



The Grapevine

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FORWARD
 All our discontents about what we want spring from the want of thankfulness for what we have.—Daniel Defoe

He has not forgotten them

FROM THE HOME IN PUEBLA, MEXICO

As you may have heard, heavy rains have besieged certain parts of Mexico, resulting in massive flooding. North of where we live is a mountainous area with many small towns. Many homes, with the inhabitants still inside, slid down the hills into a raging river, which had grown from a small stream. The locals told us it happened during the night, when all was dark. They could only hear a terrible roaring noise and everything crashing in around them. The already rain-soaked hills made of sand and gravel were easily shaken, and created a tremor, causing the hills to literally crumble—taking people, homes, and crops along with them. These are simple, country people. There is no electricity in most of these parts, and in the darkness the people were left to their prayers and to await their fate.

When we heard of these people's plight, we were deeply moved to help them. Our very small team prayed for the Lord to show us what to do. Shortly after, a friend offered to give us 100 kilos of chicken if we went to help those people. We decided to cook and bring them a meal. From that point on, the Lord began to do many miracles. Some of our friends volunteered to cook. Others donated fresh fruits, veggies and rice. We cooked enough food for over a thousand people.

When we requested a letter from government officials to explain our projects, they not only gladly gave us the letter but also 25 sacks of donated clothing! Another friend who works in a plastic company talked with the company's owner, who graciously

donated many plastic containers and dishes. Wow! We had a garage full of stuff, but what were we to take it in?

The day before we were ready to leave, the Lord reminded us of a person we knew who had a 3-ton truck. A few phone calls and a few hours later, he had agreed to drive us in his truck. What a miracle! It even turned out that his family lived in the very area we were going to. Other friends donated toilet paper, bread, bottled water, paper plates, cups and spoons, and gasoline for the trip. A friend in Puebla donated paper and another friend the printing of tracts. The tract was called "He has not forgotten you" and had a inspiring message on how the Lord loves these people and was going to care and provide for them.

Seven young people and adults from Morelia offered to help us with this project, as we were only three adults and three teens. We left early Saturday morning, and got to our destination about noon.

We first arrived at small mountain town, Yanauhac, where some of the refugees were staying in a church and school. When the people started gathering, Jason and Jonathan started singing to them. Afterwards we invited them to pray and receive the Lord. Many did, and then we passed out the food and clothing to them. We did this in two refugee centers.

It was a very special day, and we drove home that night knowing we had just been tools in His hands to change our part of the world and show His love personally to some very needy people. There is still much to be done, and we hope to return to that area soon. If you would like to help us in any way, please contact us through the Mexico ABM.

From the EURCRO Activated Desk:

Ninety-six Homes have either sent in their subscription addresses or ordered *Activated* books from the Europe/Africa *Activated Desk*. We are now sold out of the "Feed My Lambs" series and "Key Bible Verses" which are the hot favorites! Each day more and more Homes write in, either by mail or e-mail and are getting *Activated* rolling in their part of the world. Leyland and Spring's Home in South Africa is still the shiner Home with 63 addresses sent in so far—27 paid subscriptions and 36 addresses of sheep wanting the 3 free magazines. GBY all for making *Activated* a success in your city.

Notice:

Grapevine skip

We'll be skipping the January 1st *Grapevine* issue, but will pick up again come January 15th. Send in the accounts of your Christmas adventures—we'll begin printing them in January! Love you all, and Happy Christmas!

Did you know Cuba is a sensitive country?—BY SACRO

For all you wild and willing missionaries who have a burning desire to reach the lost of Cuba with the Gospel—good for you! We just ask you to remember that you need specific clearance from SACRO before traveling to the island, and a general "clearance for South America" is not enough! Because Cuba has been designated as a sensitive country, you need to request clearance specifically for Cuba. It would also be helpful to include an explanation of your proposed ministries there. Thanks! KGFG!

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headlines

Feeding the sheep—Millennial style!

By the Hand 'n' Hand Show Troupe, Rayong, Thailand

Over the last year we have been riding a roller coaster with the Lord's highs and our lows. Now we're coasting on His momentum, and it's thrilling!

Our Youth Home had some inspiring additions this last month—national couple Thai Josh and Faith and their lovely kids were led of the Lord to join our humble little Home. When they'd gotten from the Lord to join us we had just moved from a house that we had lived in for free for two years, so moving was a real step of faith. The Lord led us to a very suitable house with seven bedrooms, a practice area and studio area for our musicians, and a very large kitchen and living room. Although initially we didn't even have one chair or any furniture, the Lord has provided nearly everything for our house, from nice matching bedroom furniture to school tables and chairs, a living room set, and even tiles to redo the kitchen!

We have had a youth singing team and have done shows in schools in the area for several years. Presently the Lord opened some very amazing doors, and we are riding a wave that has been totally engineered by the Lord! Through a reference from Mr. P., a friend that we have known for several years, we were asked to do our anti-narcotics shows throughout the entire province, but a very different type than before. These shows are sponsored by the local government, and we are doing programs for adults and parents—*poo yai bahns* and *kamnans* (the heads of the various districts—voted officials—sort of like Home Shepherds representing various areas of the province). They are asked to attend the program representing their area. We average 2-5 shows a week, and perform for an hour. When one district heard and saw what we were doing, they asked us to perform for them also, and now a third district has as well!

When we took the prospect of doing these shows to the Lord we got in prophecy various things to feed these people, taken from the Word on relations with people, how to

talk to teens and get them to talk, the importance of our sample as adults, and how to motivate young people to want to contribute in a positive way to society, etc. With the wealth in the Word on feeding and shepherding youth, we had a literal gold mine to choose from! Thai Josh and Faith put together a compilation of the anecdotes and Word that is read in the program, and put our address on it to pass out to everyone after the show.

Last month we did 15 shows. At each show there were over 100 people, and we are selling tools like hot cakes! We get out several tapes per show, as well as CDs and videos. Last month we got out five times what we had gotten out during the previous months!

We also have been able to pray with people individually to receive the Lord at nearly every show. Mr. P., has been so impressed with our team, as he had had a team from his government office, but they sort of pooped out after the first month. He comments constantly about our unity, dedication, fighter spirit, the kids' sample, and the sacrificial spirit of our teens. From this sample our friend has gotten saved and filled with the Holy Ghost, and has even started praising the Lord with us and giving Him the glory for things!

Well, those who know us will attest that it is definitely all glory to God. We are really nothing. He is just moving us along as we cling to His Word and His whispers—proof that where He guides, He really provides!

PS: We are looking for a talented, dedicated keyboard player who would be interested in helping us pioneer reaching the youth of this country with some real rhythms that groove. Can you play the keyboard and are you a new bottle young person? Do you want to help do live music and recording? Write us at: The Family, P.O. BOX 36, Rayong, Thailand 21001. We have several open doors, potential sponsors, basic equipment and a burning desire to reach the youth here. Are you the person for our team? Please write.

due credit

In *Grapevine* #76, page 8, about Taiwan earthquake's relief work, special recognition was given to Taiwanese nationals Crystal and Maggie. However, there were a whole bunch of brethren working there alongside the girls just as long and hard, whom I feel should receive special recognition also. Here is the list:

Tim and Hannah, Matthew and Mercy, John and Heart, Johnny, Andrew, Isaiah and Beth, Mark and Mary, Michael, Japanese Chip, Christina, Steven S., Gioia, Micah and Mary, HK Mercy, Endureth, Jimmy and Joy, Chinese John, YAs Noah, Phillip, Nat, Jami, Mike, teens Joseph, Aaron, Eman, Daniel, Olivia, Peace (and any others I've missed!)

And the brethren who helped with provisioning, supply, relief lit production and the kids, etc.

—CHRISTINA OF TW236, TAIWAN

special offerings

Dearest Family,

We love you, and thank you again for your tithes and special offerings to WS, which are very much appreciated and needed! We pray for all of you around the world often, and this month we are especially beseeching the Lord for your Christmas outreach! Below are the names of those Homes that gave special offerings to WS with their October TRFs. Thank you very, very much!

With love and thanks,
Your World Services Office

JIM/LILY/DOLLY, TURKEY
MARIE/JOHN/JACI, INDIA AREA
JTC HOME, INDIA AREA
STEVEN/FAITH, INDONESIA
PETER/TENDER, PHILIPPINES
STEPHEN/JOY, EU
MIGUEL/VICTORIA, EU
VICTOR, EU
MICHAEL TOUCHSTONE #2, EU
MATTHEW SAVED/GINA, EU
DAVIDE/JOAN/KRISTEN, EU
PAUL/CHARITY, EU
MICAH/MADGDALENE, EU
MICHA/CHRISTIANA/ #1, EU
MARTIN/ELLA #3, EU
STEVEN/CHRISTINA SEPT, EU
MARTIN/MERCY SEPT, EU
STEPHEN/JOY, FRANCE
FRANCESCO/SARA/MARCO, EU
STEVEN/CHRISTINA/MIC, EU
MARTIN/MERCY/JONATHAN, EU
LUKE/SUZANNE, EU
JANEK/SOPHIE/TIM/TAB, EU
JOB/RUTH/DANIEL, EU
JOAO DAVID, EU
BYRON/MICHELLE, USA
SOLOMON/MERCY, USA
LOUIS J. ROGERS, USA
DARREN COLTON, CANADA
LYNN CLEAR, USA
ABEL/ESTHER/LORI, US
ROBIN/VICKY LOGGER, NA
DOM/CHRIS/SAM/STEPHEN, NA
BEN Q./SEB Q., USA
SALOMON/SAMMY/SUNSHINE, NA
PAUL/RUTH, USA
TIM/REJOICE/DOVE, USA
PAUL/JOY, AUSTRALIA
DOMINIQUE, JAPAN
TIM/COMFORT, KOREA
STEVEN/MERCY, JAPAN
JACK/JENNY, CHINA
WILL/CHERISH, CHINA
ANDY/JOY, CHINA
CLAIRE, CHINA
ANDREW/MERCY, CHINA
MIKE/FAITHY, CHINA
CLAY/VICTORIA, CHINA
LILY, CHINA
GIDEON/TAMAR, HONG KONG
JAY/TERESA, JAPAN
ALPS HOME, JAPAN
PAUL/MEGUMI, JAPAN
DAVID/PANDITA, JAPAN
HCS, JAPAN
CHRISTMAS, JAPAN
ABEL/ANGEL, JAPAN
LUCAS/JOHN/RUTHIE, SA
FRANCISCO/JOANNA, SA
STEVEN/GRACE, SA
TIAGO/PRISCILA/JER, SA
NAHUM, SA
ELIMELECH/ESTEBAN, JAPAN

babymania

A Frog, a Turtle, and a Box of Crickets

By Jaz

Our bedroom is right next door to the room where the older children sleep, and on Parent Day, Alec and I usually put Kimby down for her nap in one of the children's beds, since they spend the day in their parents' room. This way she can amuse herself quietly in bed and listen to a tape without waking up Lauren, as often happens when she's in the room with us.

Today I got a sweet note from the children's teacher, explaining some sad occurrences that have been happening with some of the kids' books and toys getting strewn around and even damaged, in the course of Kimby's naptime forays there. In particular, eleven-year-old Jamie had a special little keepsake box with toy crickets in it, which he'd kept for years, that Kimby had unwittingly broken on this last Parent Day.

Well, of course you can't entirely blame a three-year-old for the results of her unfettered curiosity. But if you talk about losing pieces of games, wrecking books and breaking special keepsake toys, that touches a sensitive nerve for me, being one of my own personal pet peeves. Right away I pulled out a notepad and pencil and drafted a from-Kimby apology note. Calling Kimby up to sit on my lap, I explained to her that the other day when she'd slept in the kids' room she'd broken one of Jamie's things and that he was so sad about

it. Of course she was all remorse, and spent the next ten minutes dutifully poring over the penciled words with her favorite dark blue writing marker.

I also wanted to give Jamie a little something to show we were sorry, but as I looked around at three-year-old Kimby's things, I was at a bit of a loss of what could appeal to an eleven-year-old boy. Kimby was all suggestions: "How about this plastic fishy?" Hmmm. "Or let's give him this squeaky bouncing car!" Okaaay. "Here's a nice yellow book!" (My Playschool ABCs.) I kept looking.

Finally I settled on a tiny porcelain froggie container, which I thought he might like. Kimby thought that was just fine. But then I caught sight of something else—an "interesting" looking stuffed turtle-like creature that someone gave Kimby the other day when we were out. As I pondered which

of the two to give him, I realized that the only person who would miss the porcelain froggie was me, and while I was more than happy to lose something if it would make Jamie feel better, I wondered if it might be better to give something that would actually cost Kimby herself, as a way of bringing the lesson home a bit more.

So the turtle it was. We brought the letter and toy into the kids' room and Jamie was so very sweet and forgiving. They hugged, and then we walked out of the room together. As we walked back into our bedroom, Kimby let out a sweet sigh and said, "I sure am going to miss that big turtle!" I cracked a grin, but I was secretly very glad to hear her say it. That's the kind of hurt that is good; if she can start learning this lesson when she is small, of counting the cost and considering others' feelings, then I'd say that's worth any amount of stuffed turtles.

kidbits

Kaori, 6th child, born to **Sunshine and Tim** on October 15.—Japan
Baby (no name given), 3rd child, born to **Gracia and Paul** on October 16.—Japan
Reesa Shannon, 2nd child, born to **Joy and Michael** on October 9.—Japan
Jennifer Kaye, 10th child, born to **Anne and Marty** on October 7.—Taiwan

Brandy Vinson, 1st child, born to **Larina** on October 2.—Taiwan
Kerina Dawn, born to **Mercy and Daniel** on September 26.—USA
Isabelle Renee Hunter, 4th child, born to **Glo and Nick** on November 2.—India
Sebastian Angelo, born to **Kristina and Yan** on November 24.—Ukraine
Kaitlynn Anne, 3rd child, born to **Harmony and Phil** on November 26.—USA

One very pregnant woman ...

By Peace (of Eman), Madagascar

What can the Lord do with one very pregnant woman on a fundraising trip? A lot, I found out on my recent visit to Australia to have our 11th child. Our Home had hepatitis, and for medical reasons, I decided to go to Australia at 6½ months pregnant. I arrived with nothing, except a long needs list and the need to raise large amounts of money to support our missionary Home.

The Lord had prepared the way, as a sweet sister who I had worked with before in my home city e-mailed me just days before I left, offering to work together. This was my heart's desire, as we always made a good team on projects and she had been at two of my births. This dear sister gave her all for three months to the Madagascar projects and looking after me. Never was anyone blessed with a more sacrificial coworker! Everything that was accomplished was due to Pearl's drive and initiative.

So what happened? The Lord made a

splash, media-wise, with my return. There were three newspaper articles, two magazine articles (national) and a radio interview on our work in Madagascar. I became somewhat of a local celebrity. Everywhere I went I was recognized, and people were so eager to help. Old friends we'd lost contact with found us, and new friends were made. One man rang after reading the article in the newspaper. He said he'd met us before, and wanted to help financially. He'd come into a lot of money but he didn't want anybody to know about it, so he remained anonymous. I don't know who he is, but he put \$2,000 into our bank account!

Many people brought clothes and needs in response to the newspaper articles. I had a vision to use the money raised to buy a van to ship to Madagascar, as they cost a lot there. Then the Lord increased my faith to a 40-ton container. I needed to raise an extra \$5,000 to ship this. Fundraising was a challenge, as I couldn't walk while pregnant, as my feet would swell a lot. Also, I eventually had to have the baby and she took most of my time

after that. So the finances were all in answer to prayer. I wrote checks and put them on the wall for God to answer! I prayed for George Mueller to help me, and claimed that a mustard seed of faith would move a whole mountain of a container into the sea.

Well, the Lord did it. He miraculously led me to a church whose focus was missions, and they helped a lot. One of the pastors ended up paying almost all the shipping, only hours before I got on the plane. That was a real test of faith. The Family and ex-members were also a big help. Filling a container was a big project, but the Lord raised up volunteers who did all the physical work. A lady from the church paid to bring the container down to fill. The Lord took care of everything! I just had to learn not to worry and to trust Him.

When Amanda was six weeks old, we flew home, leaving many new friends and supporters. We are now enjoying all the wonderful things from the container, and are distributing good clothing to 1,000 people. The Lord can use anybody, whatever their limitations, to accomplish His will!

THE OTHER SIDE OF CHILE ...

By the *Conectate* (Spanish Activated!) Home

We just got back from a trip up the coast. Two friends of ours have a professional clown show and have donated their services to visit two centers for abused children that we have worked with over the years. The first one is in Los Vilos, a small fishing community with a very depressed economy.

The night we arrived we drove through the town, to find the streets full of men walking from bar to bar. We saw a young kid on roller blades being bullied around by his drunken dad.—A very pitiful sight.

The next morning we went to the “Laura Vicuña” center, run by an 80-year-old German nun who is like a sweet grandmother to these 70 children, plus the staff, many of who have also come to her because of troubles at home.

On the road to Los Vilos, many fruit and vegetable retailers had donated sacks of produce that we were able to deliver to the center’s kitchen. We also gave them school supplies that had been donated by a supermarket chain in Santiago, as well as some *Treasure Attic* videos that were sponsored by a precious friend in the States. All of these gifts,

along with helping in small part with the financial burden of the center, give them the feeling that someone cares for them and the work that they do.

While our boys set up for the show, we took the girls aside to do an art project. This gave us a little extra time to get to know the girls, and to chat while we colored and pasted. We then did two shows, one in the morning with the little children, and another in the afternoon with those from 11 to 16 years of age. The kids, teachers, nuns, cleaning ladies,



Joseph looks on as the girls do the craft project that we brought.

cooks and volunteers laughed and laughed at the clowns’ funny antics. In the afternoon, we played games and held contests for everyone, children and workers alike. When you hear just a few of the stories of the girls in this center, and even the staff, you stand in awe at the miracle of how they could forget themselves and just laugh and join in with the fun. It was magic.

The next day we traveled up the coast. Usually we go to the beach in summer, which is the dry season when everything is dusty and brown. But right now the countryside is emerald green, the mountains are snow-capped, and the beaches are deserted. It’s breathtaking! We were able to look through binoculars over to an island where the desert penguins live. They are brown penguins that make their nests in the cacti. One of the most beautiful

beaches we saw has a pine forest right up to its edge and a beautiful park beside it. It is one of Chile’s most exclusive beaches in the summer, but was “just for us” as we stopped to take a break in our driving. We spent the night at the hotel of some dear friends, and then drove the next day to Chincolco.

Chincolco is a small mining town that we’ve visited a couple of times before. It has a population of around 1,500 and most of the men are unemployed. The people who were waiting for us had not gotten the information right (there is only one phone in town to receive messages) and had not made any preparations,

neither to get a place for us to do our show, nor to invite the children. We were dismayed!

We went to the plaza close to the children’s center where we had last visited. Right then, the man in charge of the sports center was crossing the street. He gave us permission to use the soccer court, and within 10 minutes we had the equipment out of the van and were setting up. The only problem was that we didn’t have any kids! So we fanned out and started going down the streets throughout the neighborhood, talking to parents and inviting all the children we could find. We met many of the children that stay at the center during the week, and they also began spreading the word. By the time the clowns had the stage set up and their costumes on,



Sammy (the clown) with the girls from the Laura Vicuña Institute.

children were pouring down the tiny dirt streets, and the soccer stand began to fill up. You would have thought that the Pied Piper was in town! Soon there were around 200 people watching the show. I don’t think anything that exciting had ever happened in that little town. The kids had such a good time!

What makes trips like this so rewarding is the chance to get to know the simple country people, and to get to see the other side of Chile. The metropolitan area of Santiago is growing everyday, with a population of about 6 million in a country of about 15 million. The rest of the population is stretched out along the coast in little towns, and there is quite a variety of cultures, from the northern desert to the southern archipelago near Antarctica. It’s a wonderful mission field and we are so thankful to be here.

Mercy (Sally) helping one of the children cut out her coloring project.



4 the grapevine



Sammy picking participants from the crowd in Chincolco.

happenings

October 29, 1999, Cuhurriyet Bayram—Turkey's 76th Independence Day.

Ten JT/ST/YA/SGA/FGAs (John, Nehemiah, Suzie, Dolly, Gabe, Angelina, Lisa, Samara, Brandt, Terry) pile into the white Ford van at 9:15 AM.

Destination: Sarayli tent camp, Golcuk—100 kilometers from Istanbul.

Intention: Spend the day with friends, acquaintances, families, and co-workers—all resident at the tent camps. Maybe perform a bit. But most of all join in to add to the enthusiasm and spirit of comradeship.

Accomplished:

— Met with foreign aid volunteers and Turkish military commanders, all of who were overjoyed to have us partake of the holiday with them.

— Individual visitation from tent to tent for hugs, greetings and conversation imparted to these people who have become brothers, sisters, children, mothers, fathers, and friends through this time of need.

— One baby in particular, Nur, did not leave our collective arms for the length of the day.

— Spontaneous volleyball games played over a makeshift "net"—electrical cable running from one tent to the other (bountifully laden with Turkish flags to mark the date).

— John gives 20-something children a closer look at God—metaphorically speaking. Lifting each clamoring child into the air for a care-abandoned moment.

— Accepted invitations extended from 'neath an open tent flap for a cup of tea—a few moments of warmth and closeness.

— Joined in polishing off the camp meals—chickpea soup, bread and rice.

— Wept with Kurdish souls that wept; laughed with the young men who laughed; danced with the women who danced.

— Witnessed a children's parade—a semblance of normalcy, where dusty, muddied, gravel-strewn walkways between tents became paved boulevards for a moment.

— Partook of the country's concern for its people, observing as other companies and concerned individuals distributed what they collected for the occasion.

— Shared apples intended for our lunch with a couple pregnant women.

— Distributed clothing and other items given to us by friends and neighbors to be passed on.

All this and more—little deeds spread amongst big hearts; small deeds made great by the grateful souls receiving them.

Ongoing work: We've been approached by companies and individuals to act as the middlemen for donations of supplies or funds. We've gained the respect and reputation of

speeding along and ensuring receipt of goods to the intended hands.

All in all, and through it all, the Lord continues to abundantly supply for us as a Home, as we make the needs of others a priority. To mark this point: Yesterday there was a decision to be made—two appointments: provisioning needed electrical appliances for the Home, versus accompanying a company who had requested our assistance in the distribution of their materials. We have yet to see the benefits in our Home life from our decision to go with the company and help them out, but little decisions like these—the seeming "sacrifices"—have paved the way for the Lord's dispersal of blessings. It's incredible to observe. (LNF: We later went to the appointment we had put off, and the man gave an electric toaster and three nice heaters!)

Please continue to keep us and the ongoing work in your prayers. Don't forget the earthquake victims, many of whom are still displaced as the winter sets in. Pray that hearts will remain warm through the Christmas season (a month of Ramadan here), though the cold may threaten our bones. Thanks for everything.

[Drugs or Jesus?]

Daniel, Sara, Lisa, Milah and Luke, Russia: We had lost contact with an old friend for some time. One day while Daniel and Milah were out, they saw our dear friend on the tram. They chased her down, and she was delighted to see them. She asked to come over with her son, with whom we had not had much contact before. She is a really sweet lady but we knew we wouldn't be able to take her much further than we already had, so Daniel wondered what the Lord's reason was for having us meet her again. Well, now we know, as her son has turned out to be a real sheep and is coming over for classes almost every day.

After the first class, in which he got saved, he got on a bus and upon seeing the sad faces all around announced cheerily, "Hi, everybody! Why are you all so sad? It's such a beautiful day!" At the next stop, two plain-clothed policemen who were on the bus grabbed a hold of him and took him off. They proceeded to check his arms for signs of drug abuse, and questioned him as to what he was on. When he testified that it was Jesus they let him go, ha! TYJ for our new sheep!

[A convert's new life]

Mike and Faith, China: We sent in a prayer request for one of our converts a while back, who was badly burned eight years ago, resulting in him being unable to earn his own living except by begging on the bridge. We wanted to help him by finding a sponsor for his plastic surgery, which would cost around \$6,000. The Lord answered first by healing

his soul; he got wonderfully saved last year and is growing well spiritually. Now the Lord led a plastic surgeon from the States to come and operate on him. He has been admitted to the hospital and the process will begin for his new life! And God bless him, he has never ceased to give the Lord the glory!

[End of the world eclipse]

Juan, Eden and Christina, Brazil: On August 11th there was a rumor going around about it being the end of the world because of an eclipse. We heard from the Lord with our live-outs about what we should do about it, and He said (among other things) that we should unite with other Homes and turn it into an Endtime witnessing opportunity. So we shut our house down and went to Paulista, the commercial center of Sao Paulo, at lunch time. Teens from two other Homes and one live-out also joined us, and we stayed in front of a large high school where young people were just swarming out, plus many businessmen and people walking by who were out for lunch.

The "Endtime" and "Year 2000" tracts were received extremely well by all, especially the young people. People would crowd around to get one, since everyone was interested in talk of the end of the world! Originally, we had planned to stay out for three hours, but we ran out of lit after an hour and a half. We should've taken more! That day at least 1,000 people received the ET message; 500 "Endtime News" posters got out, and 500 tracts! We had a great time! Even Antal (2), who was in the stroller, helped get out tracts!

[Activated! splash]

Ella, Holland: One great victory was for us to get the *Activated!* books and pubs. They're so inspiring and we're beginning to show them to our friends and grasp what tremendous potential there is with this host of feeding material. I'm so thrilled about the range of kids' things available, and hope that as the program grows, there will be more such kids' books and products to get out, because they're just tops!

My kids are just flipped about the new *FML* books! They're so attractive and colorful and such a blessing to inspire them to get more into the Word; it's amazing what a little color can do. We have several friends and even churches that we might be able to get these out to, so many couples with little kids that we know! Along with the new kids' tapes, like *Sweet Dreams Tonight* and *Be so Happy, I like to Dance*, and all the other wonderful products available, I'm starting to see that there's nothing to limit us getting out tools now to every type of family or person that's out there. I want to thank all those who had a hand in re-doing all those tools and sprucing up the presentation.—It makes a big difference!

WEB witness

Promise, for the 800 team: It's inspiring to see how many ex-members are finding and writing us. Most of them have good things to say, although a few ugly notes come in. There are many notes from people asking for more information about the Family and our beliefs. I usually refer people to our Web site, where they can find the most information the fastest. Then I tell them that if they send their name and mailing address, I'll send them some more material. Some people don't respond, which is sad, as then they don't get the follow-up that they could. These will, however, still get the monthly "Power Links (an on-line newsletter)," which will at least keep a line with them.

Many people ask where we have a "church" they can visit, wanting to know how they can help, have fellowship, etc. These e-mails (as well as 1-800 calls of the same nature) are the hardest to take care of, as it is difficult to not only find a Home near them, but which is able to follow up on them. We try to get these to subscribe to the *Activated!* magazine, or get them plugged into the Winepress group if former members, which our Home ministers to. Two Homes are very faithful to follow up on those we send to them—Patrick and Christina and the Portland, Oregon Home, and Tim and Suzanna and the San Francisco Home. They both have active witnessing and follow-up ministries.

The biggest comfort is knowing that we can now offer people the *Activated!* magazine, and that they can receive monthly feeding.

Bonnie, for the 800 team: We received a very inspiring call from Robert, an African American man in his early 40s from Louisiana. He's been in and out of trouble

with the law most of his life, involved with drugs, etc. He was so happy to have gotten through to the Family, as he's been looking for us for the last few years. He explained that someone led him to the Lord right before the last time he went to prison. While in prison he witnessed to a guy

who it turned out had just left the Family with his wife and children, and had gone to jail for some reason.

When Robert started to witness to this man, the guy explained that he knew the Lord and had in fact been a missionary with the Family for a number of years. When Robert found this out, he kept bugging the guy with questions and asking him about things, and this former Family member ended up ministering to him and teaching him quite a few things, leaving him with a *Treasures* book, a *GP Daily Might* and *MOP II*. Robert devoured the contents of these books and studied them thoroughly. He so loved the books that he was heartbroken when some of his things were broken into and they were stolen. He then tried to remember everything he could from them and write it down by hand in a notebook to make his own book.

After he got out of jail, he wanted to find the Family. He went around to churches and religious places asking where he could find us, but they weren't too helpful. They said we were a cult and that he should stay away from us. He kept on looking, and asked his sister to help him. He finally found us on the Internet! I sent him a copy in the mail of each of the books he'd lost, along with an order form for all of our new tools—new *Activated* books and tapes and CDs and videos, etc.

It's an amazing testimony of the power of the Word! When talking with this guy on the phone, he was quoting all these quotes from the *MOP*, and knew all the stories from the *Treasures*, used Family terminology, etc, ha! He said that really he should just drop out and serve the Lord full-time, that he never really was a "systemite" anyway. He wants to get in touch with the Family Home nearest him and meet and fellowship with them.

GP responses ...

Rachel, Canada – Oh dearest God, I have been alone for such a long time. I am 41 and was expelled from high school for distributing tracts by Moses David (may the Lord be with him). They said it was porn. I thought that the "children" had all left the Lord or had disbanded, so I kept the faith and stayed alone. I had lost touch and could not find you. I cry to the Lord with joy that you are still carrying the Word, and I hope that I can soon be a part of the ministry.

Cristiano, Italy – Tonight I was in a café when some boys and girls from The Family came and asked for money to send to Kosovo and Albania. They made muppets and little toys with strange balloons full of air. I was with two friends who just painted their room in yellow and blue, and they asked for a muppet of a blue motorbike with a yellow rider. It was wonderful—so beautifully simple, so light! The boys and girls were dressed like clowns, with strange shirts with colored stars and hearts on their cheeks!

It reminded me of my past years, but also of all my years wasted in the church with those horrible, dull and silly preachers that were only collecting votes for their political party.

Now I'm an atheist, and I think I couldn't do better. But I've seen a light in those boys and girls tonight that I had forgotten, and that I thought it was only a remembrance of young and pure minds driven by illusions. I remembered the time when that light in me and my friends disappeared, leaving us without a guide, without faith in the church.

I think that the light I've seen today is pure. I never heard about The Family. Today I've visited your Web site. Can you send me some more information? Thank you.

Laura, California – I got a knock on my door, and I opened it to a very nice man and his family who sold me your *Coloring the World* CD. I'm enjoying it right now. My problem is that, though I tried to be nice and polite, I was not appropriately dressed to have company, so I made this man's visit short and sweet. I would very much like him to know that he brightened my day and that I and my family are indeed be-

lievers in Jesus Christ and have made Him our personal Savior. I didn't get his name, but perhaps you could tell him for me.

He is volunteering in Lancaster, California and was on Avenue J-8 on Saturday, August 28th about 2 P.M. I wish I could give you more information than that, but perhaps by God's will it will be enough. At any rate, thank you for the CD. It's fun and my nieces are going to love it.

Carl Crenna family, USA – We LOVE your “Words of Wisdom” and “Daily Devotions” Web sites! What a beautiful way to use the Internet! You truly are modern pioneers!

Dr A. George, General Hospital, UK – Hi, Ever since I heard about the Family six months ago, I have been trying to get in touch with you in order to join and contribute in any way I can. My search over the last six months was without success, so yesterday I bought a computer and found this on the net after four hours! Yeah!

I always thought my feelings about the world and God were unique and that I would never meet people who shared my ideas. I was absolutely amazed when I found that there was a whole bunch of people. I'm 29 years old and I really wish I had known earlier. I would love to meet people of the Family, especially here in UK.

(later:) Today is one of the happiest days of my life! I woke up feeling very sad that I've not heard from you so far. I began to have stupid thoughts that the Family may not take any more new members, and that I've missed the boat because I did not know about your existence soon enough. I prayed and then checked my e-mail. When I saw your reply, I cried like a baby because of my happiness. I could not read the letter till a long time due to monsoon conditions under my eyebrows. Now I have hope.

Michael Warren, Oregon – I remember the Children of God from the late 70s here in Portland, OR. I was very impressed with the zeal one missionary in particular showed, and how he gave me a booklet. My girlfriend (now my wife) took the booklet and read it until it fell apart! We never could locate or find that young man again. Do you have any books or periodicals we can purchase?

Sylvia Dixon, Canada – I was blessed by the passage no. 6 of “From

Jesus with Love.” It was touching, as if Jesus was speaking directly to me.

Helen Bedford, Canada – I am writing concerning a very rewarding tape and videos I bought. My grandchildren love both *Treasure Attics* and the two tapes we purchased. Keep up the grand work. Children need more of these.

Angel Gouranlou, Texas – I saw someone taking donations for your organization, and I was wondering if I could do something like that, or if you could send me some info on missionaries coming up and how I could go too. I have always wanted to share God's Word.

Meg Nassla – I grew up in the Family. I left in 1996 to get married. I have a wonderful husband who loves me, but it is very lonely at times. I was really glad when I found the Web page because I can see what everyone is still doing. I especially miss having people to talk to about anything, or to pray with any time of the day or night. To all my friends that are still in the Family, God bless you. One day I will rejoin the Family. I just have to make up my mind to give up the life I am now living. My parents are Lance and Davida, formerly Vince and Keren.

Guillermo Medrano, USA – I was once part of your Family back in 1977. I was only 13 then but did spend a whole summer's vacation living with the group (3 months with my mother's permission). Just wanted to say thanks to the group for that special time.

Michael Neary, USA – I have been a friend of the Family since early last year. I moved out here to California about three months ago and have not been able to connect with a Home. I miss the Word so badly. I miss Dad and Mama's messages for today, for our time. Most of all I miss the love in the Family, which I never experienced anywhere else.

Esther, Niger, Africa – I'm a nineteen-year-old Scandinavian girl. When I was just a little kid, my parents left the comfort and financial “safety” of living an “ordinary” life in society, and set out to follow God's plan. I was two when we started moving around a lot, until we finally ended up in Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world and

in deep need of help.

In January we traveled down to Nigeria (which is not far from our home), to Yankari, on a winter holiday, which is where I met one of your Family missionaries, a girl named Carol, together with a bunch of other members too (Joshua, Elaine, Rima, etc.).

Meeting Carol was very special, and in some way, I simply connected with her. First of all, she was a wonderful person, smart, witty and with a caring attitude, and second of all, we had a lot in common. I don't often find people who are like me. In fact, I never do. It's true that Africa is my home, but I'll never be African deep down to the root. My parents are Scandinavian, but when I'm there, I always feel out of place. I've grown up with both worlds but it gives me neither of them.

Amos, England – I joined at the Rome discotheque in late November, 1975. I was really smitten. It was definitely “see how these Christians love one another.” I was a flyer at Stazione Termini in Rome, and I came that night to see the show. I lived at the band colony in Rome for a few weeks. I also spent some time acting as a guard at the Rome disco with Titchicus and Jehoida.

Then it was down to Naples, then Palermo, then up to Massa during the summer of '76. What a beautiful place Villa Massoni was! A lot of people were there, right when FFing was taking off. I worked with Tekoa at a school somewhere else in Tuscany. I was on a really long road trip with Didymus Squirrel, another great brother I'll never forget. Then it was up to Milano with Simon and Sorriso! I left in August, 1977, from the Verona/Vicenza colony. Those were two of the happiest years of my life, but I could never really get the victory over the litnessing thing and the quotas.

It was a magic time, and those memories will be with me always. I don't have anyone with whom to talk about these matters. I am now a lawyer and a MBA. I have a great wife and four terrific kids, and a great job with lots of “wonderful” stress. But my time in the Family is kind of my special secret that no one wants to hear about, especially my wife, so I don't talk about it. I don't live in the States anymore, and I am based in England.

I still read and memorize the Bible, I'm still interested in prophecy and the Endtime, and I'm still waiting for the Antichrist to be revealed (it won't be long now, I'm thinking!). Here's to when Jesus comes back!

entertainment



Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

WINCHELL (1998)

Stanley Tucci, Paul Giamatti, Christopher Plummer

Drama/character study about the life of Walter Winchell, famous newspaper columnist and radio commentator of the 1930s through 1960s, who wrote in a very unorthodox style, and is known as the father of the modern gossip column.

Movies Rated for JETTs and Up

MUSIC OF THE HEART (1999)

Meryl Streep, Aidan Quinn, Angela Bassett

Drama based on the true story of a young woman struggling against bureaucracy in her attempts to teach violin to underprivileged children in a Harlem school. Inspiring and uplifting.

WITHOUT LIMITS (1998)

Billy Crudup, Donald Sutherland

True life story of the famous 1970s runner Steve Prefontaine, and his struggles, battles and victories in his field. Good points for discussion.

Movies Rated for MCs and Up

TOY STORY 2 (1999)

Animated, voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack

The toy friends are back with more fun and adventure; when Woody is kidnapped by an obsessive toy collector, his friends set off to try to rescue him and bring him home. Entertaining, with many good lessons. Could be suitable for some younger children, with prayer and previewing, but be mindful of a scary dream scene where Woody falls into a trash can with broken toys. (Please note that the first "Toy Story" is rated for OCs and is not recommended for younger age groups. It is not necessary to have seen the first movie in order to understand this one.)

Movies Rated for YCs and Up

TIMMY'S SPECIAL DELIVERY

Animated

Half-hour "Precious Moments" cartoon following the adventures of Timmy the little angel, who sets out to answer the unselfish prayers of two loving children on Christmas Eve. Be mindful of a scene in an old theater, which could be scary for very young children.

Winchell

(Walter Winchell speaking:) This is a sad story. I have to admit it is the story of my life, and this movie tells it pretty much like it was, I'm afraid. Since I died and came to the spirit world, I have had much mercy shown me by the Lord, which I don't deserve. What I pray is that this movie will be a good warning to all those who are following in my wayward footsteps in living such a selfish and unloving life, seeking fame and fortune only for myself and my name. It's a dandy bad example of how to lead a very unhappy life and make your loved ones as unhappy as yourself. I pray that by watching this movie and taking the lessons thereof, people will learn that giving love and thinking of others more than themselves, putting others first, is the way to happiness. I ended up a very lonely man with very few friends because of my selfishness and pride. *(End of message.)*

Music of the Heart

(Jesus speaking:) This is a great movie, especially for teachers. It gives you faith and helps you believe in that child that you are caring for. It gives you insight into their tiny little minds and what they are going through. It shows you that, yes, children are able to do above and beyond what you expect of them.

This is a good movie for JETTs on up, as little ones won't really grasp the message and they may find it a bit boring. If there is a parent or shepherd who feels that a younger group can sit through this, then you can come to Me and I will give you the confirmation on it. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

Without Limits

(Dad speaking:) There is a lot of good in this movie. It's a true-life story; it's not candy-coated and glossed over in the way a lot of Hollywood movies are these days. Here you can see a real man, with his real struggles and growing pains. You can feel with him as he learns and grows, and you can relate to him in a lot of things. There is a whole lot that you can even apply to yourself from a movie like this.—Might sound surprising to some, who would wonder what a 1970s runner could possibly have to teach young people today. Well, he was one Heaven of a fighter, and he knew when not to quit. If

God's children who are fighting in the eternal war against evil and the forces of the Enemy would just have that same do-or-die, keep-fighting-till-the-death spirit that this man had, wow! What a revolution would sweep the world!

There's a lot of fire in this movie that can be kindled in your heart, so ask the Lord to quicken the messages that He's got in there for you, apply them to your life and let them move you into action. Praise the Lord!

It's also a powerful and poignant lesson about the danger of the unguarded moment. I think you'll know what I mean when you see the movie, though I won't give it away right here. Beware, beloved, for the Enemy walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour! Don't you be his next meal! It doesn't take much to let him in, so be sober, be vigilant, be on guard. And sock it to the ol' boy every day, with everything you've got. Amen? *(End of message from Dad.)*

Toy Story 2

(Dad speaking:) God bless the makers of this show! They might not have been praying, but they sure yielded to the Lord's ways and kept out all that garbage and slapstick violence and bad negativity that permeates so many children's shows today. This was a remarkable movie, and I think there's a lot that children can learn from this. Of course you'll need to watch it with them, because there are things that need explaining, but on the overall it is a wholesome movie, with lots of fun and laughs and suspense thrown in too, for good measure.

I think if you have a little discussion time with the kids afterwards, you'll find lots of good lessons that you can milk out of it, to apply to their daily lives. Praise the Lord that they still put out some good shows with good, old-fashioned values. *(End of message from Dad.)*

Timmy's Special Delivery

(Jesus speaking:) This cartoon is anointed with the touch of My Spirit. It may not be widely available, but to those who are able to find it, it will bring a little of the real meaning of Christmas into your own lives. There are many simple lessons of love, caring and unselfishness that can be brought to life for little hearts through this simple cartoon. It is a simple story, but a touching and beautiful one. Just make sure to explain to the young ones what is going on so that they understand and get the full benefit of the lessons. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

[10 or 15 minutes]

Hannah, India: My normal ministry is outreach and follow-up. This is an exiting ministry, but like anything else it's necessary to keep stirred up and challenged, otherwise it gets dry and monotonous.

I am single and have not had children. Though it has been my heart's desire to have a child, the Lord has not seen fit to do that in my life. I had to laugh when recently one of our SGAs thought that she might be pregnant again, and this gave her a bit of a trial, as she is already the mother of two very small children. I told her that it's so funny how the Lord does different things in our life. I would be so thrilled if it was me! The grass is always greener on the other side.

I'm not sharing this for you to feel sorry for me, because even though I have no children myself, the Lord has helped me to come to grips with this, and it doesn't get me discouraged. I like to spend time with the children in our Home. I am not a teacher, as I go out more, but over the last little while I have had a desire to be more involved with the children.

Five people from our Home went to attend the Area Meetings here for about two weeks. This left us quite tight at home, but I really enjoyed teaching the children.

The teacher who normally taught the group that I took—the toddlers and preschoolers—was away, so I was thrown into it. For the first two or three days I was just learning to find my feet, so to speak, but then I started to get my head above water and find the different treasures that are in the pubs. I learned so much! There was just so much that I could do with my little group that it was amazing. School was fun and my little students were tired out by lunchtime. Ha! It was amazing how much they want to learn, and it became a personal challenge to teach them reading, memory work and poems, etc.

Now everyone is back but I still would like to pray further on how I can try to remain a part of the children's schooling. It can just take 10-15 minutes to do something educational with a child, like practicing their reading, and that can be fit in very easily. Sometimes I think we can categorize our departments too much, but for me it has been a blessing to learn to reach out more to our sweet and precious children, and to learn that they are my responsibility as well, even though I may not be with them on the schedule.

[Living by faith]

John Willing, Slovakia: A question I have heard a lot of our young people have is concerning the support of their present or future families without depending on others in the Home. I would like to share some thoughts on this subject.

I think it would be nice if we could collect more testimonies from around the world to give more ideas and inspire others that they can also support themselves without having to go to Sys-

tem jobs. I hear that more young people are going in that direction, with some even leaving the Family for that reason. I pray that we can inspire more people to continue living by faith, which means supporting ourselves mainly by witnessing and trusting the Lord that He still keeps His promise in Mat.6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

I understand how some of our young people got turned off to videoing and taping in the past, but now with smaller Homes and less financial pressure I think it is a lot easier to put more witnessing into our tool distribution. My personal experience has always been—from the old days of witnessing over 20 years ago to this day—that if I have the dollar sign in front of my eyes, the tools don't go out and the funds don't come in. But as soon as I put witnessing and souls first, the tools go out and the funds come in.

Some of our young people find it humbling to ask for donations, as they are faced with the System's logic that if they don't "work for money," why should they get support? The answer can be found in the "Statement on Supply" and in lots of Letters on the subject; there are millions of other people who support themselves by donations for all kinds of causes, and I don't know of a better cause than ours. Besides the many CTP ministries we are engaged in, more and more people realize that the most important need in today's world is the feeding of the soul, heart and mind. It doesn't matter if it's on the poorer mission fields or in the rich Western nations, people can see the need for more faith in God, His love and love for our fellowmen, and all the inner peace and strength that comes with it. They all need somebody to feed them, as there is very little provision for this and people are so thankful for our message.

This is something I would like to emphasize: The sheep even in the rich countries are very thankful to hear that they can have a direct connection with the Lord without going through some church, and quite a few are ready to pray with us right in their shops, offices, hotels, or wherever you meet them.

We should also not underestimate the tremendous value of our tools, as there are many sheep who treasure them, and their witness can go further than we ever could. It is very important to have the vision of the vital work we do, in order to keep the faith and initiative to go out and try it, and to have the guts to see it through

and not get discouraged by any amount of no's. Even if you only find one or two potential supporters every time you go out, that's what counts, not the quick donations. So hang on to those sheep's addresses, and be sure to feed them in the mail, and with personal visits if possible. *(Editor's note: And if you aren't sure you'll be able to follow up on them, send their address in to your local Activated! desk, or get them to subscribe! The Activated! program was created to make your job of faithfully following up on the sheep easier!)*

A YA in our Home told me that she had plenty of relatives in the States who would send her \$50 each in regular support, if she would only send them a prayer letter. When I asked her why she didn't do it, she said there was "no time or vision" for it in her former situations. I encouraged her to get those addresses and start feeding them by mail; I believe folks out there would be thrilled to find any young people in today's hardened world who are willing to be a full-time missionary!

I feel we should major on witnessing and winning souls, friends and supporters—no matter where we are and what we do. Life is so much more fun this way, no matter how busy we are with all the other things we do have to do.

[Two-time reader]

Ruthie, Pakistan: I am so thankful for the abundance of Word that is being poured upon us! By nature, I am a bookworm and love to read. It has sometimes been a temptation to read everything I could get my hands on, especially in the past (now it's a bit different being a mother of four and the full-time teacher of five preschoolers!), but still it can be a temptation to waste time reading secular or even scholastic stuff.

I've made a pact with myself that I do not read anything else until I've read every piece of New Wine that's come in. Well, by the time I've read the *Grapevine*, *Zine*, *Kidland*, *END*, *Heaven's Library*, *Eve*, *MLK*, *FED* mailing, *Kidzbiz*, *Endtime Power*, *Hope TKs* (yes, I read all the kids' stuff too!) cover to cover, the GNs at least twice, the CVC course list, by that time the next batch comes in—and I've long forgotten what it was that seemed so tempting to waste my time reading two weeks ago. I can only imagine how hard WS must all work to get that mail to us. I just want to say thank you; I love it!

Idea: sweet things Homes can do for single parents

- Offer to cook for him/her on certain days, or cook enough in your Home for the single parent's family (living in another Home) on occasion.
- Take his/her kids witnessing with yours.
- Share local provisionments. If the single parent can't drive, take them to him/her.
- Offer to help with driving needs.
- Take the kids to allow the single parent to go shopping or to a movie, to have an afternoon off. Do things for single parents in other Homes that you would do if he/she were in your Home.
- Have prayer and prophecy time with the single parent regarding specific needs, his/her children's shepherding etc. Hear from the Lord about his/her children.

Moving to the field...

By Tirzah, Guatemala

We all know the quote: “The Enemy doesn’t start fighting until you start going over the top.” Well, when we first started out to Guatemala almost seven months ago, all we could think about was being out of the States and witnessing once again in Central America. We were determined that nothing was going to stop us from getting to the field. The Lord did many miracles of supply and kept us inspired and forging ahead. But it wasn’t long after we arrived that the Enemy started pulling out his big guns, in the hopes of discouraging us.

Jordan and Praise arrived about two weeks before us and parked their motor home in front of Deborah’s house (a former member and now a queen). It was a cramped area on a very busy street, where they went to sleep and woke up to cars and buses passing by continually. The smog was so bad that the kids were getting sick from it. Praise got an infection in her eyes and they both swelled up so bad that she couldn’t see and had to have a bandage around them. The kids all had coughs. The picture was pretty bleak, to say the least.

When David and I arrived with our family, we stayed at the Family Home here. It was better for us, but still the kids started coming down with bad colds and coughs. We thought that maybe they got them when we’d passed through Reynosa, due to it being so hot and our staying in an air conditioned room. On our trip down we had also stayed in a sleazy hotel where one of our girls got lice. Needless to say, it spread like crazy and it took us forever, it seemed, to get rid of.

It took us almost two months to find a house, but once the Enemy saw that we weren’t going to give up and run back to the States, he let off quite a bit. TYJ! Since then, the kids haven’t had any outstanding sicknesses and it’s been going smoother. The Lord supplied a nice property for us to fit both motor homes, and house 31 people with a yard big enough to put up our trampoline! We’re very thankful to the Lord for His love for us, and how He has never let us down.

So, if the trials and testings come right after you arrive in the mission field that you’ve worked so hard to

get to, and you start to think that maybe you are out of God’s will—just hold on and soon those black clouds will move out of the way and the sun will shine again. Oh, speaking of clouds, when we got here it was the end of the rainy season. Since it rains so much, everything seemed to be stinking with humidity. The motor homes were starting to leak inside and we were wondering if they would hold out. The rains soon stopped but when it comes again, we hope to be better prepared.

All this to say, it’s worth it—for our kids, the lost, and our own happiness and fulfillment!

By Joy (of Tim), India

We are truly awestruck and amazed at how the Lord engineered our team coming together. When we were still in Canada, we wondered how we could start a ministry in India and how we could get nationals to work with. We earnestly prayed and the Lord told us to trust Him. He said we just needed to make preparations to obey and leave NA, and He would take care of it all.

We landed in Chennai, and after prayer and counsel the Lord led us to stay, as there is so much to do here! But we still didn’t quite know what the Lord wanted us to do. One day a precious national brother mentioned that their very small Home was in desperate need of fellowship and personnel, and that if we knew anyone in NA who would be interested in working with their deaf ministry, they would be very happy to have them.

A few days later, after prayer the Lord inspired and encouraged us to ask if they would consider working with us. We took time to pray about it with our teens and the Lord confirmed it. We set off and shared this with this precious Home, and the

Lord also showed them to work with us. WOW! Exactly what we had prayed for—nationals and a veteran missionary sister who’s been here for 17 years, as well as a ministry! What more could we ask for? It gives us goose bumps to think of all the Lord had to engineer to get us together. (The teens and kids are diving in, and are already learning sign language.)

We asked the Lord why we had the honor of working with this precious team and why others didn’t get to, and the Lord said He had saved this team to work with us, and that along with the others who will join us soon from NA, He would help us all do the best we can for Him to reach the lost of this wonderful land! It makes us ever so thankful that we obeyed and left NA when we did, even though it looked like defeat, as we certainly didn’t have the finances we thought we should have. Yet the Lord is giving us a beautiful house to live in with a very understanding landlord and as many provisioned items we need for the house! We could hardly make ends meet when we were in NA. Now that we’ve come to the field, the Lord is showering us with blessings!

Our teens are doing great and are growing by leaps and bounds; they are happy and challenged, and our kids love India. We had thought that we would have to do a “big job” to get them to adjust to this new life, but to all our amazement, the Lord is changing us all without great struggle or working at it! Of course, this doesn’t mean that we haven’t gone through difficulties, but instead of it being so oppressive or a great burden it seems that the Lord is blessing our obedience to come to the field and making it easier for us. It’s also easier for us to exercise our gift of prophecy and be more united in our decision-making as a team. This is such a tremendous victory, and one we all want to keep growing in.

Ideas and tips

Mold on CDs and videos

Recently we borrowed a newly released Family CD from a Home. But when we tried to play it, the sound was very poor quality; there were many interruptions and glitches, making it impossible to understand anything. When we inspected it, we could see a very faint cloudy appearance on the disk that was almost invisible at a quick glance. After cleaning it with alcohol and a dry non-woven cloth, the music was beautiful and clear. During this monsoon wet season, it may be good to remind the Homes to check their CDs for mold before playing them. The same is probably true for tapes and videos—check them for mold before playing them, if they are not stored in dry areas, the mould can stick on the video head and cause the videos to be unwatchable.

—DAVID, MIRACLE, AND ANDREW, INDIA

Crusading

Pakistan

By Charity (of Asaph), Islamabad Home: We just returned from a fruitful eight days to about five different villages in the nearby mountains. The Lord supplied the free use of a van for our travel up and down plus free accommodation of two rooms plus three tents! We stayed in the tents each night in the garden of the lodge, even in the midst of monsoon rains, and the Lord kept us mostly dry!—Although our mattresses got a bit wet.

We were two adults plus four JETT/junior teen boys. Our vision was to go bungalow-to-bungalow with our tools, plus personal witness. Many people, mostly upper-class families here in this Muslim country, either rent or own beautiful mountain chalets, and escape the hot plains for the cool mountain weather and beautiful scenery this area has to offer. We even bumped into some of the very top industrialists and influentials of the whole country. We also had an escapade with some of the local monkey colony, who took off with some of our clothes and returned them later to the roof of the lodge ripped up! Oh my!

Each day the Lord did miracles as we walked for miles up and down muddy mountain roads and tracks, visiting bungalows and the sheep. One day we invited a teenage boy of a very influential family near the tribal area of the country to come for a hike with us; when we arrived at the appointed place, it was instead his mother who was waiting for us, ready to scale the local peak. She was our guide as well as a very receptive soul. Recently the locals had burned down this family's beautiful house plus their two four-wheel drive vehicles, and their family had narrowly escaped with their lives. It was basically a tribal fight and she had become quite broken since we had last met a couple of years before. A few days later I was able to drop off some *Reflections*, plus some Christian *Mountain Streams* that she'd specifically requested (even though she's a Muslim).

We also visited a town where there are a few renowned boarding schools. We were able to give out videos and cassettes there plus three schools are interested in our teacher-training seminar programs, so there may be quite a of follow-up from our trip! We got out 20 videos and 25 tapes, plus thousands of *Reflections* to a local Church retreat meeting. There were quite a few souls won also, and lots of personal witnessing with the kids!

easy reading

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost lying down, as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them. His toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all fellowshipped for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man lying outside. People snickered and gossiped, but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later, church began. We all waited for the preacher to take his place and to give us the Word. Then the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man, walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit, where he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher ... he was the "homeless man." No one said a word.

The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand. "Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today." Then he started singing the words to this song. "If I can help somebody as I pass along; If I can cheer somebody with a word or song; If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong; Then my living shall not be in vain."

now that's funny

Miraculous Conception

A woman takes her 16-year-old daughter to the doctor. The doctor says, "Okay, Mrs. Jones, what's the problem?"

The mother says, "It's my daughter, Debbie. She keeps getting these cravings, she's putting on weight, and is sick most mornings."

The doctor gives Debbie a good examination, then turns to the mother and says, "Well, I don't know how to tell you this, but your Debbie is pregnant—about four months, would be my guess."

The mother says, "Pregnant?! She can't

be, she has never ever been left alone with a man! Have you, Debbie?"

Debbie says, "No mother! I've never even kissed a man!"

The doctor walked over to the window and just stares out it. About five minutes pass and finally the mother says, "Is there something wrong out there doctor?"

The doctor replies, "No, not really, it's just that the last time anything like this happened, a star appeared in the east and three wise men came over the hill. I'll be darned if I'm going to miss it this time!"

letters to the editor

Re: HomeARC tip, an easier way

The other day I read this tip in the *Grapevine* about what to do if your HomeARC bar disappears off your screen. Here is a much simpler way to accomplish the same thing. If your HomeARC bar disappears from off your screen, there's no need to reboot or even exit the program. Instead, here's something easy to try:

Open the HomeARC program so that the little icon appears in the Start bar. Right click on the HomeARC icon in the Start bar (the one that just appeared when you opened the program) and select "Move". Then, before hitting any other key, use the arrow keys to move the HomeARC bar back onto your screen. (My HomeARC bar always disappears off the top of my screen, 'cause I keep it close to the top, so I'll just press the down arrow key until it appears again.)

Hope that works for you!

—FLORI, SACRO

PECULIAR PEOPLE



Inspired by ML #3234:30

Spanish/ Portuguese Loving Jesus Tapes

How/where to order:

SACRO: You can contact us at lablast@olimpo.com.br. We would charge US\$3 plus shipment, to be paid via TRFs or ABM transfer. The copies we can supply are simple Home CD copies with no fancy labels. When you pay via your TRFs or ABMs please specify—as in special gifts, etc.—to BLAST for (name of CD ordered) CD.

Shine On

—OCTOBER 1999

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
SOUL SHINERS FOR OCTOBER '99		
Samuel/Rosita, Mexico	3,250	6,500
David/Maria Rosa, Brazil	1,185	2,370
Esteban/Amor, Mexico	798	3,190
Rejice/Happy/Nina, Brazil	714	5,000
Simon/Magda/David/Rocky, Brazil	630	2,520
Gabriel/Ana/Simon/Magdalenia, Brazil	625	2,500
Matthew/Ama/Phinneas/Joy/Booz, Mexico	611	3,055
Paulo/Luz/Benji/Shelley, Brazil	547	2,190
Lucas/Rute/Madalena, Brazil	384	2,305
Josue/Maria/Salomon/Belen, Mexico	368	2,573

POSTER SHINERS FOR OCTOBER '99		
Peter/Crystal/Mary, USA	3,218	12,870
Tommy/Serena, Cambodia	2,635	5,270
Michael Christian/Maria, Japan	1,743	5,230
Steven/Mercy, Japan	1,675	3,350
Tito/Patience/Cecy, USA	1,643	11,500
Christmas, Japan	1,575	1,575
Abel/Esther/Seriah, USA	1,500	9,000
Martin/Mercy/Jonathan, Mozambique	1,041	6,251
Ben/Meekness, Botswana	1,000	2,000
Francis/Joanna/Christopher, USA	769	6,922

TAPE SHINERS FOR OCTOBER '99		
Miguel/Rute/Primavera, Brazil	165	826
Samuel/Sara, Mexico	132	527
David/Madalena/Paula, Brazil	128	512
Samuel/Clara, Spain	126	252
Juan/Rosa, Spain	103	206
Elias/Sofia/Cristian, Peru	100	502
Tim Newlove/Elisabeth, Spain	89	269
Pablo E., Chile	85	171
John, Belgium	84	252
Francisco/Joanna, Brazil	72	217

VIDEO SHINERS FOR OCTOBER '99		
Ben/Meekness, Botswana	100	200
David/Esperanza/Santiago, Peru	27	110
Phillip/Meekness/Josh, Namibia	26	80
Abner/Esther/Claire/Sharmini, South Africa	24	99
Gideon/Dulci, Portugal	24	120
Francisco/Joanna, Brazil	24	72
Pablo E., Chile	23	47
Andres/Fel/Zulema, Bolivia	23	69
Gabriel/Jemima/Elizabeth, Brazil	22	90
Sunny Hunter/Christie Hunter, Australia	21	42

Para Ti, Jesús

—Original Loving Jesus songs in Spanish and Portuguese #1

Credits listed by Singer/Music/Lyrics/Producer

SOÑÉ DEL CIELO

Mikol/Mark/Mark

NOSSO AMOR

Paulo/Paulo/Paulo

TÚ DISTE TU VIDA

Samuel/Samuel, María Paz/Paulo

CADA MOMENTO DE MI VIDA

Daniel Suarez/Daniel Suarez/Mark

Vocals: Mikol/Clara/Heidi/Oli

MI ORACIÓN

Clara/Clara/Paulo, Mark

OH BOM SENHOR

Paulo/Manases/Paulo
Slide Guitar: Jeremy/
Nylon Guitar: Pedro

TUYO ES MI CORAZÓN

Heidi/Heidi/Mark

ENAMORADO

Pedro/Pedro/Paulo, Pedro

SÓ QUERO TE AMAR

João/João/Paulo

MI PRIMER AMOR

Roberto Salvador

CONTIGO

Heidi/Heidi/Tigo/Mark,
Tigo
Lead Guitar: Mark

MEU AMADO

Nina/Paulo/Paulo
Nylon Guitar: Paulo

NADA COMO TUS PALABRAS

Mercy/José, Beverly/
Paulo
Lead Guitar: Pedro

Éxtasis

—Loving Jesus songs in Spanish and Portuguese #2

Credits listed by Singer/Composer/Producer

ADICTA

Heidi, Tigo/Heidi/Mark T., Philly

VEN CONMIGO

Solomon CR/Miguel, Melody, Gideon S. (*Open for Love*)/D.C. studio

TU ERES MI MEJOR AMIGO

Roberto Adán/Roberto Adán

SÓLO TÚ

Miguel Alvarado/Thaddeus/Thaddeus, Philly
Bass: Philly
Nylon Guitar: Pedro S.

MOMENTOS DE CARIÑO

Clara/Clara/Clara, Pedro S.

POR LA ETERNIDAD

Sunny/Jerry Paladino/Jerry Paladino

ME SEDUCES

Sharon Starlight/Sharon Starlight/Philly
Nylon Guitar: Pedro S.

UNA ROSA EN EL CIELO

Sam P./Sam P. /Philly, Sam P.
Electric Guitar: Eman
Nylon Guitar: Pedro S.

SO VOCÊ

Eman/João/Eman

TEU PRA SEMPRE

Paulo, Nina/Andrew, Regina (*Open for Love*)/Paulo
Harmonica: Estevão

VOCÊ E TUDO

Pedro Montanha/Pedro Montanha/Paulo, Emanuel
Harmonica: Pedro Montanha

QUE AMANTE

Katrina/Pedro Montanha/
Emanuel

SENHOR

Nina/Davi/Eman
Electric Guitar: Eman

Personals

Thanks to Joy and Nadim and baby Oly we now have a new computer with e-mail! Our address is: mtman@sierratel.com! Love, Abe and Maggie Deliverance. **Isaac, Michael, Lisa, Molly, Mandy**, please write!

David, Gaby and Sara are looking for **Sam (English)** and **Joy (Bulgarian)**. Please contact us via SEEC ABM.

Sara Croatian is looking for **Jo**. We lived together in Slovenia in 1992. Please contact me via SEEC ABM.

FGA Sara (Brazilian, formerly Anna Happy) would like to contact **Steven Willing** (Swiss, formerly Andre Swiss). I lived with you in Rio de Janeiro, in 1994/95. Please contact me at e-mail: bentoje@zaz.com.br.

Dear **Matthew CR**, where are you? Lost contact! Please write me at: rmhafamilia@windnet.psi.br.—Faith Brazilian

Seeking Contact

FROM FORMER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Naela Moreno de Mora, (sheep from Uruapan, Mich. Mexico) is looking for **Josue H.** (Arturo) and **Andrea** (Mexican and Costa Rican). She wants you to write her at: Revolucion # 23 esq. Independencia Col. Centro Uruapan, Mich. México.

Miguel and Claire in Sonora, Alicia (sheep) wants your address; can you send it to shangrla@compusep.com or Apdo 44-b, C.P. 60050 Uruapan, Mich.—Sara (of Salomon)

help wanted

I'm raising funds for my airfare to India. Being in Russia it's not so easy though. Any gift will be very, very much appreciated. Please send to **Jonas, Astrakhan, Russia**.

We are **Samuel and Faithy from the M.E.** We are needing to make a trip to India to visit Faithy's mum who is very sick with cancer. Because we are in a sensitive field, it's a little difficult to raise the funds. We wanted to ask if anyone would like to help us towards our trip to India. GBY! Please send your gifts to Samuel and Faithy, M.E. area via ASCRO. TX!