and the quantity to 17,000 packages (about seven tons)! We are so thrilled with all the Lord is doing, and His support of this project. And all this started with one on-fire young person zealously distributing *Conéctate* magazines at the stoplight! This has led us into contact with so many precious souls desperate for the spirit of David. During this event we will distribute thousands of children's books, tracts, and CDs. The whole thing will be televised as well.

TAKING UP THE CHALLENGE TO BE A WINNING DISCIPLE

By Pedro (of Lily), Belgium

I wanted to thank our dear Husband, as well as Mama and Peter for their mighty love, wisdom, and strong desire to guide us so that we can be the men and women He wants us to be for His use, through this life-changing GN, "Forward, Always Forward" (ML #3479, GN 1067). I'm really for the marvelous plan of restructuring the Family into these three main levels of FD, MM, and FM.

I'm desperately praying that I can forsake my old bad habits of independence. In the past I failed to get the point of the importance of having a larger team. Even though it was implemented in the Charter, and then again addressed in the "Conviction vs. Compromise" series, I still didn't get it, leaning instead to my own understanding, and I would say, lack of vision and desperation. LHM! But I'm really thankful for our faithful earthly shepherds, Mama and Peter, for their honesty to correct our wrongdoings and wrong decisions. I am thankful for their boldness, authority in the Spirit, and determination to counterattack the Enemy with real conviction when he tries to weaken the Family to the point of total destruction.

I agree, it's very difficult to be in a small Home and try to have a fruitful work, as you're faced with so many home/field demands that need to be taken care of each day. The solution is having much more personnel—really!

I firmly believe that this call to arms and purging will change and strengthen each one of us. I believe it will motivate us to give our all to Him and the Family, and take our calling and responsibility seriously, that of being 110% disciples who go for the gold medal in joining winning teams. I'm looking forward to seeing the FD Family moving forward and being cleansed from those that, sad to say, have been holding to the past and to their negative mindset toward Family life and leadership. I'm very thankful to be learning how to have a personal connection with the Lord and for being shepherded by Him, yet I'm convinced we also need earthly safeguards and leadership to help us stay on the right track and keep from straying.

Bravo for the period of renewal! I've personally needed it to help me break away from worldly distractions that have been hindering my connection with the Lord. This renewal has made me desperate with the Lord to also find His solutions in the shepherding of our own kids, especially our teens. We can only trust that He knows what is best for our family and Home, and that He will give us the grace, the solutions for the moment, and the courage to keep on believing and trying no matter what, in the power of the keys. It's totally by faith and obedience! And it's really worth it! Because there is no other place to go, but that of being what He's commanded us to be: *a real winning Family disciple and team!*

OUR CHILDREN PAVE THE WAY

By Christina, Ilja, and Rebecca, Russia

At the end of May 2004, the dance school where our six children go for classes held a special show to celebrate the end of the school year. At the end of the event, the teacher publicly listed some of the best students and handed them special certificates, which mentioned their efforts, positive character traits, etc.

One of these students happened to be our daughter Ania (12). But the greatest surprise came when another special certificate was given to Christina for being the "best parent"! The certificate stated that she showed a special love and care, not only for her own children, but also for all the children in the dance group, that she'd been a tremendous help to the teacher during the school year, and at the bottom it read: "We would like to thank her [Christina] for being a wonderful mother and giving a wonderful upbringing to her children—Maria, Ivan, Ania, Lada, Luba, and Dasha."

This was an official paper from the local ministry of education, signed by the director of the school, the vice-director, and the teachers.—Real official proof of the advantages of homeschooling and the good result of all the input that we give to our kids in the Family. Quite a few parents in the dance school are also potential sheep and friends, and the only way we could reach them was through our kids and their sample, as one of the first questions we face is: "What do you do with your children so that they are so happy and friendly? They are really different. Is there a special secret that you use in their upbringing?"

This, of course, opens the door for witnessing to them and later for follow-up, as most parents nowadays are very concerned for their kids. We spend day after day pouring into our kids and sometimes it seems it's endless and that we mothers and teachers are not "witnessing" enough, but we actually are! Our kids are our greatest witness, and that speaks much more than our words could—a sample is worth a thousand words.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO SHOW YOUR COLORS

By Christy E., Thailand

When interacting with those in the System, I am frequently asked what I do for a living. It's a normal question. I always base my answer on who they are, and how sheepy they seem. Many times I meet young people, whether Thai or foreigners, who are pretty open-minded. Those times I just reply with, "Have you ever heard of a missionary, someone who goes to a foreign field and shares the joy and happiness they found with others?—Well, that's what I do!"

At first it's a bit scary to come out in the open like that, but more often than not, you'll find them to be fascinated by it. Some respect you for it, and others like you simply because you're so different from their other peers. I find that it's easier to develop a deeper friendship with people by being honest from the beginning. In turn, they also find it easier to share their hearts with you because they see that you're sincere.

It can be a bit tough to be so open about your faith and lifestyle with someone you have just met, especially if it's a cute guy you're witnessing to! It is usually your sample that draws them to you and interests them in what you have to say. Once they see your sample, they want to find out what makes you so happy and fulfilled, and we should make sure to tell them the truthful reason.

People are dying to meet someone who is different, who can tell them something they haven't heard before. This one guy I met told me he was planning to watch an important football game, but after we started talking about the Endtime, modern technology, and life after death, he didn't want to leave! We witnessed to him for two hours, and he couldn't care less about the football game anymore!

SIMPLE OUTREACH TIP

By Peter and Lily, UK

We have found that it works well to have a couple of young people giving out the tracts while an adult sells the CDs and gets out *Activated* nearby. Many people will come up to us to find out more about who we are, after having received a tract from one of our teens.

CLASSES VIA COMPUTER

By Simon Newheart, Ireland

In my limited experience with follow-up using *Activated* materials, I've found that I mainly follow up on foreigners, and that because of this, I need to have the reading materials in both their language as well as in English. So I developed a follow-up course to be shown entirely on computer. This way I can present both the English text

along with the translation on screen for all to read along.

I slightly adapted the *12 Foundation Stones* course files so they could be read easily by those attending. I also downloaded the MP3s from the Family website (or used converted CDs to MP3 format) for all the recommended songs mentioned in the course. I adjusted these songbooks to make them more user-friendly for reading or singing along (e.g., I stripped the songbooks of the chords, or else I colored the chords a different color from the text if someone wanted to accompany the music with live guitar playing). My goal is to make it easy enough for anyone to be able to give the classes via a computer.

[*Editor's note: There are prepared songbooks both with and without chords that are part of the 12 Foundation Stones course. These are available on the MO site for downloading.*]

SPRINGBOARD TO EVALUATION

By Michelle (of Michael), India

One family time, we used the questions in GN 984, paragraph 56, as a springboard to evaluate our parenting. It was very enlightening for us as parents to ask the kids how they saw our childcare standard, and how they view us in light of the Word. The teens and JETTs were very forthcoming in their answers, and it was actually quite encouraging for us to see that for the most part they felt our parenting standard was according to the Word! This was a good exercise in honesty, ha!

ACTIVITY NIGHT

By Priscilla, China

The Lord showed us to schedule our evenings each week to help us be more united and organized. On one evening we play games and other fun activities. We even invited one of our sheep to come join us for that evening to give her some variety and more fellowship with our family all together, and she really had a blast! She said that because of her upbringing she never got to dance or play with her parents and family like we do. She readily joined in with the children during the games, songs, and praising the Lord.

After each game and when something would excite her, she'd exclaim "Thank You, Jesus! I love You, Jesus!" It was very special to hear her proclaim her love for the Lord out loud, which is something I know I need to do much more. She now not only comes for her weekly Word class, but has faithfully come for our united activity night as well. She is very happy to have become a closer part of our family.

FEED SOMEONE ELSE

By Mark GLP, Japan

I met a young man who is a very successful businessman, yet feels quite unfulfilled with life. I explained to him about the principle of giving to others, and how if he liked, he could help support a Family Home. It turned out that he'd recently visited a country in Southeast Asia, and was touched by the people there. I told him that we have a missionary Home in that country, and he was inspired to support them. He's the second man we've encouraged to support that Home.

We found that it sometimes works better to ask friends to support someone else, if they are reluctant to support your own Home. It's a bit like the word picture of people at the dinner table who had very long spoons, and the only way they could get fed was by using their spoons to feed others.

KIDBITS

Athan, born to **Kerenina Sunshine and Pied Piper** on September 2.—Lebanon
Joshua Daniel, born to **Mary and Steven** on September 10.—South Africa
Ken, 1st child, born to **Seiko and Abe** on September 30.—Japan
Joshua Neal, 5th child, born to **Angelina and Jon B.** on October 1.—Thailand
Alan Elliott, born to **Love and Abraham** on October 7.—Romania
Eliot Winner, born to **Pearl Winner and Nick** on October 9.—Middle East
Ryan James, 2nd child, born to **Joanne and Sol** on October 9.—Australia
Sonia, born to **Veronica and Peter** on October 13.—Ukraine
Bonnie Faith, 3rd child, born to **Olivia and Peter** on October 15.—PACRO
Ian Acaymo, born to **Sara and David** on November 13.—Portugal
Zoe Giselle, 2nd daughter, born to **Saskia and Dawei** on December 6.—Taiwan

TIDBITS

New FD/MM/FM members...
Andrei and Rachel and kids, rejoined in Romania
Elisa (26, Italian), rejoined in Italy
Faith (22, Romanian), joined in Romania
Marianne Onward (21, American), rejoined in Romania
Peter Daniel (22, Romanian), rejoined in Romania
Romina (26, Italian), joined in Italy
Tessie and Nina (sisters), rejoined in the Philippines
Tim (20, Italian), rejoined in Croatia
Tonia Love (21, Russian), joined in Russia

➤ SHOOTING STRAIGHT GNS

Tender Joy, Pakistan: I definitely agree that good will/can come out of seemingly bad situations. About eight years ago I went through one of the lowest points in my life. My mate of 20 years left the Family, leaving me with extreme loneliness battles. Then my two boys left. On top of that, I started menopause with its characteristic emotional ups and downs. I felt like the rug was pulled out from under me, and that I landed headfirst.

To make a long story short, I held on to the Word as a drowning person desperately clings to a life buoy. It was a very difficult struggle for a few years. Thank the Lord I had very loving and understanding coworkers who helped me through the most severe battles with their prayers and love. But not until I at last yielded and said “yes” to the Lord’s will in my life did the battles subside and slowly but surely disappear.

Now I am happy and fulfilled, busy for the Lord in ministries—a few of which I would never have dreamt of doing some years ago (helping in heading a deaf centre, as well as being a clown). I now see that all these seemingly “bad” things that happened to me were necessary to make me the person the Lord wanted me to be today. The breaking and purging were a very important part in my life. I now see His wisdom in it all.

When you’re in the middle of turmoil, boy oh boy, it’s very difficult to see how in the world anything good can come out of the situation! But if we just have the faith and patience to wait for the Lord to show us all the benefits of the struggle, it is worth it *all*.

Hold on to your hats if you are going through a tough time—it’s just a bend in the road! The bend might seem never-ending, but you will soon see more clearly why/where the Lord is leading you.

Fe Fighter, Zambia: For a while it was very hard for me to come to terms with my parents’ divorce; I took the stance that divorce was unbiblical and became quite strong in this opinion. Actually, the real reason for my anger and negative feelings about divorce was because I did not have a trusting attitude toward my own marriage. I was scared, insecure, and worried that my marriage could fall apart. But after taking it to the Lord and then doing a Bible study on divorce I realized that God works so differently in people’s lives. Who are we to tell Him

the way it should be done? This was a big victory in my life.

I pray that anyone who is battling in this area will be able to find the same peace that I did. The Lord does order the steps of a righteous man and His ways are so much higher than ours.

Dave, Germany: I’m so proud of Mama and Peter for continuing to uphold the Lord’s standard in spite of its apparent unpopularity, even within the Family. And that instead of going by “popularity polls” and listening to the whims of those who would prefer to compromise, we can continue to expect nothing but the naked and raw truth of God in the mailings, come what may.

If it weren’t for that, the Family wouldn’t have much left to offer, as far as I’m concerned. But as long as Mama and Peter continue to uphold God’s pure and unadulterated standard, the saying applies, “To whom shall we go? You alone have the Words of eternal life.” And nothing else matters.

I think that what many folks don’t realize is that we, the Family, are the only true alternative to the System and the Devil’s matrix. When we undermine our beliefs and are hesitant to embrace the full truths the Lord has given us, however unpopular they may be, we’re actually hobnobbing with the Enemy, who’s always looking for a way to get “plugged” back in. Thank you, thank you, and thank you again for the pure counsel of God!

➤ WHAT THE HELL IS LETHARGY? (ML # 3482, GN 1093)

Amos, Norway: After reading just a few pages of the GN, discouragement came over me. *Not again! There’s no end to demons and spiritual battles!* Besides that, I felt guilty of all the problems that were described in the prophecies. I took it to the Lord and He showed me that if I want to be a professional, I have to take these challenges and work on them—but not all at once. He said He would help me to focus on certain ones first and help me to make the effort in strengthening those areas.

It is the same with athletes who practice for the Olympics. They have to work on their weaknesses and at the same time keep up with what they are good at. But they would not be able to do so if they didn’t have a vision to reach the goal.

The Lord showed me that the Endtime will be like the Olympics for us, when all

our training would make the difference between us being professionals or amateurs, winners or losers. I’m FM and I feel my spiritual life has been like that of an amateur. But I thank God for waking me up to the thrills and blessings of being a professional and taking my life seriously and laying hold on the weapons of the spirit! It is amazing how things look so different when you take a stand in the spirit.

I admire Mama and Peter’s faith in the Lord’s Word. When I have gone through some rough times, their sample has helped me to keep on going and put forth the willpower to believe. Who else has the living Word?

➤ CGO HOME REVIEW CRITERIA FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP HOMES (GN 1099)

Richard, India: I’ve been super inspired to read the CGO Criteria! Hats off to the dear ones who labored to get it together. It’s a very clear handbook for checking our progress. It’s been timely for me because I had been going through battles about how to incorporate so much into our outreach. While reading the criteria I saw that with the implementation of the new requirements, there was a widening platform for more people in the Home to take on responsibilities. Now there can be more accountability within the Home under each pillar—for example, a church growth deacon, a tool distribution deacon, a follow-up deacon, a class deacon, a young people witnessing deacon, etc. It’s just thrilling!

Thank God for changes. We know they are good for the overall work, the strengthening of the Family, and each individual—and definite preparation for the days ahead.

Lily (of Simon), United Kingdom: It was both sobering and thrilling to catch the extent of the changes that are ahead. I have always considered witnessing to be my vision and a strength (as opposed to other areas of our service), but it was sobering to see the standard being put so high. Of course, I do realize that it is meant to be a Home standard and not every person will be able to fulfill every single requirement.

It was convicting to realize that this is not the time to sit down and relax, as we have a big job on our hands if we hope to become what the Lord expects us to. It’s exciting actually! I can’t wait to roll up my sleeves and start climbing the mountain.



We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our dear Family who helped us towards getting a new vehicle, which you see *some* of us here pictured in front of. Some months back we sent a want ad in for help towards a new car—a people carrier. We've tried to thank each of you personally, but would also like to put out this "Grape of Thankfulness" to let you know of our appreciation once again. We were especially touched to see that many who helped in big ways were part of our Family in Africa.

Thank you to **the Nairobi Dance team** in Kenya, **all three Homes in Nigeria** (Lagos, Port Harcourt, and Abuja), **Martin, Nina, and team** in Tanzania, **Anthony and Talitha's team** in Cape Town, **Ken and Natacha** in Japan, and **Elmar** in Europe.

A big thank you, dear **Mark**, in Japan, for all the help you were in purchasing and shipping the vehicle to us, and also for your Home's gift towards the van. It was so nice to see you and your son when you were passing through Durban.

And thank you, dear **Aaron, Lisa, and team**, for giving us the use of your car. It was a tremendous blessing over the last months when our vehicle situation was tight.

And finally, thank you, dear **Ben, Aneta, and team** in Botswana, for taking us in when we came to take care of the car paperwork. We were very touched by your hospitality and help.

We love you all very much!

—All of us at the Africa Service Home

We want to send our special heartfelt thanks to all those who have helped us to answer the Lord's call to go to the Congo.

So here the list goes:

Big thanks first to **Paul, Lilac, Rachel, and Richard** who allowed Josh to go to France to raise funds which was a sacrifice at the time. We love you forever, Home sweet Home.

Big thanks to **the Dakar Home** who took Josh in on his way to France. You are great and a super sample.

Big thanks to **our sweet Family in France** who helped Josh in many different ways. Thank you dear **Cephas and Melody**, sweet **Gerald and Sephora**, precious **François and Lisa**, wonderful **Catherine and family**, dear **Micah and Magdalene**, **David and Sarah**, **Emmanuel and Daniella**. You all were a big help and encouragement and are forever in our hearts and prayers.

Big thanks to all of you who answered our request for financial help, most of whom we don't know. May our generous Lover give you back an hundred-fold. You deserve it! Thank you so much **Faith and Swan, Maria, Faithy, Joan, Mark, Gloria, Suzanne, Tim, John, Kaylee, Rayne, Nathanael, Deborah, Heaven, Joseph, Timothy, Gabe, Honey, Michael, Alisa, Josh, Andrew, Cecilia, Israel, Jonathan, Joy, Charity, Claire, Costanza, Paul, MP 1516.**

Last, but not least, big thanks to **Philip, Priscilla, and Johannes**, who took us in when we left Guinea and came to the Ivory Coast for paperwork. What a list! What a Family! When we look at this list of wonderful people who invested in us, it really touches us and gives us renewed determination to give our best for our Lord and for you, and to fulfill this vision to reach the Congo with love and *Activated*. Thank you, dear ones.

—Josh and Joy

Dear **Mari** (U.S.), **Emmy** (Middle East, my very own Home), **Alisa and Josh** (Bay-side home), **Shawn** (Turkey), and last but not least, **Joy P.I.** (Philippines):

Great is your reward in Heaven.

I just wanted to say a huge thank-you to those who helped me out with my visit to my folks, and to all of you who sent in money in response to my want ad. Thanks for your help as I'll be able to get my piano, which will be a great blessing here in ministering to the sheep. I couldn't have ever done it without you!

—Kirsty, Middle East

Dear Family,

We wanted to thank you so much once again for the donations you sent us recently towards our *Motivated* ministry. Your help is so very much appreciated and goes a long way.

As you know, in many of our fields we give out the *Motivated* for free, so the donations you send are used to sponsor these. Thanks to your help, we were able to once again divide nearly 6,500 *Motivated* magazines between the Homes in the Middle East, Turkey, and Pakistan. These magazines go places where we often cannot go, and sow the seeds of the Lord's words in so many hungry and receptive hearts. The reactions we continue to receive are so precious.

One girl in the Middle East who received a *Motivated* magazine from someone, and then logged onto the *Motivated* website wrote:

Hi, how are you? Every day I open the Motivated site to see it over and over again. I am Mona from [the Middle East]. Please send me these issues and regular Motivated-On-Line articles—stories and anecdotes with meaning—to my e-mail. I am very interested in receiving them.

Best wishes, Mona

This is just one of the precious reactions we receive on a regular basis. Thank you for helping us sow the seed, which makes it possible for us to follow up more in depth on those who respond and help His dear Muslim children grow in faith.

Please feel free to continue to give to our *Motivated* ministry. Each US\$10 sponsors 50 *Motivated* magazines! Your donations will reach many here and now, and you will share in the heavenly rewards there and then.

Love and many thanks again,

—Your Motivated Team

SUBSCRIPTION COMPETITION

By Christina, USA

My son, Brian (13), is now a shiner in getting *Activated* subscriptions. When we arrived in the States about six months ago, I didn't have a lot of faith for activating people, as I listened to rumors that "the market is glutted in the States, with Christian magazines and literature, and it is better to bring people the mag of the month and feed them on a regular basis individually."

After a few months, my boys started to attend the monthly meetings held in Houston for teens and JETTs in the area. The JT board members challenged the kids to get out *Activated* subscriptions on their own, and set a quota for receiving prizes.

Brian took up the challenge and began to faithfully offer the subscriptions. He would call those whom we had met and witnessed to before, and ask if they would like to subscribe. While on outreach, he would also offer *Activated* subscriptions to those he met.

His approach went something like this: "Hi, I'm Brian! I'm 13, and we are having Bible classes in Houston this month, and I am in a competition to see who can get out the most subscriptions to this *Activated* magazine. It's all about the Word and has lots of inspiring articles. You receive a mag a month for 12 months plus three extra free mags—15 mags total for just \$15.00. Would you like to help me?"

Well, Brian reached his goal of 15 subscriptions that month and won the prize at the next meeting—an MP3 player! Of course, all thanks to Jesus and His heavenly *Activated* forces! God bless the JT board and their fire to get our young people (and us older folks) challenged and ignited for the Lord and the Family and activating the world! God bless the young people who are in there fighting for the Lord, the Word, and the lost!

CRAZY ENGLISH CLUB

BY CHRISTIAN, DANA, MARIA, AND MICHAEL, JAPAN

"Crazy English" is an English discussion club we recently started. We usually do street witnessing on the weekends and meet many young people. We wanted to invite these potential people to a place where we could further witness to them and draw them closer to the Lord. The Lord showed us to use English as "bait," and to give them an "excuse" to meet us again.

Our first discussion was held outdoors in a beautiful garden overlooking the city. In all, nine people showed up; it was an unusual mix of Brazilians and Japanese, skateboarders, punks, hip-hopsters, and others wanting to learn English from these "cool-looking foreigners." The teachers included Aika (14), Ayumi (15, who was visiting at the time), Junior (17), Mark (17), Jesse (18), and

SGAs Christian and Dana.

The students' first discussion was free of charge, which helped some of us who were a bit nervous to relax, take it a step at a time, and keep things as simple as possible. We started off with a simple Q&A session to break the ice and get to know everyone. We then split into three groups to see what topics they would come up with for discussion, and planned to vote for the winner. The topics that came up were girls/guys, the spirit world/spiritual experiences, and ... chicken (!). It was a close tie, but spirit world/experiences won in the end! We read the section "Angels and Spirits" from *God on God* and discussed it further, getting the students' take on the issue.

Although some of them were from churchy backgrounds, and at first we

were a bit apprehensive about coming across as "sacrilegious," the Lord showed us to use *God on God* as part of our program—and the response was fantastic! They loved it, and it turned out to be a real key in opening their hearts to know more. As an added incentive, we told them we'd give them their own free copy of the book at their fifth paid discussion.

After that first meeting, we've held a discussion every Saturday and nearly all our students are faithfully attending each one. Our junior and senior teens are such amazing samples of faith and initiative! They are taking the ball and running with it, as they pray about and plan each discussion, keep in contact with the students, and show themselves to be true Family disciples. We couldn't have done it without their help!

EFFECTS OF YOUR SPONSORING

By Maria Swiss, Middle East

Thank you to all those who responded to the ad for sponsoring *Motivated* in the Middle East: Our Home was granted US\$80 for this purpose. We were very glad for this, and so are all the people who are getting them! I'm sure if they could, they'd thank you themselves. Your donations are going a long way and into very receptive hearts in this field. Most people have never read anything of the sort and are just totally surprised. Someone commented: "I've never read something like this before! No one writes about love, this kind of love. You have such noble goals in life; this is the most beautiful thing I've read in years and years! How and where do you find this? Do you think you'll write and print more like these in the future?" This is quite convicting because we have to also be the living sample of what these beautiful writings say!

We gave one of our closest young friends *Motivated* issue 2, after reminding him that we'd given him issue 1 the previous year. We saw him two hours later, after he'd read the entire mag and he asked if it only came once a year. After which he said, "Could you please not forget me next time!"

All that to say, thank you! We are honored to be your hands.

I am **James New Heart** (32), humble Belarusian FD servant of our dear Lord in the Ukraine (UI 019). I've been in the Family for three years, doing my best to be what He wants me to be. Almost one year ago, our precious Husband showed me to move to Africa and I already have a Home waiting for me in Botswana. I don't know much about fundraising, because most of my work was office-related and personal witnessing. But I will try my best to follow where the Lord is leading me.

He showed me to ask you, my dear and precious Family, to please uphold me most of all in your prayers, and if somebody will feel this little voice in your heart to help me financially, your gift will never be wasted because it will be invested in many saved souls in Africa!

You can send your gifts via the TRF to "James New Heart at UI 019," or contact me via e-mail at: chm@safe-mail.net to receive our bank info and the PGP key for further communication.

Appeal for a Vehicle

We are a very active, committed FD Home based in Gaborone, Botswana. We've been here for ten years, and the work is still growing. Our team has covered 700,000 kilometers, activating souls here in Africa. We've distributed over 50,000 *Activated* mags in Botswana.

We've been faithful and good stewards in taking care of the vehicles the Lord has given us so far. But as we head into 2005, and with our cars getting older, we'd like to appeal to



HELP WANTED

anybody out there who can donate a 4x4 to the work here. We are more than willing to pay for the shipping charges. What we are looking for is a Toyota, as they seem to be stronger and more reliable. We also know of a company that will donate any needed parts.

If you are unable to help with the car itself, would you be able to help towards it? If there are any brethren who feel the Lord putting it in your hearts to help us, we can be contacted at the address below. Love, **the Botswana Family**

E-mail: botfam@botsnet.bw

We are **Lina and John**. We live in Silvania, a tiny Colombian town that probably doesn't even appear on the maps, but it is in the heart of the many missionaries who have been here. Over the past five years, we've been in the process of organizing a school for missionary children. Our school consists of 16 children, but we have the possibility to train more. With the help of generous souls we have been making progress, to the point that many of the children have passed from elementary level to high school, with official approval from the Colombian education system. Our children participate in cultural events, performing shows for instance, which offer them the possibility to mass witness.

Right now we are in need of a good vehicle for transporting the children, and we are praying that some of the brethren, especially those in more developed countries, could help us in getting the donations we need in a short time. We need approximately USD \$15,000-\$20,000. We know the Lord will bless and prosper all who will give.

Home# CO 207

E-mail: jeans_valores@hotmail.com

Pray!



Healing key: My healing waters wait to wash over you, to cleanse, to heal, to make whole. Call on the keys to release these refreshing waters, and you will feel their soothing effects rushing over your body and into your life.

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

I Choose to Believe

By Jewel (of Josiah), Nepal

Last summer, Jo and I had the opportunity to go to the States with our younger children to visit family, friends, and supporters. While there I was able to have consultations with a few specialists. Recent tests showed the recurrence of a brain tumor, which had first been operated on over ten years ago. Due to it pressing against the optic nerve, I was losing sight in my right eye.

Ironically, the radiologist suggested the possibility of conventional surgery as there was no space for radiation with the tumor pressing on the optic nerve. The neurosurgeon recommended radiation as an alternative to surgery, which he said would be very risky near the eye. Another radiation specialist recommended fragmented radiation with minimal risk/success. I felt like I was between a rock and a hard place. Only the Lord would really know what to do.

As we took time to read and pray and hear from Heaven, the Lord seemed to be leading us to completely put our trust in the Great Physician to dissolve the tumor and restore my eyesight as only He could. Later when I talked with Chris (doctor and Family member) on the phone, she excitedly told me of a vision she had had of everyone in the living room of their Home laying hands on me and praying for a miracle. She felt it was an impossible situation and anything medical would affect my eyesight.

It worked out that we did have a prayer meeting in their Home, and they all laid hands on me and called on the name of Jesus and the power of the keys for my complete healing. Afterwards, Chris said that I was sitting on the exact same chair as in during her vision, facing an angel picture on the wall. What an encouraging confirmation that the Lord is leading and will heal according to His will.

"Faith and Healing," written way back in August 1970, says: "God likes the kind of faith that when there is a choice, when there is a decision, when there is an alternative, the great faith still chooses God in spite of the other possibilities." I read the following in "Issues 16" (ML #3450): "Simple childlike faith ... is simply choosing to believe in Me in spite of all other knowledge or possibilities or conflicting opinions" (par.98).

After prayer, prophecy, and counsel, I choose to believe that Jesus can and will

heal me. I believe He can remove this tumor and restore my eyesight. The good news is that the swelling above my right eye, which I have had for months due to pressure from the tumor, has started to subside. Fortunately, I am not having headaches, double vision, seizures, or any of the symptoms associated with brain tumors.

Also my vision in that eye, which was gradually deteriorating, has stabilized. When questioning the doctor of radiology about it after a recent MRI, he surprised us by saying, "Sometimes they do regress"—we're counting on that by the power of the keys!

Again, dear Family, thank you for all your intercessory prayers for my complete healing, which have obviously moved the hand of God on my behalf. So, we can all praise the Lord, and pray that what He has begun will be well done in His good time.

Remember, "Distance makes no difference to the keys. Call on them for a special delivery to the doorstep of your loved one!"

WS

Chloe: Against pneumonia and Sjogrin's syndrome (a dryness condition that causes arthritis, dry mouth, and in my case extreme weight loss). Usually pneumonia can be cleared up with antibiotics, but the antibiotics made me very sick and my body didn't tolerate them after a while. So we're trusting and believing the Lord for His healing through the power of the keys.

Terry (of Paul Theophilus): She is battling for the health of her kidneys. Please pray with us and claim the power of the keys for the miraculous recovery of her kidneys and for the various blood components and levels to return to normal.

THEY ARE WORTH THE INVESTMENT

By a Female, Europe

About 10 years ago, when I was a fresh, new disciple, I lived in a Home with four teen girls. They were not in the best spiritual state, to say the least, but we soon became friends, being that I was closer in age to them than the older members of the Home. I made a concentrated effort to help them, going on road trips, witnessing, doing crazy activities with them, yet at the same time I also tried to pull them up in many ways, for example stating the Word as my personal opinion.

I tried to do my best with them, but unfortunately they all ended up leaving the Family. That really broke

my heart and made me feel like, what's the use in trying? After that I pretty much gave up on young people in general, being deeply hurt when those four "didn't turn out." I would still love individual young people and when it came to being with them I'd try to help, but I didn't have much hope in it having any effect.

However, one year ago I met one of the four girls, and she was just starved for acceptance, wondering if I despised her because she had left the Family. I was able to show her lots of love and assurance. Since then she's been in close touch with me and always sends much love. At the end of one of our phone conversations she sheepishly said, "I love you," as if waiting to see how I would respond. Of course,

I told her I loved her too.

This girl has doubts regarding Jesus' love for her. But even though she is no longer in the Family, I know that my and others' love still means so much to her, and I pray that one day it will convince her that Jesus loves her as well. Recently, I met another one of these girls and she just kept bringing up all the fun things we used to do together. She really wanted to stay in touch as well.

It's hard to describe it here, but after meeting these two girls again, I just knew that all the time I spent with them, and all the things we did together were worth the investment. And it gives me new hope to continue to do so with any others who will cross my path. Love is never wasted!

Asia

Crystal: Chest pains and spondylitis (inflammation of vertebrae).

Daniel: Spondylitis.

Europe and Africa

Sara Mountain: Two myomas (uterine fibroid tumor) in womb.

Ann Canadian: Due to undergo a life-threatening operation to remove a large tumor in her throat.

Felipe: Hospitalized with a severe case of infected psoriasis.

North America

Mark (of Mary): MS symptoms and short-term memory loss.

Pacific

Gideon and Olivia: Complete healing from TB; against any negative side-effects from the medication.

Jonathan: Kidney to function well and without problems.

Trusty: Advanced cervical cancer.

Crystal: Serious gum disease, which could cause loss of teeth.

Lily: Small blind spots in left eye; restoration of normal moisture in both eyes.

Clare (of Peter Newlife): Bronchitis.

Peter: Varicose veins, dry skin combined with scar tissue, which causes very sore painful ulcers on the feet and lower legs.

Kris (8, of Eli and Tirzah): Diabetes; grace to take daily insulin shots.

Praise (of Michael): Chronic fatigue and a urinary tract infection.

Marc: Stomach ulcer and tumor.

□ BACK IN THE SADDLE □

By *Tiago (of Leah)*, for the CED, Thailand

Thank you for the encouraging comments regarding the *Codebreakers* and *Word Glasses* series. Having been a teacher and shepherd of young people for many years, I consider being able to continue to influence and instruct our youth through the Word the fulfillment of a dream. These last few months have been very busy for us but we have managed to finish a few more classes and want to make them available to you. We have also started to transfer our classes onto DVD format, although VCDs are still very popular and definitely more versatile as you can play them in practically any equipment or computer. If you do want to have the *Codebreakers* (not the *Word Glasses*, as these are meant to be viewed on computer) in DVD format, please be sure to specify that in your order, as we will need to produce them.

We don't have a stock of blank DVDs on hand, so we will produce them according to demand. Besides the CBs and WGs, we have also updated our CED library, so that now you can have access to a larger number of documentaries, movies, and educational games. Please write us at cbreakers@cryptoheaven.com to obtain a catalog of the CDs we are offering, as you may find something that would be perfect for you. You will notice that the price of the CBs and WGs are generally higher than other CDs we offer. The main reason is that there is a lot involved in the production of the CBs and WGs.

We have made substantial investments in equipment to meet the demand of the field and producing these classes is very time-consuming, sometimes taking as much as one month to complete a single class. On the other hand, they can be used in your Home for many generations and be kept for the future generations also, for the MCs who will become OCs and so on. (Most CBs are designed for the OC age on up.)

If you have any questions regarding your order please feel free to write us.

The Codebreakers Series

This series comprises video classes by Tiago, with documentary and movie clips, animations, etc., to liven them up. The classes are mostly divided into two CDs (approximately 1 hour each). Can be viewed either on computer or standalone players.

CB 1–2: The Bible—Rewind and Fast Forward, I and II — Class covering the Bible, its making, and fascinating facts.

CB 3–4: The Bible Code — Prophecies and Prophets, I and II — The history of prophecy and prophets and how some got their prophecies.

CB 5–6: To Clone or Not to Clone, I and II — What you don't hear or see about cloning and why cloning is ungodly.

CB 7–8: The World Cons' Piracy, I and II — Find out who writes the agenda of the Antichrist. Revealing documentary included.

CB 9–10: A Plague on Both Your Houses, I and II — How plagues have been used by God and the ungodly throughout the ages.

CB 11–12: The Impostor, I and II — What are the characteristics of the false messiah to come? David Komix's finest hour in acting.

CB 13–14: Hearing from the Lord, I and II — The Lord speaks! How to listen.

CB 15–16: Lights! Camera! Blasphemy! I and II — Exposé on Hollywood. (Recommended for JETTs on up only.)

CB 17–18: Life Is Beautiful! I and II — The power of positiveness and how to turn on the Romans 8:28 button in our lives.

CB 19–20: Committed! I and II — The story of the dedicated and why they make a difference in the world.

CB 21–22: The Story of Mankind, I and II — From creation to the twentieth century. God's view of history.

CB 23–24: Dropouts! I and II — Why God waited until the hippie revolution to start the Family.

CB 25–27: Spirit Helpers and Spirits Helped, I and II — Who is helping us and who we have helped in the spirit world.

CB 28: Beyond Limit — How the gift of communicating with the spirit world can help people.

Word Glasses

Unlike *Codebreakers*, *Word Glasses* are classes in html (website style) that can be viewed on the computer only. The texts can be read along and are interspersed with video clips that emphasize the point brought out in class. Each class on CD can last as long as two or three hours and can be discussed with each showing.

WG 1: Life After Death and the Spiritual World — A study on life-after-death with inspiring quotes and clips.

WG 2: Ye Are Gods — What happened to the progeny of the angels that mingled with the daughters of men in Genesis 6?

WG 3: Cool Home School — Why we adopted the efficient but always controversial homeschooling method.

WG 4: Literature, Poetry and Positiveness — An English literature class. Poets of positiveness and their works.

WG 5: The Knights of Light — Word study on the Crusades and St. Francis of Assisi.

WG 6: The Inspired Teacher — Tips on teaching teens and inspiring clips of inspired teachers.

WG 7: Atlantis — What happened to the mythical continent that vanished from Earth?

New Classes

These are the latest productions of *Codebreakers* and *Word Glasses*.

CB 29: Unlearned and Ignorant? I — Christianity makes the most intelligent and cultured people on Earth. Find out why.

CB 30: Unlearned and Ignorant? II — Christianity makes the most intelligent and cultured people on Earth. Find out why.

WG 7: The Songs Those Christians Sang — And Still Sing! I — "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought." — Shelley

WG 8: The Songs Those Christians Sang — And Still Sing! II — "Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought." — Shelley

WG 9: Early Learning I — The importance of early education. Great for training and inspiring parents and teachers, by Leah.

WG 10: Child Learning II — How-tos of early education! Great for training and inspiring parents and teachers, by Leah.

WG 11: Jesus: Beyond the Bible — Prophecies and other details about Jesus' life and ministry not found in the Bible.

Price for CD: US\$3

Price for DVD (two Codebreakers on each DVD): US\$5

Postage is already included in the price

Please send your order via the TRF to: **Tiago and Leah at TH 01**, listing the specifics of your order. Then, write us at: cbreakers@cryptoheaven.com and let us know what you ordered so that we can start working on it. Don't forget to send us your postal address, so that we can mail your package with the CDs.

Personals

Lost contact with **Barnabas**, last heard of in Taiwan. Also looking for **Sam** from Holland, last heard of in South America. We would like to get in touch with you again. Please write Peter and Peace at: sidebyside@ewetel.net

former friends —seeking contact

I would love to hear from any old friends who knew me as **Daniel Den** in TSC from the Simeon Tribe during 1970–1973. I served in L.A., Cincy, TSC in 1970, Toronto in 1972, Mexico during 1972–1973. I would also love to hear from **Ebed, Black Simon, Enoch and Tilda, Amaziah, Samson, Rodent and wife, Paul Valour, Joel, Joab, Joshua and Faithie, Benjamin and Ruth** and others who remember the Austin Texas Vigil in sackcloth and ashes during 1970–1971, and the Amchitka Vigil in Canada in 1972.

Also would love to hear from anyone who was on "the-prophet-bus-that-crashed," going from Toronto to the Orangeville Babe Farm in 1972. Does anyone remember *that* event?

Please contact me at: traveller19632000@yahoo.com and enclose a photo, if possible, of then and now.

Snail mail: Daniel Spears, 9415 Westheimer #210-C, Houston, TX 77063, USA

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 © 2005 by The Family International — FD/MM/FM