



The Grapevine

features

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POWDER
Where there is great love there are always miracles.—Willa Cather

Want a Life?

BY LEA (SGA), RUSSIA

Have any of you ever been through a life-changing experience where you put the verse, "Give and it shall be given unto you" into literal practice? I'm sure you have. Of course there are different degrees of giving, but in all cases don't you agree that whenever you do give—in whatever way, shape or form—the Lord NEVER fails in repaying you? Don't you always feel happy once you do? Even if it's something as simple as giving someone a hug, you feel happier in the long run, no? Well, my life radically changed recently and I'd like to tell you all about it. This is a testimony about how my life turned happy after deciding to help out a friend by joining in to care for her baby—a parenting teamwork. It's about how I gained a friend, a soul mate, a daughter, a family, plus a more fulfilling and happier life.

Here's how it went: I was a happy, wild and free 21-year-old without a care in the world. I had the burden to reach Russia, where I had already been residing for a year. My dear friend, Genty, got pregnant, went to the States to give birth and returned June '98 with a beautiful baby girl, yet fatherless, thus ... a single mom. Of course we were all very happy to have Genty back on the team, and although she had the support of the home, being a single mom is rough ... am I right? No matter how tough or strong you think you are, there's nothing that can prepare you for raising a child on your own.

Upon her return, she started rooming

with another girl, Christina (who was also pregnant). Christina was about to leave for the States with her boyfriend, Mike, to have their baby. Noting Genty's future conditions and her hidden anguish of being alone with an eight-month-old baby, I nonchalantly and without much thought told her, "Genty, when Chris leaves, I'll help you out with the baby, K?" Surprised yet a little doubtful of that ever happening, she thanked me.

I gained a friend,
a soul mate,
a daughter, a family,
plus a more
fulfilling and
happier life!

Sure enough things went as planned. Chris left and I showed up in her room with all my stuff.—And that, my friends, is where my life changed!! I never anticipated everything that goes into raising a child ... all the work! All the common free slots in my daily schedule were filled with me busying myself washing doo-doo diapers, cleaning up baby messes, sticking bottles in my baby's mouth, learning how to put her to sleep, changing diapers, etc. But that's not all. The best part is when the busy day is over, and you've worked good and hard for needed rest and it's time to sleep—only to wake up to the reality that the sleep may be sweet but not necessarily in peace, if you know what I mean—especially if the baby is teething or sick.

You're probably wondering what kind of "testimony" this is. I know, I know, all of this sounds encouraging—NOT. If you're anything like me—independent, longing for adventure and fun, gotta have movement, change and excitement—the last thing you want is to be tied down or to be bound to something or someone, right? Truth is, folks, you can still have all that fun and more, plus ... someone to do all that with!

I've been with Genty and Mikayla for four months and I've come to the realization that a child needs parents—in the plural form of the word. Okay, it was a little earthshaking shifting gears and

parent survey

—RESPOND TO THE GRAPEVINE

- Which age group (from 0-13) do you feel needs more Word-based material?
- What pubs do you read to which ages? (In other words, what ages do you feel most benefit from the HOPE TKs, the MLKS, etc.)

difficult at first, but the key word here is "was," because it's not anymore. All that physical stuff is something I've made a habit of, and it comes just as natural as brushing my teeth, doing exercises, making my bed in the morning, eating, etc. It's all "extra" work, but not difficult nor a trial. So it is with being a step-mom or dad. Man, I'll tell you, the benefits sure surpass any burden you might feel it to be!

First of all there's the mother's gratitude for all your help and sacrifice in caring for her baby. Then there's the best part ... when you walk into the room and the baby starts crying for you. You take her in your arms and she starts kissing and hugging you. There's also that sense of belonging that comes with it. You have a friend who thinks about you.—Someone you can spend Christmas, New Years and birthdays with, someone who cooks for you, and brings you your morning coffee exactly the way you like it, someone to pray and have Word time with, someone to share your heart with ... sounds sorta like marriage doesn't it?

Well, whatever it is we've decided to stick together until one of us falls under the "taken" category in life. But until that time comes, it's ... my sister, our baby and me! It's like the story of the poor newsboy who had a crippled friend and the rich man asked him why he didn't live alone. He answered, "Why, then I wouldn't have anyone to live and divide with." ●

Brotherhood

USA

Steve, Sharon, Lily, Marie, and Darren: We held a large area fellowship (CM/FM) in Los Angeles after Christmas, and brethren from as far as San Francisco and Sacramento attended. It was a sweet time of fellowship and get-out, ending with a large inspiration. Very refreshing after such a big month of outreach push! ●

backtracking

In *Grapevine* #57 it states Sean Ray was born on November 25, to Peter and Renee. However, Shawn Mark was born on October 28 to Peter and Renee. Sorry!

Have you ever wondered if fairies are real, and if so, where they live? What do they do? Don't miss the fantastic "Fairyland" series coming your way soon in *Heaven's Library*!

Health is Wealth

[Note: The medical advice in "Health is Wealth" has been garnered from a number of sources: Dad's counsel, medical books, FED departments, veteran parents, Family nutritionists, practicing doctors, and your tips and personal experience. We will not be able to exhaustively cover each subject, but we will try to cover the basics. This column is not meant to be a substitute for seeking professional medical advice if you are ill, and, most of all, seeking the Lord each step of the way! In keeping with Dad's counsel and our Charter guidelines, each Family member is responsible to pray and act upon their own faith regarding their health and, when necessary, seek a doctor's professional counsel. A practicing Family doctor in the USA, Chris, has kindly agreed to go over these columns for medical accuracy.]

Fibrocystic Disease

—COURTESY OF GINNY, JAPAN

One year ago I began to notice my right breast hurt when people would give me tight hugs which put pressure on my chest. I could feel a small mass or lump in the breast, and after praying about it, decided to have it checked by a doctor. The possibility of breast cancer was on my mind, so I was relieved to find out it wasn't cancer, but something called fibrocystic disease of the breast.

I learned that iodine deficiency is a common reason for developing the disease. Here in Japan the salt isn't iodized, as it is in many countries, because the Japanese diet is naturally high in iodine from all the fish and seaweed they eat. However, the Homes I've lived in haven't been able to provision much fish or seaweed, so as a result we have had very little iodine in our diets. I don't know for sure if that contributed to me getting this disease, but I'm now praying and faithfully eating seaweed!

The following is some helpful information on the subject from the book, "Prescription for Nutritional Healing" by James F. Balch, M.D. and Phyllis A. Balch, C.N.C.:

"Upwards of fifty percent of adult females have fibrocystic disease of the breast. The Medical College of Pennsylvania states that an iodine deficiency is a common reason for fibrocystic disease. Other factors include hormone imbalance and abnormal breast milk production

(caused by high amounts of the hormone estrogen).

"In fibrocystic disease, round lumps that move freely and are either firm or soft are produced. Symptoms include tenderness and lumpiness in the breasts. Pain is usually most severe before menstruation. The cysts may change in size.

"In this disease, cysts become filled with fluid and fibrous tissue surrounds the cysts and thickens like a scar. The pressure can cause pain. Fluid is reabsorbed by the breast tissue when a hormone imbalance or abnormal milk production occurs. The milk-producing glands multiply and carry milk into the supporting fibrous tissue, resulting in fibrocystic disease of the breast. As a woman ages, it becomes more difficult for the lymph system to absorb this fluid completely. Fluid is trapped and results in cysts and inflammation of the breast. These cysts are benign.

"A cyst is tender and moves freely — it feels like an eyeball behind the lid. A cancerous growth usually does not move freely, is most often not tender, and does not go away. In a simple office procedure, the doctor will use a needle to diagnose fibrocystic disease. The needle is used to remove fluid from the cysts. A mammogram is usually taken to rule out cancer. (Note: In my case I was given an ultrasound instead, as I didn't want to have an x-ray unless absolutely necessary.)

"There have been good results using primrose oil to reduce the size of the cysts. The diet below will also help.

Suggested Vitamin Supplements:

- Kelp - 6 tablets daily
- Primrose oil capsules - 2 capsules, 3 times daily
- Vitamin E emulsion - 1,000 IU daily for 1 month, or start at 400 IU and increase slowly to 1,000 IU.
- Vitamin A plus beta-carotene - 15,000 IU daily
- Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) - 50 mg, 3 times daily
- Thiamine (B1) - 50 mg, 3 times daily
- B complex - daily
- Vitamin C - 3,000 - 7,000 mg daily in divided doses
- High-quality multimineral complex

Suggested Herbs:

- echinacea, goldenseal, herbal squaw vine, mullein, pau d'arco, poke root, and red clover.

Diet Recommendations:

- A low-fat and high-fiber diet is important!
- Eat more raw foods, including seeds, nuts and grains.
- Include in your diet, three or more times a day, apples, grapes, bananas, yogurt and fresh vegetables.
- Whole grains and beans are an important part of the diet.

Foods to Avoid:

- Alcohol, animal products, cooking oils, rancid foods, fried foods, salt, sugar, and all white flour products.
- Avoid animal fats, such as those found in bacon, sausage, gravies, ham, beef, and pork.
- Most importantly, avoid coffee, tea (except herbal teas), cola drinks and chocolate ... any foods which contain caffeine. According to research done, women who eliminate caffeine-containing substances from their diets had a high rate of disappearing and elimination of cysts.

(Editor's note: Although this is good counsel, we thought we should still check it with the Lord, and He sent Dr. Koger to say the following:)

(Dr. Koger speaking:) Some of these products mentioned in this article would be very expensive for the Family on the field, and I wouldn't want them to worry or feel that their health is totally dependent on, for example, whether or not they have enough primrose oil or supplementary Vitamin E or A capsules in their diet. These things are expensive and if they aren't able to get the things mentioned here, it doesn't mean the Lord won't heal them and help their condition. They can just do the best with the foods they have available to them in their area, and try to eat extra portions of those foods that are high in these vitamins and minerals.

It also suggests avoiding animal products and the fat in meats, and although it's helpful to reduce this because of the fat content—as too much fat isn't good for you—women shouldn't feel that they need to cut all animal products out of their diet because these products also have a lot of good things in them that women need, like protein, iron, calcium, acids, vitamins, etc. So it wouldn't be good to completely avoid animal products. You can reduce your intake, but still have some meats, dairy products and fat in your diet. (End of message.)●

Letters to the Editor

Re: Mama's Christmas message

I read the message from Mama in *Grapevine* #55 commending all of us for our Christmas outreach and it was so sweet!! I was reaching burn-out stage, doing two shows every day with six small children which involves so many little details, as well as running the household, cooking, cleaning, etc. I was so touched to know that she understands the way it is in small Homes at Christmas time, and that she brings us and our struggles to the Lord! Thank you, Mama, for being such a loving shepherdess!

—FE (OF VAL), USA

Re: Acronyms

One merry day we get a few notes in our office, one asking us for a CC of a PPM, another one with a message from the MSC and yet another one about some sort of FML. It wasn't lunch time yet and we all sort of choked on this exotic alphabet soup. We tried to swallow it, but it didn't digest. We thought maybe David Komic would know, but he was too far away to ask.

Request: Why not be temperate with these acronyms? If we have to use them, please let's send definitions along with these awesome abbreviations. (Editor's note: The proper way to use

acronyms is the first time you use it in a letter or article to write out the words, for example, *Prayer and Prophecy Meeting (PPM)*. Us unenlightened folks just can't decipher some of this scramble-jamble. No harm intended.

—SPALIM (SPANISH LIM, JUST IN CASE, THOUGH WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT LIM STANDS FOR, HA!

(Editor's note: Neither did we! So we looked it up in the HomeARC and found that it stands for "Local Language Indigenous Mail Ministry"—the name given to the translating centers back in 1980 when they not only translated and mailed local language mailings to the Homes but also received and processed some Homes' reports.)●

“Number Two”: Trauma or Treasure?

It's bound to happen sometime: Number One-and-only has to give way to the new brother or sister. Our own Kimby had that experience recently, and here are a few tips that I found helped make the transition easier.

Explain it ahead of time: When I was five or six months pregnant, I started to prepare Kimby for the arrival of her new little friend. We talked about the baby that was in my tummy, and she thrilled over a full-color picture book of babies-in-the-womb. She wanted it read to her over and over. I'm sure she didn't really grasp the concept of exactly what was to come, but at least it was getting her familiar with the idea.

Create a bond: Alec and I have had this thing of “naming” our babies while I was still pregnant.—That is, coming up with a generic sort of nickname to refer to it as, until it's born and we would find out whether it was a boy or girl. This was especially helpful this second time around, as “the Pixel” came to have a sort of personality before she was even born. (Though I'll admit we thought it was a “he.”) Since we were always talking about the Pixel, I think it sort of helped Kimby to grow more gradually into the acceptance of the new member of our family.

One time we were sitting at the dinner table and I looked over to Kimby's highchair and noticed that she was selecting individual grains of rice from her plate and very diligently trying to squeeze them into her belly button. I thought to myself, “Well, I guess it's all part of early childhood exploration.” I figured I'd let her be for a while and see how it went. As I kept watching her, all of a sudden I heard her say, “Feeding the Pixel snack! Feeding the Pixel snack!” I remembered that when we'd looked at the picture book of the baby in the uterus, I'd told her about the umbilical cord and how it connected to the baby's

belly button and that's how the baby got its food.—And she took it literally! (Also figuring, of course, that if Mommy has a baby in her tummy, so does she—after all, her tummy is pretty round, isn't it?) Ha! I just laughed and laughed.

Plan room changes in advance: In our situation, we had Kimby sleeping with us right up until the time when the new baby was to come, at which time she was going to move in with the dear sweet sister who takes care of her during the day. We arranged to make this changeover a week or two before the baby was expected to come, in order for there to be a gap from the time that she moved out until the time the “intruder” would move in and take her place.—To have to contend with not just moving out of Mom and Dad's room, but also to be replaced simultaneously might have been a bit too much to handle gracefully. As it happened, there were big room changes going on at the same time, so we moved into a totally different room, which probably made it easier as well. This way we were not having to move the baby's crib right into the place where her bed used to be. Of course that won't be possible in all situations, but if Number One is moving out and you're not having room changes, perhaps you could try moving around the furniture in the room at the time that you do the

changeover. This way it gives the illusion of a “new room.” (See *Dito Book* 62:10; 71:1-8, 20, 29-37; 72:1-8.)

Presentation: I read somewhere that it can help for Mom not to be holding the new baby when big brother or sister first comes to visit.—I guess it introduces them more gradually, as opposed to them coming and seeing this total “mommy and baby” unit, which could cause them to feel left out right from the start. On Kimby's first visit, I came out of the room to greet her and then brought her in to see the baby, who was sleeping in her crib. Having so long expected this little friend, Kimby went into immediate ecstasies upon seeing her. The first thing she did was dash over and pull out a couple of picture books and started “reading” them to the baby! After a while she looked at me and said, “Can I play with her now?” Ha!

Offer an equivalent: Another thing that I did before I had the baby was to get a baby doll for Kimby. I made a little crib for it, gathered up a few little clothes, and whatever articles I could scour from others or find cheaply: a little baby bathtub, toy bottle, washrag appropriated into a little towel, etc. After Kimby visited me and the newly born baby and it was time for her to go and let us get some rest, we presented her with her own “new baby,” which she just loved.

Give extra attention afterwards: Baby Lauren was born



just a week before Kimby's birthday, so this was a perfect chance for Kimby to get a little extra lavish attention and her very own special day. Besides that I also tried to do some special things with just her in the days and weeks following the birth—a special meal with just us three while the baby was sleeping; personal time and special activities together at parent time; stopping by to see her more often during the day; highlighting progress she'd made or cute things she did to others in the Home at dinner or other times when she was listening, etc.

The good news is that baby Lauren's arrival was overall an easy change for Kimby. A couple times at the start I could tell she felt a bit insecure and would start doing tricks extra loudly to get noticed, but she was never resentful or hostile towards the little newcomer.—And even that passed very quickly, and she loves her dearly. As she said this morning when she came into the room to visit her sister: “I want to see the Pixel forever!”

[Editor's note: Keep in mind that each child is different, and although you may do your very best to help your child through such a period of adjustment, some children struggle more with this than others do. If that's the case for your little one, don't get discouraged. Keep praying and looking to the Lord for His guidance for your particular situation.] ●

Kidbits

wee ones ...

Emmanuel Christian, 1st child, born to **Priscila and Francesco** on October 8th.—Moldova
Willy, 8th child, born to **Joy and Jimmy** on December 6th.—Japan
Helene Samantha, 1st child, born to **Kerenina Sunshine** on December 28th.—Kenya
Emanuel Sebastien, born to **Lydia and Michael** on January 6th.—Mauritius
Christian, born to **Tunde and**

Csaba on January 10th.—Hungary
Kevin James, 1st child, born to **Miriam and Shad** on January 13th.—Spain
Daniel Birdie, born to **Maria, Stephen and Lisa** on January 14th.—Gambia.
Michelle Annette, 2nd child, born to **Vanessa and Steven** on January 15th.—USA
Baby girl (no name given), born to **Vera and Daniel** on January 22nd.—Europe ●

feature

Christmas

Card for Jesus

Chris, Celeste, Sonnet, and Caleb, Mexico: Chris got the great idea to build a life-sized stable, with our children as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. We set the stable up in a ritzy mall for the whole month of December, along with a table with tools next to it. We bought a Polaroid camera and took pictures of local families who would have their children dress up as shepherds and as Mary and Joseph. Our children, ages 3-19, went along to witness and win souls daily.

We weren't winning so many souls as we don't speak Spanish well, so we made a big card for Jesus' birthday with the prayer inside. People would read the little introduction, pray the prayer and then sign the card. We won over 100 souls in the last two days this way! Then we gave the card to Jesus for His birthday.

Shows and souls

Tirza, Guatemala: Together with the children and teens of the other Home in the area we did seven shows in some of the most popular malls in the city. Our last show was at a military base for 250 soldiers and officers. They all received Jesus into their hearts and were absolutely turned on! From one of our shows we just might have our Home's first Guatemalan disciple or very serious catacomber!

Over 5,000 tapes

Samuel, Crystal, Clara, Clair and Tiago, Brazil: A company whose CEO we've been ministering to for four years has been a great help in our CTP ministry, by purchasing 5,330 tapes and Christmas booklets. This enabled the message to get out to all the employees of that company, and generated the funds for us to buy a much-needed van. Special thanks to all those that made this sale possible, especially the brethren at BSC and John!

On prime time

Elimelech, Esteban and Maria Clara, Venezuela: The children did a presentation at prime time on December 24th—at 9 P.M. on our local TV station. There was a live manger scene, and they performed nine songs. The show was broadcast in three states and more than five major cities! The programming director was so pleased that she wants us to work with her throughout the whole year with our skits and singing!

Caroling—a first!

Maria Swiss, ME: Here in our little ME pioneer field, there are a mixture of Christians and Moslems. We asked our Christian friends (Orthodox and



Catholic) if caroling was a practice here, and it seems unknown. We were desperate

to show our gratitude to the many people who had helped so cheerfully over Christmas when some sudden requests were made of them, so after one of our Christmas song/puppet shows at a school, we just took the guitar, our home-made cookies, plus a nice card and Christmas message, and walked from place to place singing for our friends and their staff. Because we had made "Santa" outfits as costumes for our children's Christmas shows, people were calling out, "Look! It's Mama Noel!"

The reactions to the caroling were so outstanding that we wondered why we hadn't done it before! It was like a magnet and even in the middle of Ramadan (the Moslem one-month daytime fast of water, food and cigarettes) the non-Christians were coming out to see and hear our songs and get cheered up!

At a wine cellar where the Catholic order of Salesian Brothers donated wine to us, some visiting Italian tourists videoed us, and the newly-arrived Polish brother couldn't believe his eyes and opened a bottle to celebrate the event! After that we really got the caroling fever, and everywhere we were met with such appreciation as people said no one had ever

done such a thing to bring the real Spirit of Christmas!



Feeding Africa!

Joan Livingstone, Nigeria: We had previously done a program for one of the biggest oil companies in Nigeria where we acted out the "Rock in the Road" drama. We got such a good response that they asked us to do it again for Christmas. The children gave it their best shot and let their lights shine—performing for more than 10,000 children and adults!

Radio Rivers of Nigeria has been playing our Word tapes to about five million people in Rivers State of Nigeria.

Tasty fried chicken

David and Freya, Japan: This month we received a lot of frozen chicken—more than we could store. So Freya and some of the teens spent Christmas Eve cooking up some deli-

cious fried chicken, while the rest of the Home was passing out the message. At 5 A.M. on Christmas morning, Kento, David, Sam, Martin and John took a van loaded with enough food and hot coffee to feed many homeless people. As soon as we passed out the first meal to the first homeless man we saw, word got out. Within a few minutes we had a long line of very thankful, but cold, lonely, hungry people lined up at the back of our van. We were able to feed well over two hundred unfortunate people, and gave each one a Christmas tract and a word of encouragement.

Shows and more shows

John, Amendoa, Anisa and Cristal, Brazil: Miraculously we had about 15 shows booked with companies, hotels, authorities (vice president, federal police, first lady and governor of the state, among others). People loved our international group, "The Family Singers," and we also got paid well for the shows (an average of \$400 per show). Some we did for free and some paid us with food, which we distributed to the poor. We also did a lot of busking in famous restaurants. The Lord blessed us with 530 CDs out, a lot of witnessing and 1,112 souls won.

Party broadcast on TV

Peter, Tender, and Priscilla, Philippines: By teaming up with two other Homes here in Manila, our kids and young people (aged 11-20) performed for a popular TV show on December 26.

We had a Christmas party with our catacomb members at the Correctional Institution for Women, and invited 40 other women who don't have relatives here in Manila. The Lord provided nice donated cosmetics and perfumes, which we were able to give not only to our catacombers but to the other women we invited.

While in the middle of our party, lo and behold, a TV crew came in to the Conference Room. The rest of our party was filmed—the games, the giving of the Christmas goodies donated by AVON, our "Let the Whole World Know" number, performed by our singing team and the closing remarks of the party. It was truly the Lord's setup and became a wonderful testimony.

Tons of shoes

Micha, Merry and Faith, Japan: For the last four years, a shoe manufacturer has annually donated a couple hundred pairs of shoes to our local center. We have faithfully followed up on this company, even when the management changed hands. Last year they donated

Goings-on

5,000 pairs of shoes which we sent to Siberia. After we had successfully gotten those shoes off to Siberia, we asked the manager if he might have any more shoes we could send as humanitarian aid. After some weeks he called us and asked us if we would like another equal amount of shoes. We got together and the Lord showed us to take them. It's one thing to accept the offer, but it's another thing to figure out where to put it, as each pair of shoes comes in its own box and takes up a lot of space. We knew we could store 5,000 pairs because we had done it before, but we weren't ready for what happened next. At noon, the manager called back and told us there were 10,000 pairs of shoes, not 5,000. We prayed again and decided to take them, even though we didn't know where we were going to put that many. Then at 6 P.M. he called back again and told us that they had decided to donate 30,000 pairs, which later turned out to be 40,000, and that they would need to be picked up within three days. We knew that that many shoes were out of our league to store, but when we prayed, we felt that we should accept them. During the next three days we breathed, slept, dreamt and moved shoes. One big miracle was when our number one supporter sent eight of his workers and a 10-ton truck for a day to help us load and unload shoes.

How to move a mountain of 40,000 pairs of shoes? The Lord had told us that He wanted us to make these shoes a witness. We had

hoped that one of the Homes in Siberia would want the shoes, but it turned out to be a closed door. We also had a burden to see these shoes go to Cambodia, but that fell through as well. So we were left wondering what we were going to do with this mountain of shoes, while our shoe king was waiting to see what we were going to do with the shoes he had donated.

We visited our local prefectural office overseeing donations to institutions, and after some idea sharing, they offered to send out our offer over their network to over 200 institutions. A total of 44 institutions with a total of 1,500 people in their care sent back the necessary paperwork. We provisioned some event tents from the girl scouts, and set up on our tennis court, where we sorted the shoes by size, to make it easy for the institutions attending to pick shoes. For the grand opening, our teens sang "Walk a mile in his shoes." We went house to house giving out info and letting our neighbors know why there was a mountain of shoes in our tennis court. We got a lot of good out of this event, with some of the media wanting to do follow-up stories on sending the remainder of our shoes to SE Asia.

Recently, this same shoe company manager told us that he had sent news about us to the other regional offices drumming up more shoes for our humanitarian aid project. He later told us that he was able to get us 500,000 pairs of shoes—half a million pairs! We weren't ready for them at the time, but he gave us

advance notice that there may be another big donation of shoes in June. Any ideas?

Christmas Reeboks

Tim and Mercy, Korea: We made a few visits to a small school for troubled teens in the mountainous countryside of east Korea. The first visit was to prepare a meal and play basketball and soccer with them, as a get-acquainted time. One of our friends responded to the boys' need for get-out shoes, and offered to spend almost \$1,000 to get good quality Reebok shoes for each of the students and staff, which were presented to them on Christmas Eve!

Mercy was also featured on a radio show that focused on the volunteer work of the Seoul International Rescue Corps, of which the Family has been charter members—part of the leadership structure.

TV witness at Christmas

Jonathan and Mary, Ukraine: On Christmas Eve, our children were aired on TV doing a dance to "Happy Smile" and singing "Ding Dong Ding" in Russian, which reached 150,000 children. A few days after Christmas our show at an orphanage was televised. On Russian Christmas News they broadcast our dinner for the poor, and interviewed Mary and Ben. ●

CLE price changes/new materials

(From cover of new CLE Order Form:)

ANNOUNCING SUNRISE EDITION

Our new and developing curriculum now has a name: *Sunrise Edition*. For more information, check page 52 in our 1999 catalog, or ask for a free sample LightUnit. *Sunrise* courses in this booklet are marked with an "S".

A FEW OF OUR NEW ITEMS: (page numbers correspond to CLE order form)

Language Arts 200. New and improved in the *Sunrise* format. Available spring, 1999. Page 2.

Happy Hearts, 2nd Grade Reader (second half). More captivating stories and poems to follow *Helping Hands*. Goes with Reading LightUnits 206-210. Available February, 1999. Page 2.

Social Studies 200. New *Sunrise* course focusing on communities of United States and Canada. Available April, 1999. Page 2.

Diagnostic Tests. Rewritten to better match the CLE curriculum. Available spring, 1999. Page 8.

Small Gas Engines. Replaces *Small Engines*. Currently available. Page 9.

Home Maintenance and Repair. Practical high school elective at an economical price. Available March, 1999. Page 9.

CHANGES TO TAKE NOTE OF:

Old Language Arts 200 and Social Studies 200 will be available until Spring of 2000 for those who need them. Order on page 10.

(**Note:** When ordering, please note the above changes in the curriculum on the front cover of the order form, as if you order only Lightunits from the new *Sunrise* Social Studies, your old Answer Keys will not coincide with the new *Sunrise* Lightunit.)

Price Changes

| Old price | New Price | Item |
|-----------|-----------|--|
| 2.25 | 2.29 | Lightunits and Answer Keys that were \$2.25 |
| 2.50 | 3.50 | 826215 Grade 1 Peek Thru Overlay, Manuscript |
| 1.50 | 1.75 | 826112 Manuscript Alphabet Desk Strip |
| 1.50 | 1.75 | 826114 Cursive Alphabet Desk Strip |
| 28.50 | 29.95 | 602401 English 2600 Student (textbook and tests) |
| 11.25 | 11.45 | 610400 Grammar I Student |
| 2.25 | 2.29 | 610500 Grammar I Teacher |
| 28.50 | 29.95 | 602410 English 3200 Student (textbook and tests) |
| 11.25 | 11.45 | 610600 Grammar I Teacher |
| 2.25 | 2.29 | 610700 Grammar II Teacher |

The prices of many High School Electives on the right column of Page 9 of the Order Form have gone up, but since so few are ordered, we're not listing these changes. (See the new order form for more details.)

New Item Prices

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| 7.95 | 822125 | Happy Hearts Reader (for LUs 201-205) |
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| 5.95 | 725202 | Language Arts 200 Teacher's Guidebook |
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entertainment



Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

MEET JOE BLACK (1998)

Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins

Drama/love story about the angel of death who, on assignment to Earth to escort an elderly man to the afterlife, wants to partake of human experience and falls in love with the man's daughter. Not an accurate representation of the workings of the spirit world, but otherwise an inspiring and uplifting movie.

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (1998)

Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding Jr., Annabella Sciorra

Drama about a man who dies and goes to Heaven, but whose great love for his wife causes him to try to help her from the spirit world. Although some of the representation of the afterlife is not scriptural, it could be a good springboard for witnessing discussions. Be sure to read the accompanying prophecy to get the Lord's and Dad's view on it!

Movies Rated for Junior Teens and Up

AT FIRST SIGHT (1999)

Val Kilmer, Mira Sorvino, Kelly McGillis

Drama/love story about a high-powered businesswoman who falls in love with a blind massage therapist at a health spa, and the tests and trials and experiences that they go through when an opportunity becomes available for him to have his sight restored. Based on a true story.

A CIVIL ACTION (1998)

John Travolta, Robert Duvall, Kathleen Quinlan

Intricate courtroom drama about a hot-shot, self-assured small-time lawyer who takes on two huge companies after the deaths of several children are traced to possible pollution from their plants. Based on a true story. Could be suitable for JETTs, with discussion and explanation of fairly complicated subject matter.

TIDBITS

TAKEN...

Nathanael (21, of Jonathan and Sara) and **Clare** (21, of Silas and Gypsy) were "hitched" January 30th, 1999.—USA

Chris (21, of Ester) and **Lisa** (21, of Josias and Maria) tied the knot on January 31st, 1999.—USA

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Meet Joe Black

(Jesus speaking:) There are truths here that I would not withhold from My little ones, but I say to pray for discernment, for under the outer layer of truth there are also lies that, if left unchecked to grow in your mind, will become doubts. Be on guard, for although the spirit world they paint is supposedly a benign one, it is a spirit world without Me, a spirit world in which all may do as they please. I want you, My elect, to understand, so that you may instruct many. So watch this movie with your eyes open. Ask Me to show you the truth and I will. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

What Dreams May Come

(Jesus speaking:) This movie is not the pure waters of My truth. It is not a source of feeding, nor should My Family base their doctrines or beliefs in Heaven or the spirit world on it. But, for those who already know My truth, this movie and the topics and questions brought up in it could be a helpful springboard for witnessing. On one hand it is a sham of reality, because I am the way, the truth and the life, and no man comes to the Father but by Me. On the other hand, it portrays much truth, because it shows that there is an afterlife, a Heaven, a Hell, and that there is a God. It is a milky message compared to the truth you have, but milk is what people must start with before they are ready to receive meat. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

(Dad speaking:) These movies about the spirit world are a little tricky; you can't just watch them for entertainment's sake. You have to be on guard. If some are sensitive to the negative images, they should pray beforehand and ask the Lord if He wants them to see it. Those who don't have a tendency to be affected negatively also need to pray that they will be able to choose the good and eschew those things that aren't the Gospel truth.

This movie is going to make people think and wonder how things really are. That's good, because Jesus said 'seek and you shall find'. It's going to cause a lot of people to ask questions, and Jesus will make sure that somehow they find the answers, at least what they need to know and can understand. Even the hardest heart and the most analytical mind can't help but wonder if there really is something more than just what they can see and feel. That's why these movies about the spirit world and angels and demons are so appealing and so intriguing.

Normally people put their questions about the spirit world on the back burner. They don't know the answers, and they figure that they'll never know, so they assume, „What's the use?“ But when they sit down for long enough to watch a movie, especially something like this

that's so graphic and emotionally-charged, it grabs them, and they can't help but ask themselves those questions again: "Is there a God? Is there a Heaven? And if so, what do I have to do to get there?" So, if by seeing something like this, it makes them hungry enough or curious enough, or even scared enough to ask themselves these questions, then the Lord will somehow get the answers to them that they're seeking.

This movie could and should have been better. Even the most beautiful place in the universe would not be Heaven without God and His love, and that was the saddest part about this movie. They didn't include God. The closest thing there was to God's supernatural love was that typical Hollywood-type romance, the strong undying love of this poor man for his wife, his "soul mate." But at least it gets some people to thinking. The Lord will use this as a way of getting people to think more about Him, even if it scares them into wanting to go to Heaven. *(End of message from Dad.)*

At First Sight

(Jesus speaking:) This movie is a good portrayal of the ups and downs of love. It is realistic and has an interesting plot line. But the outstanding thing about this movie, which would make it of greatest value to My children, is that it shows the path of true love. The course of true love never runs completely smooth, especially when those involved are trying to pour each other into a mold, or have them be a certain way that they think would be better. If they would accept each other the way they are, complete with faults, failings and imperfections, then they could have a beautiful love that could rise above whatever hindrances or problems it encounters, and be a tremendous blessing and sample to others as well.

Your life in My service is not without its hardships, but if you can endure and rise above those petty little details of everyday life, you'll find your life transformed into one that is more caring, concerned, and able to show My love to others, in all of its truth and fullness. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

A Civil Action

(Dad speaking:) This isn't your average action-packed thriller; it isn't your typical lawyer movie where everything turns out just peachy. The story is a little more realistic and true to life, because it's based on a true story. It's a good movie, good for entertainment, but it's certainly not high impact.

Through the whole vein of the movie, you see once again, that so many people out in the world live for nothing but money. It's a cut-throat society; everyone looking out for number one, and not giving a damn about anyone else. It's not a fictional story, and crimes of a far, far greater magnitude are happening out there every day. *(End of message from Dad.)* ●

happenings

[Chickenpox bet]

Simon, Thailand: Here's a funny conversation which took place with my daughter (age 11) the other day. Our Home has had some cases of chickenpox, and after initially trying very hard to contain it and keep it from spreading, we had somewhat loosened up on our quarantine after quite a few more children came down with it and we realized that everyone was quite exposed.

I came into my room where my daughter was having some free time, and she commented that she was very happy that she was not going to get chicken pox. I told her that I would be surprised at this point if she ended up not coming down with it, as she had been very exposed. She continued to state quite confidently that she wouldn't get it, so I said that I would bet her 100 baht (3 \$US) since she seemed so sure about it.

At first she accepted, but then after thinking about it for a minute, replied that she would first need to hear from the Lord about it. If He said she wasn't going to get it, then she would bet her money. I thought this was a very good reaction even though the situation was a bit humorous. She really had faith that the Lord could tell her, and that while she seemed very sure that she wasn't going to get it, she wasn't going to put her self-assurance

to the test, but wanted to make sure she had the Lord's mind on it.

I asked her a few days later if she had heard from the Lord about it as I was curious to find out what the Lord had said. She said that the Lord had told her that it wasn't worth it as she was probably going to end up losing her money. Ha! I guess the Lord has indirect ways of saying things sometimes. Sure enough she did get chicken pox, so the Lord had prepared her beforehand. I was thankful to see that the new weapons are becoming a part of our children's lives.

[Not easy, but good]

Ahlai, USA: We just had the unusual blessing of visiting with or meeting Family members from 16 different Homes spread out from the East Coast of the USA to Mexico in the months of November, December and January, because of our tour in Mexico. It seems everywhere we go folks are talking about what a year it has been—not an easy year, but how thankful they [we] are to be getting the kind of training and testing we are getting right now. There is much open appreciation for the new weapons, and people are practicing them more. We notice particularly prophecy on the Home level is fast becoming a way of life, TYL. I know we would be lost without it.

Another observation is the noticeable difference in inspiration level, challenge and contentment of the young people and kids, and just general overall "happiness" between the Homes that have really tapped into praise, loving Jesus and being comfortable with talking about it, loving others and definitely prophecy—and those Homes (or folks) that haven't quite clicked into it yet. They are trying, but for one reason or another haven't quite grasped the big picture of where we're going with all of this or clicked into that it is THE LORD Who is wanting more of our love and more of us—period. There is a significant difference in freedom of spirit, faith level, the Lord's blessing and supply and even in little ways like the countenance, too.

[The mouths of babes]

James and Joanie, Sri Lanka: About two years ago, we got together as a team and asked the Lord to show us His vision for us for that time, and also for the near future. Our daughter Angela (10 at the time) had a dream in which she saw a house on a hill, by the beach, with plenty of coconut trees around, and she said that a man had given us the money to get there. This was a little hard for us to believe, as we don't have much in the way of home support and didn't know any man that would help with such a large amount. Also at that time, we thought that the place was Africa, as that had been the



I am Russian Philip and I want to ask you to help me raise needed funds to go to China. My plan is to be there this summer, and I really need your help. Thank you very much!

Send via EURCRO.

Myself (Sarah) and my three children (3-13) are moving to Brazil (hopefully by May). Raising funds in Poland can be quite difficult, so we want to ask for your help. We need approximately \$3,000 or provisioned airline tickets for the four of us. Send donations via TRF. Thank you! E-mail: sunshine@zigzag.pl

We are David and Paloma (11 children, in Astrakhan) moving from Russia to China. We need your help to make it there this summer. After we sell our equipment we will still need over \$10,000. Jesus said to go so we are getting ready by faith. In three weeks we're sending a scout team. We can't do it without you. We still need \$300 more of regular home support to be able to live in China. We need you!!! Send gifts via EURCRO.

place we were thinking about moving to.

So when the Lord later showed us to come to Sri Lanka, it was a bit of a battle accepting it. But going through the prophecies that had been received for us from different people, we decided to put our all on the altar and go ahead. To make a long story short, we have a house in a place called Mount L..., it's a three-minute walk to the beach and there are coconut trees everywhere. And the man did give us the money to come here! The dear brother who sent us the funds probably didn't even know that he was helping fulfill prophecy when he decided to help us with the whole amount for our tickets here! PTL!

[Hanshin earthquake – 1995]

David, Freya, Japan: On Jan. 17, the cities in the Hanshin area held memorial services to remember those 6,000 plus souls who died from injuries sustained in the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995. Most of the damaged infrastructure and buildings have been rebuilt, but about 5,000 families, mostly elderly people, still live in temporary housing units. Our volunteer organization, known as Family Kobe, were co-sponsors and co-hosts of a seminar called "1/17; The 21st Century and Message." It was an all-day seminar and one of the main topics of discussion was what we, as volunteers, have learned through our experiences in helping others. Two newspapers also wrote little articles about this seminar as they had reporters there from the Kobe and Asahi newspapers. ●

TODDLER TIME

Tips and tricks for play and learning

Magical appearing artwork Topic: Arts and crafts

Draw some shapes or a simple picture with a white crayon on a white piece of paper. (A child who is a little older may like to draw his own.) The child can then paint over these drawings with watercolors, and the surprise picture will become visible!

Word-based take-offs: Draw some angels, and use this activity to go along with a reading of the story in LWG 4, pg.36, "Angels Surround Elisha." Or write out short memory quotes or verses as a "secret message" to be read when painted over!

Accompanying memory quote: "He can make something out of nothing, even you!"

Variation: The child can draw a picture with colored crayons. Then mix a half-paint/half-water solution and paint lightly over the drawing. This will give the artwork a new and interesting appearance!

focus

Law of Love

Last year I was sharing with a single brother. We hit it off sexually but beyond that I was not interested in him as a mate or father for my kids. But he was willing and desirous to get together with me knowing that I was a single mom, plus he wanted to get married and have a family. Then I got pregnant! He was so excited as he had never had a baby before. He wanted to marry me right away and was very earnest in his desire to take care of me and be my husband, and father to my other children.

At first it was a little too much for me as I had “my ideas” of a mate and plus, I had a 13-year old daughter who was no piece of cake to get to know or be close to. He was a real sweet guy but I felt I needed someone who knew more about being a father and husband. As time went on we had our ups and downs for sure (believe me, we had them!!!!) and there were times that I said I’d never marry this guy.

But we did make the effort to work together more closely and he helped me with my other young daughter a lot. I guess love just grew on me, because I fell in love with him. It took some time but it did happen when I made the effort to try. It started out as more of a friendship though (even a rocky friendship at times, but he hung on as I was pregnant and he so much wanted to have a little baby, and the Lord had given him a real love for me) which was nice for several reasons. There was not that big huge and sometimes distressing emotionalism that comes with falling in love.—It was easy to brush my teeth in front of him, ha! Ever have a hard time brushing your teeth initially in front of this guy you’re in love with? It was never hard to figure out what to say (which sometimes happens when you’re first in love, nervousness, ha!) Anyway, all those little things I didn’t have to worry about, which I was thankful for. Our love just grew out of wanting to try and working together!

Now my opinion of him is: He’s handsome, wonderful, a great lover, tender and just my man! Yielding works! I have proof and with someone (whom when I first met, I was not attracted to at all) I never imagined I would marry. In fact, if you would have told me that the first day I met him, my reaction would have been one of “shock” and “no way!” And I had mentally promised that I would never marry someone that was the same sign as me, as I didn’t like that type of species of those I had met. (We’re the same sign.) Ha! The Lord blew on that and proved that you can’t go by feelings or by what we think is right.

To all the FM, CM, and outside members who have helped us on our way to the East: João and Clara, the Greenhouse (SP), Martin and Amy, Ivo, Luz and Ricardo, Matt and Joy, the BSC, the Oasis (Rio), Ana (of Dave), Isabel, Barney and Joanna, the DC Home, and our sweet Mark. It takes a lot of love, help, and prayers to get to the mission field! Thanks forever!



—ABI AND STEPH (NOW ON OUR WAY TO TAIWAN)

All this to say that after reading the Law of Love series, we were very encouraged that we had followed the Lord in letting Him put us together instead of doing it “our way.” We are very happy and know that we are each other’s “mate.”

—FGA WOMAN

This series has been very necessary, with all the little rules and considerations. It served as a guide for me when visiting a Home where a single sister asked if she could share with me. I said I’d love to but I hadn’t talked about it with my wife yet, but that I’d be delighted to once I was able to consult with her. I did check with her and it was fine, so we shared. In the past I probably would have gone ahead and shared without consultation with my wife, as was the case many times. But this series gives us a guide that covers every detail and helps us avoid confusion and problems.

—FGA MAN, VENEZUELA

After reading part #9, it gave me vision and faith for myself again (ha!), as I am personally looking at myself—old, wrinkled, and with white hair. I had virtually stopped taking care of myself and thought that sharing was not for me anymore, only for the young people. But after reading that GN, I started feeling sexy again and putting a little make-up on, and I started “hearing” about the difference as others were seeing it. TTL for the New Wine!

—FGA WOMAN, SOUTH AMERICA

My mate and I stopped sharing outside of our marriage after the Charter as I was very possessive, and have gone through lots of intense jealousy battles and have been hurt deeply. But being overly possessive and not wanting to share my mate led him to have relationships on the side. This caused a lot of heartache for all the ones around, to where my mate stopped giving affection to other girls.

During the past two years we have had time to strengthen our marriage and regain trust in each other. Now we can start off on the right foot, all over again, having the full counsel of these beautiful GNs, and being able to talk about it. Praying over everything and hearing from the Lord has liberated me! I want to open up my life again and reach out to others.

I’ve always been the “goody goody” type,

To the dear team at the Lake House: A big thank you to Michael and Joan, Abi, Sally and all for your kindness and giving to every team that has passed through over the past several years. Even when they were “up to their eyes” trying to get ready to move out, they still took time for us and helped us with needs, food, etc. We think they are WONDERFUL!! I’m sure that there are many who would second that! WLY Sweet Lake Housers!

—JONATHAN AND MARY AND TEAM IN UKRAINE

and never had in love feelings with anyone outside of my marriage; I always did any sharing the “right” way. So I felt that a lot of the counsel in these series was not for me, but for my mate. Thank the Lord, He is faithful! Just before reading part nine of the series, I fell head over heels in love with someone from another Home. My emotions ran wild and I have been battling for a few weeks now, having a hard time keeping my emotions under control. This has been very humbling for me, as I like to think I am in control of everything I do. I only watch videos once in a while, only drink tea, coffee or wine occasionally. In short, I would make sure to do everything by the book. I would get up early every morning and hear from the Lord, push praise time, prayer vigil, prayer day, and was very self-righteous about it.

But now I feel totally devastated after reading part 10. It hit home, especially about the benefit of shepherding, and how humbling it is to share such intimate details of your life with others. It’s very scary for me as I can see that the Lord has many lessons for me to learn. He wants me to grow in areas that I have been stagnant in for a long time. I pray that I can be yielded to what the Lord has in store for me and to gain the needed victories in my life.

—FGA WOMAN, INDIA

One of the main things that stuck out to me from the Law of Love series is how a key to avoiding a lot of our past mistakes when sharing is doing it in teamwork. It’s not just *me* sharing with a sister but *my mate and I* sharing. When we pray about it together and hear from the Lord, then we both have a real peace that we’re doing the right thing. Even if there are some forsake-all twinges, it doesn’t affect us so much because we are both in agreement. I think it’s a good idea if the person wanting to share asks the mate of the person they are going to share with first if it’s okay. This again brings the couple into your circle of love instead of just the two doing the sharing.

—FGA MAN, TAIWAN

When it comes to intimacy and emotion my husband and I are opposites. My preference is for the security and stability of a cozy relationship, being “the only one” in my husband’s life; he is attracted to and appreciates the close friendship of many other women. When we read the Law of Love series together I found myself only hearing selective portions of the letter,

I wanted to say how very thankful I was to have the very warm and loving hospitality of the dear Family in Sydney, Australia, where I went to have a family reunion. A very big thank you to James, Jasmine, Lamb, Mark, Kelita and all for going so far out of your way to make my visit so smooth—by helping me to and from the airport, bus stations, and allowing me to stay with you; taking me to some of the Homes of the precious brethren I’ve known for years and allowing me to

namely the guidelines to keep my husband's relations with others in check.

Around the time the Law of Love series came out, my husband crossed the sexual affection rules that resulted in his being put on partial-excom. To others it could have been perceived as a small slip as she was only just out of his age range, but to me, it meant so much more. He had been attracted to this young woman for many long months, and with each month my concern grew, knowing what the possible fallout of one mistake could be. I told him of my fear to which he asked me to trust him, further assuring me that "she's underage." She was young, and unwise in her interaction with my husband and around me. Sure enough, one evening when I was with the children the mistake was made and, perhaps to spare himself from my wrath, he hid it from me and I learned of this incident through someone else.

He had betrayed my trust and been dishonest about it, and I spared no words letting him know. True, they had made a mistake that had hurt and embarrassed me deeply, they'd broken the Law of Love, and they deserved the correction. But the horrible thing about it was that I was guilty of more—I refused to completely forgive him, and I became bitter against her. I buried the hatchet, but I left the handle sticking out and within reach. I felt the love I once had inside of me turning to anger and resentment. It drove a wedge in our marriage and I ended up hurting us both.

I went back and reread the Law of Love series in a different frame of mind—this time not seeing what boundaries it was giving my husband, but what I could do to more fully live the Law of Love, and I realized just how clueless I was. The happy ending is that the Lord used this experience to strengthen our marriage and our unity, and to help me to appreciate the many times my husband has gone out of his way to accommodate and assure me of his love.

—FEMALE (27), SOUTH AMERICA

I really like that this series is spelled out in black and white. I've been married for a few years, and I tried to put what I thought was the Law of Love into practice in our marriage. I was actually more pushing for it in the wrong way (if you know what I mean).

During the first year I really messed things up. I went through a lot of the wrong scenarios that the series talks about, so much so that it almost sounds like parts of this series could have been addressing me specifically. Because things weren't so clearly laid out, like they are now with the "Law of Love" series, I

have the time to fill up on all the New Wine before returning to my field of Thailand.

Also a very special thank you to the SGAs and senior teens who really made me feel welcome and were so sweet and loving! What a wonderful precious Family.

—GIDEON, THAILAND

A heartfelt THANK YOU to Mary (18), who came to our Home to help Diamond with the

was more of the opinion that it was just a matter of preference and opinion. My word against my wife's. I figured my wife was just pushing her side of things and not being "open." Boy, was I wrong!

One clear example was the point about the "One Wife" vision, and putting the greater marriage first. I was of the opinion that if I put too much into my marriage and time with my wife, I wouldn't be pleasing the Lord and would also be looked down upon by others. But it was so extreme that I was fearful of cutting off from work on time or going to bed too early, to the hurt of my wife. I was actually minimizing my wife and my family, which made it a bit difficult for our marriage. But thanks to this series, I see things in a new light, and Heaven knows I desperately needed it.

—SGA MALE, EUROPE

The thing I liked the most was that you addressed right from the beginning that the Law of Love is not only concerning sex, but that we should live the Law of Love in all aspects of our lives.

When we read the paragraphs that said that it is not only about sex, you could almost hear a sigh of relief in the room. Please don't think that now there is a loophole for us *not* to practice the sexual side of it, but I think that for many people it was almost scary to say the words "Law of Love," 'cause everyone would feel right away that you were talking about sex. We should have the right attitude about it.

I have been in different situations where I noticed that it was no problem to practice the sexual side of the Law of Love if the Home was practicing all other sides as well. Of course everything wasn't hunky-dory right from the beginning; we had to grow into it. But I know that all of us will remember our days together as the days that we lived in love and unity. Though our ways parted, we still love each other and are very good friends.

We just received the book "Cool Tips for Hot Sex," and my husband and I dived into it right away. It was so nice to read Family-made material on the subject! And of course, practicing it was even better! Ha!

—FEMALE, RUSSIA

We've finished reading #11 in the Law of Love series and I feel so different about my way of looking at sharing with others. I still want to share, but now I feel more sober and serious when considering going all the way with someone and possibly bringing forth a baby—it's a very real responsibility and we can no more just have the date and

care of the children and the many household chores, when Diamond was about to have our sixth baby. She was always willing to do whatever was needed, prepare nutritious food, school the kids, clean up after us, etc. And that with a cheerful heart, a good sample to all! Hats off to YOU Mary. We love you and we wouldn't have made it without you. We are proud of you!

—DIAMOND AND DUST, ROMANIA

have fun, without thinking about the consequences and the responsibility involved.

—FGA MAN, MEXICO

Regarding marrying someone who you don't feel is your "perfect soul mate," I have some experience with that. I married someone when I was young who had some serious spiritual problems, for which he was excommmed more than once. Then I had a very sweet and romantic relationship, where I was mated for about a year, which also broke up. This left me pretty bitter and at the time I didn't really want to even think about a mate. I thought I could just make it on my own with my two kids.

Then the Lord brought this sweet brother into my life, who fell in love with me. I was thankful for his care, but in my natural reasoning he was two inches shorter than me, two years younger than me, and balding at that! But he kept after me! When I finally prayed about it, the Lord told me that I shouldn't be so picky, but should be thankful that someone is willing to put up with me and my idiosyncrasies and take care of me and my two kids. So I finally made the decision to yield and make the commitment to get mated to him. We have a very wonderful marriage and are going on 19 years now!

Yes, we had to work at it, but so does everyone. There were times when we really had a hard time, but we learned to report on each other, correct each other, get lots of counsel, and we tried to be open to counsel. In return, the Lord has made us a wonderful united team and I am so thankful for my marriage. I wouldn't trade it for anything! My husband is my most precious treasure—outside of the Lord, of course!

We may not be "romantically" perfect for each other, but that's the wonderful thing about the Family—the Lord has also given both of us, at different times in our lives a sweet romantic relationship with someone for a short time. This filled that small part of our hearts that wasn't the perfect match, and satisfied the need for that kind of thing. But I would never trade the marriage that I worked so hard at for a romantic relationship that is based more on feelings. We feel that the love we have for each other and the years we have spent in building our marriage is a lot more real and worth a lot more than some "bubbly" feelings that usually pass with time anyway.

—ADULT WOMAN, USA

Although my wife and I share with others occasionally, it has been kind of like driv-

Thank you for being so in tune, Daniel, Miracle and David (SD13) and Marie Smith (AF093)! We were sending a request for financial help to open the first Family Home in Cambodia and you "answered before we called"! And thanks to all those who have sent gifts and translations to help with our road trips there during the last three years! We love you!

—TOMMY AND SERENA, THAILAND •

ing through a city with no stoplights, so it has not been something that we have stepped out to do very much. But this whole series is putting traffic lights at every intersection, and you can feel so much more secure driving through the city.

—FGA MAN, ASIA

The Law of Love was meaty and there were parts that were a little hard for all of us to digest. Certainly I can see the Lord's wisdom in focusing on responsibility and marriage. Thinking back over the years we have believed and lived the Law of Love, I realized that we have always been led to base our decisions on the needs of our children. Even during times when my husband and I have gotten into "hot and heavy" emotional relationships, we have always come back to the reality of the children and their needs, putting them first. This has always been the correct decision, and even though we went through some heartbreaks as a result, they were good for us, taught us many lessons and helped us to grow.

At this point in our marriage, I feel that if my husband was to have a sweet, close, even emotional relationship with someone else, I would be very happy for him. I love him enough to realize that I can't be everything for him, and he is so wonderful and special that he deserves the love of others too. This attitude is reciprocated, and he has encouraged me in sharing with someone else, not just when it was sacrificial, but also when it was a little extra blessing in my life.

Having gone through years of battles with the monster of jealousy, it feels good to be secure enough in our marriage that we can each encourage the other to reach out. That doesn't mean that we love each other less. That doesn't even mean that we aren't satisfied with what we've got. It just means that our love is steady and mature enough to not just believe the Law of Love, but to want to practice it as well.

—FGA WOMAN, NORTH AMERICA

Before I turned 21, I had always been about as single as a single can get—no boyfriends, no affairs, and so few dates I could count them on one hand. I figured I believed in the Law of Love

and that it sounded like a good thing, but having been behind the scenes for years and having had zero experience with the emotions that go along with it, my entry to the "adult world" of sharing and relationships was a little unsettling for me.

I started having regular dates with a couple of guys, one of them being a married FGA who I work with. We had always gotten along well—he's a darling man—and somehow I wasn't too surprised when, within a few months, I realized I was falling in love with him. He wasn't too surprised either, and neither was his wife, who, fortunately, I was also already friends with. They've both been so incredibly considerate, understanding, giving and patient all along, it just amazes me.

I was more than surprised, though, at some of the other feelings and emotions that I found myself having at the same time. Almost from one day to the next I was completely beside myself with jealousy every time I knew he was having a date with another girl, or even just chatting with them, giving them a hug, or anything. It was even hard for me to see him and his mate together, and for awhile I tried to avoid them somewhat as I would just start weeping almost any time I'd see any affection or "special" interaction between them, or if they had gone out together, etc. I was just so envious of what they had, and was so busy looking at the "hole" of what I didn't have that I often failed to see the delicious "donut" that I did have—sweet fun times and a close friendship with someone I love dearly, and who cares about me too.

For a few months I was basically an emotional wreck, and I didn't quite know what my problem was or what to do about it. It was hard for me to admit I could be so "evil," but I eventually realized that what I wanted was to have as much of him as a wife would—and that just wasn't reality. He's been very straightforward with me from the beginning, that although he loves me and likes to spend time with me, he doesn't feel the way I do; that his first loyalty and responsibility is to his wife and what we have is what we have.—Unless I want to back out altogether; which, while I've thought about it a good many times, I always come to the con-

clusion that that's not what I want.

Over the last couple of years we've continued sharing and having a sweet relationship, and while I've had my ups and downs, my in-the-vic times and my out of it times, I thank the Lord for the blessing He's given me in having a part of his heart and life. He's had to remind me from time to time about our little "contract." As much as I want to do the right thing and not hurt or pressure anybody, emotions can be overpowering things, and I've come to see that I need help from others at times to keep on the right track and not lose focus of how things should be.

When I finally came face to face with reality—with the help of my sweet friend's honesty, my shepherds' wise counsel, the Word and personal prophecies—and decided to accept my situation and "get happy" about it, somehow I stopped being so miserable and started to enjoy life. I had this major revelation somewhere along the way: When you look at the good and all that you do have, life can be really good; when you focus on the negative and all that you think you lack, it can be really depressing.

A quote from the Law of Love GN part 3 sums up what has been the key to victory and happiness for me: "The receiver must trust Me that what I am giving them through others is what I wish for them to receive, and they must be content and happy in this." I believe this relationship was the Lord's will and His plan, because He's said so, and because none of us went out of our way to make it happen, but it did. Through this sweet relationship He's blessed me both by allowing me to be part of this wonderful couple's lives, and by teaching me, and them as well, many precious and worthwhile—though sometimes difficult—lessons through it.

The long and short of the matter for me is that while this may not be my ideal "dream relationship," and while I don't expect things will even always be the way they are now, I have to say that my life is a lot better because of the Law of Love and this precious couple who is willing to live it. I had nothing before. I have something very special now.—I'm a satisfied customer.

—SGA●

Did Jesus use a modem?



Did Jesus use a modem
At the Sermon on the Mount?
Did He ever try a broadcast fax
To send His message out?
Did the disciples carry beepers
As they went about their route?
Did Jesus use a modem
At the Sermon on the Mount?

Did Paul use a laptop
With lots of RAM and ROM?
Were his letters posted on a BBS
At Paul@Rome.Com?
Did the man from Macedonia
Send an E-mail saying "Come"?
Did Paul use a laptop,
With lots of RAM and ROM?

Did Moses use a joystick
At the parting of the sea?
And a Satellite Guidance Tracking
System,
To show him where to be?
Did he write the law on tablets,
Or are they really on CD?
Did Moses use a joystick
At the parting of the sea?

Did Jesus really die for us,
One day upon a tree?
Or was it just a hologram,
Or technical wizardry?
Can you download the Live
Action Video Clip
To play on your PC?
Did Jesus really die for us,
One day upon a tree?

Have the wonders of this modern
age
Made you question what is true?
How a single Man, in a simple
time,
Could offer life anew?
How a sinless life, a cruel death,
Then a glorious life again,
Could offer more to a desperate
world,
Than all the inventions of man?

If in your life, the voice of God
Is sometimes hard to hear,
With other voices calling,
His doesn't touch your ear.
Then set aside your laptop and
modem,
And all your fancy gear.
And open your Bible, open your
heart,
And let your Father draw near.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN●

forum

[What they weren't planning]

Female (SGA), Europe: Most of my friends left the Family and I decided to follow up on how some were doing. While doing so, I came to an interesting realization—almost all of them had some complaint or reason why they thought the Family was not the right place for them. The funny thing is that once they left most of them ended up doing in the System what they hated most about the Family—only out there it was ten times worse.

For example, some girls would complain about “these mushy uncles coming on to you” etc. Well, they ended up as strippers with old guys really mashing over them. A couple guys who didn't like having people tell them what to do left and joined the Navy. Some of my friends, who didn't like to work and always complained that the Family worked them too hard, went out and had to get jobs to support themselves. They've ended up slaving away, doing tons more physical work than they ever did in the Family.

Some other guys left 'cause they felt that in the Family they weren't doing anything worthwhile with their lives; they wanted to go out and do something great, but they became bums on the street. There was also a JETT who hated home schooling. His parents sent him to System school—a private school, not even a public school—and he found out how much better he had it at home. Then there's a girl who always complained about Family boys, that they weren't sweet or as gentlemanly as the guys in the System, etc. Well, her first experience of those “gentlemen in the System” was a rape. I was that girl, so I know what I'm talking about.

If people would be more thankful for what they have, a lot of hurt, heartaches and hardships would be avoided. This also proved to me the saying: “All that glitters out there is not gold.” When I look at the System a lot looks great and cool and all, but it's all an illusion. For me in particular my illusion was all those gorgeous guys on TV or who I'd see walking down the street. When I'd compare them to Family guys, it seemed the Family lacked something. In the movies the guys all seem so perfect and their relationships basically always work out great, and when they have sex it's like wow, so I figured I could be fortunate and get a guy like that. But after what happened to me, I changed my views pretty quick. It's not what's on the outside, but the inside that counts—though if the outside is good too, I won't object. Ha!

I started thinking about this 'cause a lot of teens and JETTs are now going through “the Family vs. the system” stage and are seeing the System through illusion instead of reality. I wish there was a way to get through to them so that they wouldn't have to go out and see for themselves what we've been trying to spare them from.

[Fun father figure]

Matthew, Poland: It's really nice to have had the experience of working close to one of the JETTs in our Home. I've spent fun computer time with him, not just playing games but editing photos and creating art—challenging him to make the photos different yet tasteful. Also involving myself in his activities and at the same time allowing good open communication and keeping him in line so to speak,

in a respectful way. I have since received from him a willingness to do the things and jobs he doesn't normally like to do as well as respect towards me. I guess you could say that I've been to him over the last few months a “fun father figure” and we're going to miss those times when we leave. I've never had this type of friendship even though it's in the mailings with the “side by side” vision. Trying it has given me the faith to try to reach out more, especially to those without a dad.

[Honesty vs. lashing out]

Anonymous, Africa: Honesty is an integral part of our lifestyle. Honesty gives us the opportunity to live communally, understand and communicate with each other. It takes a lot to be truly honest, and all of us slip from time to time. It's hard to have everything you think and feel openly laid out to others. However, when a lack of it starts interfering with the running of a Home or causing unnecessary feelings to come up between Homes, then I believe something has not been said, or what has been said is not entirely correct.

Have you ever gotten off the phone and felt terrible? —Every kindness or word of encouragement spoken to someone else seems to have been turned against you, and you wonder if you'll be able to reconcile the ill feelings? When it comes down to it, what sort of standard are we uplifting when we phone up another Home in utter anger? Anger to the point you cannot communicate and sort problems out in the proper fashion. It's sad to lash out at anyone, whether in our Homes or phoning, but on the phone your privacy may not always be counted on. Your counterpart may not even know the entire story that has led to the explosion, but if you've left something to their discretion, asking them to pray about an issue, don't lash out at them when they have the faith to do something you don't necessarily agree with.

For the sake of love and what we stand for in this Family, don't later lash out in anger over phones; wait till you can control yourself and pray and discuss the matter in an appropriate manner and come to a mutual agreement. Give yourself time to relax and let the anger subside; it may help you see things as the other person may have seen it. You may be exploding over a misunderstanding that could easily be solved.

[A big trial]

Female, Brazil: My daughter is turning 10 and a new horizon comes before us as parents. As you know, we have a lot of bad influences that come from the States and other 1st world countries. For me, as a Brazilian national, it's a big trial that some of these attitudes—worldliness, dress code, way of talking, etc.—that are common in our young people, seem at times to be bigger and more worldly than in our “local” System. It almost becomes a cultural question.

When I visit my relatives who live outside a big city, in some aspects my kids' cousins seem more simple and sweet than some of our kids. They wear simple jeans and clothes, are not crazy about every movie that comes out, and weird styles, don't know all the actors' names, etc. They watch Brazilian *novelas*, yes, and may know about our national “stars,” but it doesn't seem so “wicked,” if you can understand me. I don't want to generalize, as in so many other areas our children are

so superior. But I can't avoid the concern that my daughter will also fall into this “Americanism” as she grows older, because it's all around her. And I can't totally isolate her.

Back to the cultural question: I'm very thankful for Dad, all he taught us and the Christian input I got from America. But that's it!—I don't want their culture. But the American culture is so strong in the Family, and worst of all, many young people are proud of it. As nationals we forsook our cultures and were happy to have God's input, to leave it all behind for something worth much more—the Lord and His Family. All I want is for my kids to grow up with Family input and not to be worldly and assimilate a culture that is worse than mine was.

So although we are a group that originated in the States, I wish we had less of America's spirit in our way of life. I enjoy the company of young people a lot and for the past ten years have basically lived in teen Homes or big Homes with lots of young people. So it's not that I'm an old-style person, but I can't help but feel this burden. I think the young people should feel free to be young, but their fascination for the bad also saddens me. Can't they also be expected to “forsake” some things to be disciples?

[Low letters]

National at heart, Japan: I like to call myself a Japanese national, though I am not, because I have been here in Japan for a long, long time. I consider this my home more than any other place and I love the culture and the people.

Some of us were talking about some comments we have heard, either in letters from other places or by word of mouth, about how Japan is not a mission field but rather a home field, and anyone who is still here should feel more-or-less bad about it. A relative of mine, in the Family, received a letter from someone across the world strongly suggesting that we are not in the Lord's highest will because we are here. It bothers those of us that are still here when we hear self-righteous comments like that.

Because I speak the language semi-fluently and love the country, my personal deal with the Lord is to stay here until He makes it very clear that He wants me to leave. At the moment, I have some wonderful sheep on the line and I am very excited that they are coming along so nicely.

Japan has its share of loafers and, yes, those are the ones that should pray about moving. But I've recently traveled to some other countries, as well as heard the testimonies of returnees from poorer fields, and I've realized once again that you can be a loafer anywhere you go if that's all you want to be. Just moving to a “poor field” doesn't make you a missionary. As a matter of fact, those of us that are still here feel pretty lonely at times. For some people it's even a sacrifice to stay because it's easy to feel like the new visions around the world would be much more exciting. But we stay because somebody has to stay by the stuff.

I admit, I have been guilty of passing harsh and unjustified judgments on some other fields—we all do it sometimes. But just remember that somebody on the other side of the world may think just the same things about you as you're thinking about them! Does this help us to be unified? My request is to please not write or say unloving or judgmental things about those left in Japan, the States or anywhere else. It's the Lord's business to take care of the burdens and the changes! ●

ask-a-midwife

—BY ROSE, USA

Q: In preparation for the big change that will take place in my life, I watched the video "Natural Childbirth" and I found it fascinating. The parts about the breathing techniques I watched about four times, as they were totally new for me and I wanted to learn them. After a while I think I got the hang of it. Later I went to the Childcare Handbook, Vol. 1, and they explained the breathing techniques and the exercises differently. It somehow looks the same, but it is different, and it would take a lot of effort if I had to learn these ones, too. Plus I don't know if I really need them. I was thinking the video ones might be the right ones, since they were published later, so I suppose they are an update, but then again, in the "Nutrition and Exercise in Pregnancy" it says that the Childcare Handbook Vol. 1 still contains all the information you need. Maybe

they are all good and it doesn't matter which ones you are practicing, but I would like to make sure.

—PRISCILA FISHER (OF FRANCESCO ROMANIAN), MOLDOVA

A: Concerning the two breathing exercises, you're right, they're different. The ones in the video are called the "Bradley Method" and the ones in the CCHB Vol. 1 are called the "Lamaze Method." Neither one is better than the other—just different strokes for different folks. The whole purpose of the breathing exercises you learn and use is to help you relax in labor, so it doesn't really matter which breathing method you use, and there are more than these two. You can even make up your own, as I've seen mothers do naturally in labor. Whatever works for you is what is best. So don't worry, you don't need to learn both.

Kid helps

Reading motivation

My youngest son, just turned 9, has always struggled with his reading. Whenever asked to read his standard answer was: "I can't read." After receiving all the children's books last year this has changed. Having these new books sparked his interest in reading and he started making tremendous progress. Now he not only reads well—self taught—but has also become a lawyer of the Word.

—HOME IN INDIA

Personal time solution

I've found it hard to find personal time to spend with each of the children (in our busy small Home) but know it is vital and necessary. A solution I have tried a few times and want to be more consistent with is to simply eat dinner together with one child at a time in a separate room. It really helps our communication and makes them feel more special. It helps me not to just herd them all around together every day, but to get more in tune with them as individuals. It's especially fun when I light a candle and round up a simple dessert and we pretend to be in a restaurant together.

—MARY, UKRAINE

FUN

The chief rabbi of Israel and the Pope are in a meeting in Rome. The rabbi notices an unusually fancy phone on a side table in the Pope's private chambers.

"What is that phone for?" he asks the pontiff.

"It's my direct line to the Lord!"

The rabbi is skeptical, and the Pope notices. The Holy Father insists that the rabbi try it out, and, indeed, he is connected to the Lord.

The rabbi holds a lengthy discussion with Him. After hanging up, the rabbi says,

"Thank you very much. This is great! But listen, I want to pay for my phone charges."

The Pope of course refuses, but the rabbi is steadfast, and finally the pontiff gives in. He checks the counter on the phone and says: "All right! The charges were 100,000 Lira (\$56)."

The chief rabbi gladly hands over a packet of bills. A few months later, the Pope is in Jerusalem on an official visit. In the chief rabbi's chambers he sees a phone identical to his and learns it also is a direct line to the Lord. The Pope remembers he has an urgent matter that requires divine consultation and asks if he can use the rabbi's phone.

The rabbi gladly agrees, hands him the phone, and the Pope chats away. After hanging up, the Pope offers to pay for the phone charges.

The chief rabbi refuses to accept payment. After the Pope insists, the chief rabbi relents and looks on the phone counter and says: "1 Shekel 50!" (\$0.42)

The Pope looks surprised: "Why so cheap?"

The rabbi smiles: "Local call."

Personals

James Nepali would like to get in touch with **Abner Dutch and French Lily, Oliver and Liz, American Jonathan and English Joy, English Francis and Joy, Gabriel and Mary Spanish.** Add: T.S.C. 707/56 Eros Apt. Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019 INDIA.

Andrew and Italian Mary would like to get in touch with **German Crystal.** Same address as James Nepali (above).

Hello, **John and Abi** (Szeghed Home), could you please contact Andy and Nina whenever possible. Also **Mike and Jenny**, please write to e-mail: tapoose@hotmail.com.

Micah Bear, I've been trying to get in touch with you for a few months. Please contact us at e-mail: <Jmetsy@aol.com> Love John and Maria.

Looking for **Joy** (of Rose, South African). I knew you in a combo in Switzerland 8 years ago. Please contact Maria (of Jenny, formerly Mary W.) through African ABM.

Agustin (outside member) asks **Miguel and Maria** (in Spain) who were in Venezuela in 94 to get in touch with him through e-mail: aalbornoz(a)hotmail.com. Add: Apartado 17103, Caracas 1015-A, Venezuela.

cute kids

Jay (2) was wanting to wear my shoes and be Mommy. "Okay," I said once he had them on, "what does Mommy do?" So together we talked about what mommies do. "Cleaning, laundry, dishes, cooking, etc.," after which he paused, looked at me thoughtfully and said, "I'll wear Daddy's shoes. Then I can just play!"

—JOAN (OF STEPHEN), HUNGARY

Maggie, being eight months pregnant with twins was resting one afternoon, and snoring. Fanny (9) was in the next room, sick in bed and resting. We had a cleaning lady (Karen) helping at the time, and she was also in Fanny's room tidying up. So when she heard Maggie snoring, Karen asked Fanny: "Hey, what's that noise? Is that an airplane?"

"No," says Fanny, "that's mommy snoring."

"That's quite loud though, isn't it?"

"Well, she has to snore for three right now, you know, because she's pregnant with twins!"

—COURTESY OF MICHAEL AND MAGGIE, BELGIUM

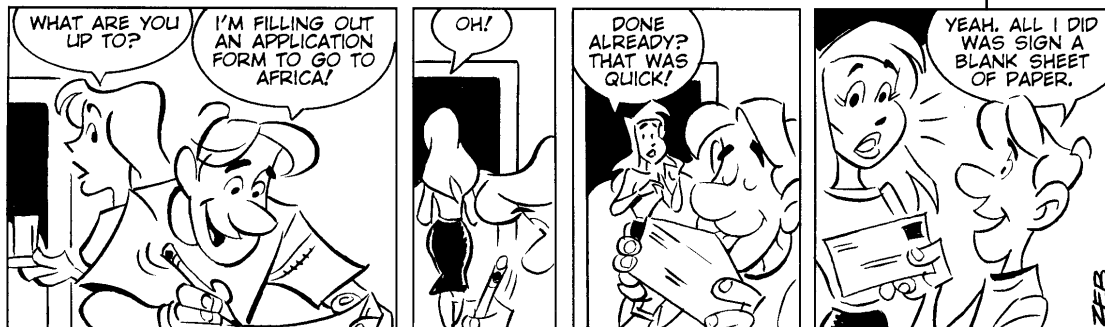
Q 'n' A's

Q: Is Mama and Peter's E-mail address still MPG@ibm.net or has it changed since G is no longer there?

—ELAM, AMY AND KATIE, USA

A: The e-mail address remains the same.

PECULIAR PEOPLE



The news and views from Family members published in the *Grapevine* are not intended to reflect WS policy.

Suggested reading age for this publication is 14 years and up. Parents or shepherds may read with or allow portions to be read by younger ages, at their discretion.

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