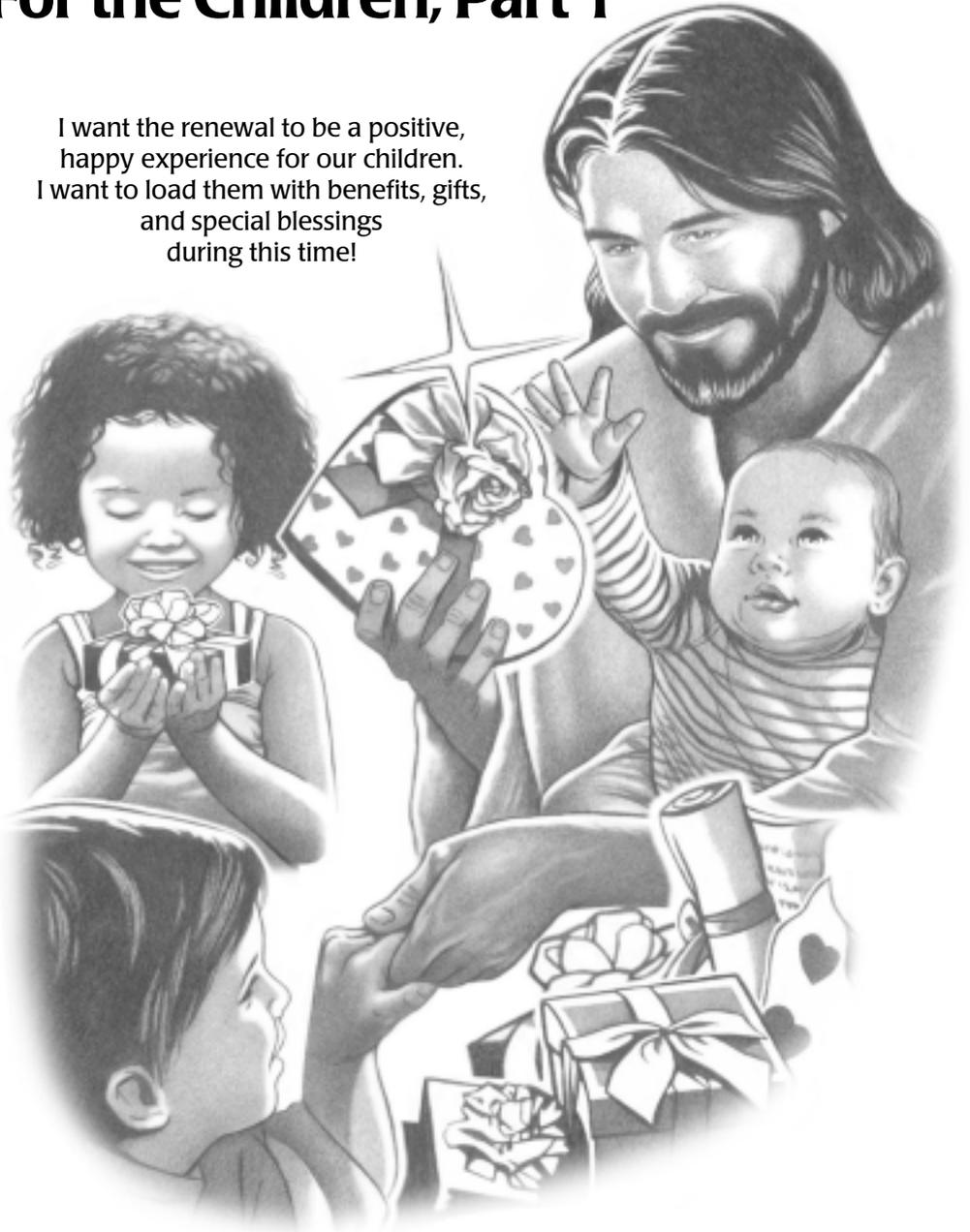


Renewal: A Gift of Love For the Children, Part 1

I want the renewal to be a positive,
happy experience for our children.
I want to load them with benefits, gifts,
and special blessings
during this time!



Renewal: A Gift of Love For the Children, Part 1

By Maria

Maria #679 FD/MM/FM 3491 4/04

Dear Family,

IN THIS GN I'm going to talk about our precious children, specifically those from babies up to age 11. As you know, they'll be joining in on the renewal as well, albeit for a slightly different purpose. For the adults the renewal is a time of cleansing and spiritual strengthening, of getting our hearts right with the Lord, of forsaking our worldly hang-ups and habits, and making permanent lifestyle changes, as you've read a whole lot about in the first GN in this series ("Renewal: The Big Picture"). But for the children, the renewal is going to be completely different. The renewal is a wonderful gift of the Lord's love to all of us—younger and older alike—but the manifestations of the Lord's love are different. For the children it's a time when the Lord wants everyone in the Family to tune into them, love them, care for them, and pour into them like never before. (Note: Although some of the general counsel in this GN might be helpful for Homes with JETTs and teens, GN 1077 will address their needs more specifically.)

2. Due to the Family's sins, weaknesses, compromises, disobediences, and other failures, an area of our lives that has really suffered is the care of our dear children. They haven't had their love cups filled full enough. They haven't been consistently trained and poured into as they deserve. In many cases they have been overlooked in favor of other more "important things." So many other things, initiatives, goals, and personal achievements have taken

precedence over their quality care. Other things and concerns and priorities have taken the place of meaningful time with our children, and the Lord wants to see things change for the better.

3. The renewal is a golden opportunity for the adults and young people to focus on the children, and to make their needs—physical, spiritual, emotional, and otherwise—a priority. It's a time when the Lord wants to bless them as never before, because He loves them. And because they're participating in the renewal along with you, and will need more personalized input as a result of less worldly input, this will force

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NOTE: When the phrases "your children," "your kids," "the children," and "the kids" are used in this GN, we're talking about all of our children in the context of the "One Wife" vision, unless otherwise indicated.

you in a good way to devote more time to fulfilling their needs and bringing about the changes that will better their lives. It's something we all know is needed, something we all want to do, so with the renewal the Lord is doing us all a favor by asking us to cut out TV, movies, computer games, and other forms of System input, because these are some of the distractions that have kept us from spending quality time with our children.

4. We've had all kinds of "pushes" in the Family over the years—the school vision push, the poster push, the DFing push, the DTD push, the Activated push, the board push, and more.

So during these next six months the main focus for the whole Family is going to be on the children and their needs. It'll be a "love your children push," a "pour into your children push," an "invest in your children push." Investing in the hope of our future is probably the most important thing you can do during the renewal, along with your spiritual cleansing as a Home and as individuals. It's not the only purpose of the renewal, but it's a major part of it. You've got to make this special for them. You are responsible to make things happen for them, because the Lord is counting on you to pass on His love to the children in the ways they need it most.

5. For the adults the renewal is very spiritual. The adults will feel the Lord's love through cleansing, renewal, changes, progress, instruction, forming new habits, and His help as they begin to restructure their Homes and lives. But the children aren't going to feel the Lord's love in the same ways. They will feel the Lord's love through those they live with—their parents, shepherds, teachers, and other adults and young people in the Home. Of course, the Lord also wants them to grow to love Him and His Word and the things of His Spirit more, and He wants them to keep growing up as His disciples and with a desire to serve Him, but that will happen automatically as we start investing more in every area of their lives. Our children must be a priority.

6. The goal of the renewal for the children is for them to feel more loved, to know that

they're cared for as individuals, to get to know their parents and other adults and young people in their Homes better, to have deeper and more meaningful communications, to have more time invested in them, to be able to learn things they've never had a chance to learn before, to be taught a better balance in their lives, to go places [physically and spiritually] they've never been before, to be turned on to witnessing, to experience things they've never experienced before, to be happier, to have fun and enjoy their lives for Jesus, and to experience His love in tangible ways that will make a difference in their lives forever.

7. Our Husband intends the renewal to be a positive, happy experience for our children. He wants to load them with benefits, gifts, and special blessings during this time. But regardless of how many promises He gives for our children, His good intentions will come to naught if He doesn't have anyone to help Him fulfill what He has promised. He can't do everything supernaturally. He needs to work through you—and by you I mean each and every adult and younger person in every Home. He has chosen to work through you, because you are a manifestation of His love to our children; you're His representative. He has to have someone to work through, and that someone is you.

8. (Jesus:) Your children are dependent on you. They're dependent on you being My love to them in a way that they can understand, grasp, comprehend, and feel. If you don't show them enough love, how will they know that I love them? If you—and I don't just mean you parents, but all of you—don't give your children the gifts of time, affection, attention, one-on-one interaction, input, fun, and challenge, how are they going to receive these things from My hands? I have no hands but yours to help them. I have no feet but yours to take them where I would like them to go. I have no eyes but yours to see their needs and respond. I have no mouth but yours to speak of My great love and care. You are the vehicle of My love to your children, and that is a serious responsibility.

9. I wish for each child to receive many special gifts during this renewal—both physical and spiritual gifts—but I can only give them these gifts if you allow Me to work through you. You are all responsible for helping Me to fulfill My promises to the children, and if you don't help Me, who will? Please do not disappoint your children. Please do not allow My promises to pass by unfulfilled. Please do not allow the faith of your little ones to be disappointed—through your failures or laziness or lethargy or lack of faith. Do not allow them to hear Me tell them wonderful promises and great things, and then never see them fulfilled. I need you—each of you—to help Me fulfill My promises, to bring into the lives of the children the gifts that I wish to give them.

10. If you fail to be Me to your little ones, if you fail to do your best for them—My best—then they will be hurt. They will think I have lied to them, or that I am a God Who boasts of great things but can't stay true to My word. I tell each of you, My promises in regards to your children during the renewal are only as strong as your determination to help Me fulfill them. No matter how many wonderful things I wish to do in the lives of your children, and no matter how many gifts I wish to give them, My hands will be tied and My power will be withheld if you do not do your part, if you are not the embodiment of Me to your children.

11. Your young children do not understand My love. They cannot see Me. They cannot comprehend My love as you do. And so it is your duty, your ultimate responsibility, to help them to feel My love through you. Please, please help them to receive My special gifts and blessings, and make this renewal a time that they will treasure and remember forever. Make these months a time that they will look back on as a time when they felt My love and care more strongly than ever before through you. This is My greatest heart's desire for our children. Will you help Me to fulfill it?

12. (Jesus:) Do you remember the story in the *Good Thots* where every Sunday the preacher would smile at the little children when they left Sunday school, but one day he forgot? Do you remember what the little girl said? As she cried and wept she said, "I smiled at God, but He didn't smile back" [GT 2, page 1240, #18]. That's what you are to your children—the very manifestation of My love for them in their lives. Children are so small and are fragile in their emotions, even those who don't seem to show it as much, and they need tangible proof in their lives that I love them, that I care for them, and that I want to be with them and do special things for them.

13. You are the only hands that I have in this case. Your love manifested in time is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, way that a child feels My love. And just as I love you so dearly, so do I love them—in an extra special way that is more than you could imagine. As much as My soul hungers for and delights in the romantic love of My brides, there is another love, equally as great—a special love that I have for children, a love I have always had for the small ones.

14. But since children are younger in spirit, they cannot feel Me in the spirit the same as you can, which is why they need to rely on earthly love and attention from those who represent Me to them, which is you. You parents, teachers and helpers are the only means through which I can express My great love for them, and if you do not take the time, who will? If you will not love them for Me, how can I love them?

15. I try to show them My love in special ways—through making a day at the park nice and sunny, through supplying their needs, through keeping them from accidents and sickness. But these do not fill the need in My heart to spend time with them—to play with them, to sing with them, to teach them, to cuddle them close, to kiss them, to set them on My knee and read them a story. I need you to do this for Me, for them, and for you.

16. (Mama:) Some of the specifics in this GN are mainly directed to you parents and teachers. But even if you're not a parent or teacher, there's a wealth of counsel throughout for you too. No matter what your ministry or job for the Lord, if you live in a Home with children, or if there are Homes nearby with children, you have some contact with them. This GN contains vital information for you in your interactions with the children, as well as insight into the important role you will play in making the renewal a memorable, life-changing time for them. You are going to need to join together and make a difference in the lives of the children you live with or come in contact with during the renewal by your involvement with them. The care of our children must be everyone's concern. Everyone needs the vision for the care of the children during the renewal—and beyond.

Secrets to Making the Renewal a Success

17. (Mama:) What a wonderful commission the Lord has given us—to be His love for our children! It's a privilege to be used as His vessels to pass on His gifts and blessings to the children. He even goes so far as to say that our children feeling His love through us is His heart's desire. He's counting on us, He's depending on us, and most importantly He has faith in us.

18. As great and special as the renewal sounds, and as positive as the Lord says it's going to be for the children, things aren't just going to happen like magic. It's going to require work and effort by everyone. But to make our job easier, our Husband has given counsel on the main secrets to success, which I'm going to share with you in this Letter. He's so concerned about our children and wants us to help Him fulfill His promises during these next six months, that He's given these specific key points that will enable us to do just that. As you'll see, they aren't huge things that aren't realistic. They

are achievable goals, and if we commit to doing each one, then the Lord promises that He will do His part—the things we can't do.

19. I'll briefly list the ten main secrets to a successful renewal for the children:

- #1: Have faith and believe it's doable.
- #2: Unite as a Home.
- #3: Have a positive attitude.
- #4: Parents prayerfully explain the renewal to your children.*
- #5: Realize that fun is a major goal.
- #6: Focus on the benefits.
- #7: Use the power of praise and celebrate the renewal.
- #8: Plan ahead and incorporate rewards.
- #9: Make the Word alive and attractive.
- #10: Pray and claim the keys.

*(**Note:** If your children have contact with the children of Active members or friends, you can use some of the pointers in this Letter to explain it to their parents. Excerpts of paragraphs 2–4 and 127–148 contain points that most other parents would relate to. As you ask the Lord how to best explain this time of renewal, He can provide the best explanation for each friend you're in contact with.)

Secret to Success #1: Have Faith and Believe It's Doable

20. I doubt that any of you are thinking that this plan for focusing on the children during the renewal is not a good idea. I can imagine that you look at it as a terrific opportunity, a special mandate from the Lord for all of our Homes around the world, but at the same time you might be wondering right from the start if it's really possible. You probably feel like you're already stretched to your limits, but now on top of all that you are barely able to keep up with, along with all of the changes and work involved with the Family restructuring, the Lord is asking everyone to tune into the children more. I'm sure you probably all want to and think it's a wonderful idea in theory, but you might wonder if it's a pie-in-the-sky, unattainable goal.

21. When the Lord asks a new thing of us or puts a big challenge before us, it can seem pretty daunting at first. Because we're human and usually tend to look at things logically, some things the Lord asks of us don't even make much sense—at least not at first. Our carnal view often tells us that it can't be done, or the Enemy can make us think that the Lord's plan isn't going to work, or that He has unrealistic expectations of us.

22. I can imagine that some of you might be faced with these kinds of battles when thinking about the renewal. The Lord is asking you, as individuals and as a Home, to invest more time in your children, to pour into them more, to give them one-on-one time, and to make this renewal special and fun, and you might wonder how you're ever going to be able to make extra time for all of these things. You want to, and you know it's important, but maybe you're struggling with its practical application and wondering if it's doable.

23. It's natural to feel this way initially, but please don't remain in that position. Fight to rise above, and ask the Lord to give you the faith to believe that what He's asking of you is doable and possible—because it *is*. He wouldn't put any task or challenge in front of you if He didn't know it was possible for you to achieve it with His help and key power.

24. The challenges of the restructuring and the renewal are going to test your faith, there's no doubt about that. But that's not a bad thing; it's a good thing. Your faith grows when it is stretched. Your faith is strengthened when it is tested. The Lord is giving you a new mountain to climb, a new mountain of progress that He wants you to scale—it's the mountain of stretching your faith, of expanding your horizons, of overcoming the limitations of the natural realm, and believing that "all things are possible to him that believeth." Faith is a vital ingredient for making the renewal a success. So claim the keys of faith and stand on His Word, and the faith you need will be yours.

25. (Dad:) Your lives are multifaceted. There are so many important things that you need to do each and every day. You need to get your Word time, your sleep, your physical nourishment, and your exercise. You need to spend time with the Lord, you need to keep your Home running, you need to fulfill all of the Charter requirements (or Missionary Membership Statutes), go witnessing, raise funds, and much more. And if all those regular necessities aren't enough, now there are even more things added to your life with the restructuring of the Family, which may include things such as changing status, moving into new Homes and closing down old ones, finding new Home members to up your Home size, building a well-rounded missionary work, and raising the standard in your personal life and Home.

26. So you might be wondering how you can possibly take on more. How can you, as a Home, possibly devote more quality time to the care of your children and teens and to meeting their needs? It seems like a wonderful goal to strive for, and you want to make the grade, but is it really doable? Is it really possible, or is it just some pie-in-the-sky idea that you're never going to achieve? Right now some of you just don't see how you can give more, stretch more, and do more, without having a nervous breakdown or a spiritual and physical collapse—especially some of you who are in smaller Homes and have few adults and many children. You desperately want to do the right thing, but you wonder how you're ever going to do it. Is it realistic for the Lord to expect more of you, and for you to expect it of yourselves? Are you going to crash and burn trying to do His will? Are you going to try and then wind up failing?

27. I want to tell you right now that if the Lord has asked something, if the Lord has commanded it, and if something is His will, then it is doable and realistic. He won't ask more of you than He knows is possible with His help, His strength, and His anointing. He's the God of miracles, after all. He's the One Who will help you, as weak and incapable as you may feel, to fulfill His will. If something is important—and

the restructuring of the Family and the renewal definitely is—then you can trust that He’s going to give you all of the gifts of the Spirit and the spirit helps you need to not just barely scrape by, but to thrive on the challenges, to thrill to the newness of the changes He’s going to bring into your Home, your lives, and the lives of your children.

28. Claim the keys of faith, trust, vision, determination, organization, and multitasking. Claim these keys, and any others that the Lord quickens to your mind, and you—as individuals and as a Home—will have all of the gifts of the Spirit that you need to be able to invest in your children like never before. Claim the keys, and all that the Lord is asking of you will be doable—and not only doable, but enjoyable and fulfilling. You can invest more in your children. You can give them more quality input, training, and care. The Lord will give you the time, because He knows it’s important.

29. Just think back on the Word revolution. At first you probably wondered how you could afford to give the Lord the time He was requiring of you each and every day. But then He said that you couldn’t afford not to give Him the time, because the loss would be far greater. Well, that’s how it is with this renewal and the time the Lord is asking you to invest in your children. You might wonder how you will possibly be able to invest the time needed when there’s so much else to do. Well, you can’t afford not to. Where there’s a will to obey the Lord, He always makes a way to do so.

30. The Lord doesn’t just give the mandate without providing the means for you to fulfill it—whether it’s the grace, or the faith, or the practical solutions. He will show you how you can practically fulfill His will if you ask Him, if you get desperate with Him, if you seek Him for His answers and solutions. Then, once you do your part and start obeying, He’ll do His miraculous part that only He can do. First you get desperate and seek Him for His plan, then you obey and start putting His plan into action, and then He will do the miracles of making time where there was no time, and making the impossible

become possible. You obey and God will make a way!

31. (Mama:) The next message is an interesting one the Lord gave when we asked Him how this new push of focusing on the children fits in with the other important aspects of the restructuring of the Family. I think you’ll find His answer enlightening, encouraging, and faith building.

32. (Jesus:) The push for greater emphasis on your children and their care goes hand in hand with the restructuring of the Family, even though it may not appear that way at first glance. You might at first be tempted to think, “How can we possibly tune into our kids more and meet their needs if we have all of these other important restructuring things to think about—finding our level of service, finding new Homes and teams to work with, searching for new housing and accommodations, upping the spiritual standard of our Homes, etc.?”

33. But I want you to step back from the trees for a minute and look at the forest. What are your children? They are the hope of the future, My adult disciples of tomorrow that you are winning today. They are a large percentage of the Family. They are not just along for the ride; they are a major part of the restructuring of the Family. Everything that I’m bringing about in the Family right now is not only going to affect and benefit the adults; it’s also going to affect and benefit the children, because they are a very important part of the Family.

34. I have instructed the Family to move toward bigger Homes, and this is going to benefit the children. I have instructed each person in the Family to find their appropriate level of service, and this is going to benefit the children. I have instructed the Family to get strengthened spiritually, and this is going to benefit the children. Your children can be a very powerful motivator for you adults to do the right thing, to obey Me, and to make the changes I’m requiring of you. Sometimes you don’t see how you can do something that I’m asking of you, but you’re

motivated to do it for the sake of your children. You want what's best for them, you don't want to fail them, you want them to have the care that they need, and you want them to grow up in loving, obedient, going-places Homes.

35. You can't really separate the issue of the restructuring of the Family and the push to focus on the children. They are intertwined. The things I ask you to do to restructure—finding new teams, strengthening yourself spiritually, finding new housing, strengthening your Home's teamwork, learning to safeguard and shepherd one another, being in My perfect will—are things that are going to benefit your children as well. And similarly, the things that you do for your children, and the choices you make for the good of your children, are going to help with your Home's restructuring and will help the decisions you make in your service to Me to be more in line with My will.

36. For example, if you're doing what's best for your children, you'll know that being in a bigger Home is going to benefit them. In a bigger Home you'll have a more well-balanced team that can contribute to their care, and more people to help supply their educational needs, fill their vacuum for fun and variety, and teach them new skills and hobbies. In a bigger Home your children will probably also live with more children their age and have more friends and fellowship. In a bigger Home you'll be able to combine the needs of each age group of children and better meet them, as opposed to trying to meet the needs of a wide spectrum of ages all at once.

37. If you're doing what's best for your children, you'll want to find out what My will is for your life as far as your level of service, and get there—if you aren't there already. Being in the center of My will is something that will directly benefit your children, because they'll receive My full blessings along with you. As you find the place where you'll be content and happy, your children will partake of that same contentment and happiness. As you get your heart right with Me and find out where I want you, you'll have the peace and faith to do My will. This makes for

a happier Home, happier parents, and happier children.

38. If you're doing what's best for your children, you'll want to strengthen yourself spiritually. When you're obedient to the Word, when you're keeping your spiritual life in check, and when you're making progress and moving forward in the spirit, this makes you a happier person and parent. It also makes you a better role model for your children to follow, as you live the verse, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." When you're striving to be the best disciple you can be, your children directly benefit from that. You give them better care, you portray a better sample, and your life will be more balanced in every way.

Your children are the greatest disciples of all, the ones that inherit your own traits and spirituality and spirit, and in a sense, the Lord! ... When you're training yourself, and the Lord's training you, He's also training your children! (MOP 9:62)

39. So, as you can see, this focus on the children does not take away from the focus of restructuring the Family. It goes hand in hand. Investing in your children is part of the restructuring of the Family, and thinking about them is what can help to motivate you in the decisions you make. For example, if you're trying to find a new Home, pray for one that is not only going to meet the needs of the adults, but also the needs of the children—whether it be a good-sized yard, nearby parks and play areas, an adequate schoolroom and/or recreational room, spacious bedrooms for the children, somewhere nearby that you can easily take them witnessing, etc.

40. When you're working to up the standard in any area of your Home, or change something as a result of the restructuring of the Family, include the children. That's the key. If your weak point is witnessing, pray about how

you can include the children in the push. If you need to find a new house, help the children to feel included by keeping them updated and asking them to pray for those who are house hunting. If you need to find new personnel for your Home or join up with another team, involve the children by sharing the need and asking them to pray.

41. I will use your focus on the children to help strengthen the Family. By investing in them, you will be investing in the future of the Family. By making decisions for the children and putting aside other selfish concerns to do what's best for the children, you will find yourselves automatically shifting your focus to the things that really count—your spiritual lives, your sample to the children, raising the standard of your Home, being more obedient to the Word, getting out witnessing more, bringing the Word and the things of the spirit to life, and wanting to please Me and not fail Me or your children.

42. The power to be Me for your children

doesn't come from yourself, but from being connected to Me and obeying My Word. So this will automatically begin to strengthen you and your Homes. It is a very big part of the restructuring of the Family. Your children look to you, they love you, they follow you. You are Me to your children, and as this realization sinks in, you will be more motivated than ever to give them the things that I desire to give them and to make your Home one that is happy, on track, living the Word, alive in spirit, and receiving My full blessings. You can do it for Me and for your children at the same time.

43. You will have a lot of different irons in the fire, but that just means you're going to need the supernatural power of the keys to have a good balance and wisdom in all things. What I'm asking of you isn't an impossibility. It's simply a perfect time for you to call on the keys of multitasking and let them work for you! Call on the keys, expect miracles, and you'll get them!

44. (Mama:) Did you know that children—even a large number of them—will greatly enhance the effectiveness of your Home as a missionary unit? Check out this message.

45. (Jesus:) I know some of you, My brides, feel that a lot of children will bog you down, but that really depends on your perspective. What does it mean to be a fruitful Family Home? Does it mean full independence? Does it mean the ability to selfishly fulfill your personal plans and visions without interruption? Does it mean a bunch of adults doing as they please? Or does it mean a Home that feeds My sheep? I think you know the answer.

46. Children are so incredibly important to Me. Training them is exactly as important as winning souls, gaining disciples, having a growing Activated church, giving food and clothing to the poor, etc. When's the last time you really thought about that? Some of you look at childcare as an extra burden, like doing dishes, raising the funds for the rent, or having

to change the oil in your car—something that hinders your primary job as a missionary and disciple. But what you fail to realize is that training children is an extremely important ministry, and if your Home members can be a little more open-minded, you'll realize that by bringing into your Home a large family with a good “quiver” of children you're greatly enhancing the effectiveness of your Home as a missionary unit.

47. Do you want to serve Me to the greatest capacity possible? Do you want to really give it your all and make your Home as effective and useful as possible? One of the easiest ways to do that is to set up a working, efficient childcare situation right in your midst.

48. Granted, children are hard work. But that's just an excuse, because I don't think you really have a problem with hard work or you wouldn't have dedicated your life to missionary or discipleship service. Every one of you can actually augment your shepherding and witnessing skills by keeping children

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around and at least occasionally helping them out. Children also bring a certain joy to your Home that no other ministry can supply. It's just a matter of donning the right attitude and realizing that most Family Homes are not complete without an adequate number of children.

49. If you're a specialized Home that can't take in as many children for a valid reason that I have endorsed—such as being in a sensitive country or being a special Service Home—then I'm sorry that you're going to miss out on some of the specific benefits that come with the territory of having lots of children. A lack of children is a loss you'll have to live with, and a sacrifice I'm asking you to make. But for those of you who have the opportunity to take in children but don't have many or any yet, then you should be going out of your way to find large families and professional teachers who can contribute to a working child-care ministry in your Home. So what are you waiting for?

50. P.S.: Is your house too small to take in more kids? Well, get out there and find a new one! Nice big yards, swimming pools, and nearby playground facilities are all a big plus!

Secret to Success #2: Unite as a Home

51. (Mama:) We are "One Wife," and our children are a very important part of our Family and our Homes, and everyone must work together for our kids to get the care they need. It calls for everyone in the Home to feel responsible for the children. Everyone should want to see the children happy, well cared for, and benefiting from the renewal. It's not just the parents' and teachers' job. Everyone should play a part. Uniting together as a Home to pour into the children will make all the difference. Uniting as a Home is a key to renewal success.

52. One of the benefits the Lord said is going to come with the renewal is more of the "One Wife" spirit. Everyone helping to care for and teach the children is part of the "One Wife" vision; it builds unity. When the children are just the parents' responsibility or the CC workers' responsibility, that's not living the "One Wife" vision. The children in our Homes belong to everyone in spirit, and even though the parents and teachers have a greater responsibility to care for the children on a daily basis, even you who don't carry the full responsibility are responsible to do your part, what the Lord shows you He expects of you.

53. (Jesus:) Some of you think that children are the responsibility of the parents alone, and your mindset is, "You made the babies; you take care of them." This thinking is wrong, and undermines the Family! First of all, I am the One Who makes babies. Every single child I send is a gift from My hand to the Family.

54. As you are married to Me, you are married to one another. The children in the Family belong to all of you, and anyone who does not consider the children in the Family your responsibility, whether they are your own flesh-and-blood children or not, does not have My mind on the matter. Every child of David's attitude toward children in the Family should be, "They are all our children."

55. Some of you in the Family today, who have no children of your own flesh, must check your hearts to see if you are putting your single lives and independence on a pedestal. Ask yourself if you are living in unselfish and genuine sacrificial love. Are you doing whatever I am calling you to do to help with the children in your Home or area—whether it's actually spending time with the children and helping to teach and train them, or whether it's helping out some way in the Home so others can fill this role? Are you supporting the children in prayer? Are you helping to support them and the parents in whatever way you can? Or are you being partial to yourself, considering first your own interests and selfish desires rather than doing what you

can to help with the children? If you are selfish with your own time, to the neglect of the children when there is a need, then you are striking at the very foundation of the One Wife vision I have given to the children of David. You are working against the unity and the oneness that I expect of the Family.

56. The Family's children are all your children. Of course, the natural parents have a direct responsibility, but I have made you One Wife, one Family, and you are all responsible for each other, including the children. You are all married together. This attitude of, "They're your kids and your problem" must be rooted out. The solution is that you must begin by accepting that the children in the Family belong to all of you. Get down on your knees and cry out to Me for My love, which will constrain you. Call on the power of the keys of unity, harmony, unselfishness and love to help you start living Acts 2:44–45. "All that believed were together and had all things common..." and this includes your children.

57. Call on the keys of faith, yieldedness and obedience to the Words of David. Through the keys of the Kingdom your love will go beyond your human ability, your unity will grow, and your home of hearts will become a reality as you raise your children in My ways.

58. (Mama:) All of you should pray about what you can do to get involved with the children. During the renewal every Home is going to have to bond and become a strong team, with everyone supporting one another and sharing the load of the care of the children, for the renewal to work and be a positive, fun experience for them. The parents and teachers can't possibly do it on their own; it has to be a united, teamwork effort. And if the children are bored and left to their own devices, or if the renewal turns out to be a bad experience in their eyes, then it's going to be the fault of every adult and young person in the Home who could have done more to help but didn't.

59. The Lord will be calling some of you singles and non-parents to use this renewal as

an opportunity to stretch your "One Wife" muscles and participate more in the care of the children—to notice them, to pour into them, to take a child (or children) under your wing and teach them something new, or to go on outings with them occasionally, to have fresh and fun Word times with them, to help out or join in on some parent times or parent days, or just to offer your services so the parents and teachers can have a break from time to time. The extra time you'll gain from the fast of worldly input is a wonderful opportunity for those who aren't involved with the children on a regular basis to pour into them, to teach them beneficial things—skills and talents like sewing, cooking, handyman, carpentry, guitar or keyboard playing, story writing, artwork, crafts, crocheting, knitting, home décor, dancing, a foreign language, mechanics, typing, computer skills, witnessing, and much more.

60. When you think about the hours that some of the children previously would have spent on the computer or watching videos, for example, collectively that's a lot of hours—especially if you have quite a number of children in your Home. But those hours aren't just going to disappear; they're going to need to be filled with good, positive, fun activities, outings, events, get-outs, Word times, praise and prayer times, etc.

61. If every person could sacrifice some time every week toward the care of the children, it would make a huge difference. Or if because of unusual circumstances you can't, and the Lord confirms this, you could perhaps fill other slots in the schedule to lighten the load of others in your Home who are more involved with the children. And if you can't get involved with the children any other way, then you can certainly commit to praying and supporting those in your Home who are caring for the children, as well as praying for the children themselves.

62. (Jesus:) You as a Home need to look at your children as your greatest mission field, your most important job, your main objective

for the next six months. I am asking you to unite as one to focus on them, their needs, their care, and their happiness. And in order to do this, you must understand that it is My commission to you as a Home to make a concerted effort together to make it so. The investment I'm asking you to make in your children at this time is as important as your own spiritual cleansing and renewal, and the other aspects of the restructuring of the Family.

63. I'm telling you right now that the care of the children is your Home's most important united responsibility during the renewal. It needs to be your goal, your focus, and the area that you sink your greatest resources, time, energies, and love into. Everyone needs to be involved in one way or another. There is something everyone can do to be obedient to My commission of pouring into the children, and I expect everyone's participation. It needs to be a Home effort, a Home push, and a united goal that everyone is striving for together.

64. When I came to Earth, I didn't just focus on the adults and their spiritual cleansing and discipleship. I also spent time with the children and I invested in the children. Whenever My disciples would want to hurry Me along or send the children away, I would remind them that loving the children was one of My most favorite things, a very important part of My ministry. I said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not." The focuses on spiritual cleansing and on the children are equally important. Both are needed, and go hand in hand. You cannot have one without the other.

65. (Mama:) I want to repeat what the Lord said in the message above, just to make sure the point is crystal clear: "The care of the children is your Home's most important united responsibility during the renewal. It needs to be your goal, your focus, and the area that you sink your greatest resources, time, energies, and love into."

66. So because it's going to be one of your Home's main goals for the next six months, you will want to get together and discuss and

pray about how you are going to make it a reality. Make a clear plan of what you as a Home are going to do in order to make the renewal period a truly enjoyable gift for the kids. It will mean rearranging your schedule, working things a little differently than you have in the past, gleaning ideas from your personal renewal P&Ps, having people commit to certain time slots with the children, and trying new things. It will probably seem a bit daunting at first, but the Lord has tailored counsel up His sleeve for every Home and situation. If you ask Him, I'm positive He'll give you a good, workable plan during the renewal that will fit your Home's needs and circumstances.

Secret to Success #3: Have a Positive Attitude

67. The attitudes of you adults and young people toward the renewal are key, and are going to have a big impact on the attitudes of your Home's children. If you are positive, inspired, and looking forward to the renewal with hope, then you will more easily be able to transfer those same good attitudes to your children. But if you are negative and resisting the renewal in your heart, then your children will also feel that and react similarly. It will be nearly impossible for the children to cheerfully yield to the renewal period if you aren't leading the way and being positive role models for them to follow and emulate.

68. If you are struggling with the renewal personally, especially if you're a parent, and haven't gotten your "issues" worked out with the Lord, then you'd better do so before you broach the subject with your children. If you put off getting your heart right with the Lord, this will affect your children in a big way. You can't afford to not get your heart right with the Lord. If for no other reason, you have to do it for your children. You must bring your personal concerns to the Lord first and get the faith you need for the renewal, so that you will be in the position of being able to be a strength and support to your children if they get hit with trials and battles concerning it.

69. You're responsible to ask the Lord for the faith and peace you need, so that you can then pass on that same faith and peace to your children. You have to come to grips with the difficulties and concerns you face, so that you can then help your children come to grips with theirs. And if you are battling with trials related to the personal adjustments that will come with the renewal, ensure that your children do not catch on to it. You must fight to keep a positive attitude at all times, not only for your own good but for the good of your children as well.

70. Please also ask the Lord to speak to you in prophecy regarding any specific problems or difficulties you're anticipating with your Home's children and their care during the renewal. Bring all of your concerns—your personal concerns and the concerns you have for your children—to the Lord and ask Him about each one. His Words will give you faith, which you can then transmit to your children.

71. You parents—and all of you adults and young people, for that matter—have a big responsibility to make the renewal a positive experience for your children. The way you handle things, the way you explain things, and the way you care for your children and pour into them during the renewal period is going to have a huge bearing on how much they will get out of it.

72. Regarding this, the Lord said: "If your children come out of the renewal feeling bored and unfulfilled, and therefore have bad memories about this renewal, you have in essence taught them that I am a dead God, not a living God. You will have taught them by your poor example and lack of love that I am the same as the dead God of the churches." If they come out of the renewal bored, dying to get back to worldly input, and looking at it as a negative experience, then that would be an extremely sad and bad end result. That's definitely not the vision.

73. This renewal is a golden opportunity for you parents and Home members to help your children progress, expand their horizons, and have a ball of a time serving the Lord and learning and experiencing new things. And if it

doesn't turn out to be a positive experience, then it's not the Lord's fault or the fault of the renewal itself; it will be your fault for not fighting to help your children make the most of it. So please, dear parents and teachers and non-parents alike, do your part so that your Home's children will be able to look back on the days of the renewal as some of their favorite childhood memories.

74. (Jesus:) It's so easy for you parents to look at this renewal period from a carnal viewpoint. It seems like a "punishment" because the children are being asked to forsake—along with the adults—worldly input. For many children, worldly input is a big source of their enjoyment and fun, so cutting this out can seem rather cruel if you look at it in the natural. You can be tempted to feel like, "Poor kids. What did they do to deserve this? Why are we being so hard on them?" But that's not how I see it.

75. Just as I see the time of renewal as a gift of My love for the adults, so do I see it as a gift of love for the children. You shouldn't look at it like, "Oh, how hard, how cruel." Instead you should look at it like, "This is a special gift of the Lord's love for the children, and I need to see it as such." If you look at it in a positive light and truly see My hand in this time, then you'll be able to convey that same sample to your children.

76. Your children are very intuitive. You can't fake it. You can't pretend that you think something is positive if you're really thinking negatively about it in your heart. You can't pretend something is going to be good and wonderful for the children if you don't truly believe it in your heart. So it all starts with you young people and adults getting your hearts right with Me. It starts with you seeing things with the right perspective, and only then will you be able to help your children to have the right perspective.

77. Do not focus on what the children are "losing" during this time. Focus on what they are gaining. Focus on the benefits. It's a time when you're going to be able to pour into your

children in ways that you haven't before. It's a time when you'll be able to fulfill special needs and desires in your children's lives. Maybe it's a skill they want to learn that you haven't had time to teach them, or some outings or excursions that they've always wanted to go on, performing or witnessing opportunities, or more personal time as a family. Ask your children what they would like to do, how they would like to spend their time, and then make commitments to do those things during the renewal. Plan fun things, and make them happen. (Note: See list of ideas in GN 1076, page 5.)

78. Through your attitudes and actions at the beginning of the renewal and throughout, you parents and adults can open your children's eyes to a whole new world of excitement, adventure, and fun—in the physical and spiritual realms—that they didn't even know existed. Or you can reinforce the idea that life is only fun with movies, computer games, and other forms of worldly entertainment.

79. If your children go through this renewal period bored and unchallenged, then they will be convinced more than ever that their lives can't be fun without worldly things. But if they go through this renewal period with you pouring more into them than you ever have before, with you making things happen for them and turning it into a fun experience, they're going to flourish and grow like never before—spiritually, physically, emotionally, mentally, and in every other way. They will learn with you that there is more to life than is fun than what they had previously thought. They'll expand their horizons, learn new things, and come out happier for it.



80. (Jesus:) A large factor in how easily your children accept the concept of giving up worldly input during the period of renewal is whether you as parents view it in a positive and upbeat light. If you're full of faith that this time will only strengthen you and your children, draw you closer together as a family, force you in a good way to introduce more godly, unifying activities and fellowships together, then your children will sense this. Then, even if they respond

with dismay at the idea of missing out on their movies or computer games, they'll come around and actually end up in retrospect enjoying the time and growing by leaps and bounds as they get more one-on-one input, more united input, more mentoring, more fun Word-based and spiritual activities, and learn more social skills as they do more activities with their peers and families.

Secret to Success #4: Parents Prayerfully Explain the Renewal to Your Children

81. (Mama:) We're moving on to secret to success #4 now. This is a very important one, parents, because your explanation to your children is going to set the tone for the renewal. It's crucial that they start the renewal off on the right foot, with the right mindset.

82. As I mentioned in "Renewal: The Big Picture" (ML #3489), you parents have the responsibility of explaining the renewal to your children. The Lord said this would be best for a number of reasons, the main one being that it's important that the children see that you, as their parents, are personally behind the renewal and are committed to doing everything you can to make it fun. Of course, if your children have other teachers or helpers, they will probably also talk about the renewal with the children and plan their times with them. But in most cases, unless the Lord specifically shows you otherwise, the initial explanation should be done by you, the parents.

83. As far as the timing of the explanation, it would be ideal if you could explain the renewal to your children as soon after reading this GN as possible. If at all feasible, please don't wait till June 15 to break the news, so to speak. It's best if your children have time to get used to the idea, and it will also allow you enough time for discussions and planning ahead (more on this later). Even a week or a few days in advance is certainly better than informing them right on June 15. But, as always, the Lord knows when would be the best time for your children, so please be sure to ask Him.

84. You adults have had time to think about the renewal, and this has helped to prepare you. And though your children don't need as much preparation, they should still know at least a little in advance if you are able to work it out logistically to do so. You're not letting them know ahead of time so that they can try and watch as many movies or play as many computer games as possible before the renewal begins, but so that they can get used to the idea and even get excited about it. You might even want to pray about beginning to cut back on some of the worldly influences in advance, if you think it might be helpful for your particular children in making it easier for them to stop completely when the renewal starts. Or start doing some other united activities together now, to show by sample that when they are no longer watching movies or playing computer games, there are other fun activities to take the place of these things.

85. You should have already received *MLK* 198, "A Special Gift of Renewal," which has been designed to help you introduce the renewal plan to your children. If you have not yet received this in a mailing, you can find it in the Pubs section of the MO site. FCP 68 is made up of new key promises that Jesus gave to help your children during the renewal. They should be included in this mailing, and you can also find them in the Pubs section of the MO site. We suggest you cut these out and get them on key rings or included in a key promise box so you can start using them with your children as soon as possible. These promises will be especially helpful for the children in the beginning of the renewal.

86. In *GenUp* 21 (page 16) there is an article for your OCs on the importance of minimizing worldly influences. A *MLK* covering this topic will be coming to you shortly after the renewal is underway, to help explain this topic to your younger children. There's also another *MLK* in the works on teaching the children by example how to use some of the new renewal key promises found in FCP 68. God bless the children's pubs team, who have worked hard on these pubs. Of course, even these pubs won't

be enough. The personal touch is still most important, and you parents will need to have discussions with your children—answering their questions, supporting the messages in their pubs, and including your children in on decisions regarding the next six months so that they feel a part, etc.

87. In some cases, your children may already know about the renewal. Maybe you parents have already explained it to them, or they heard about it from others. If this is the situation with your children, it would still be a good idea to discuss it with them further after you read this counsel. Please seek the Lord about how to address it with your children again, and how best to answer any of their lingering questions. If your children have heard about the renewal in a negative way, you will need to apologize to them that they heard about it without knowing the full positive picture, and then proceed to discuss the renewal with them positively, according to the counsel in this GN.—And be sure you keep your children and their perception and anticipation of the renewal in your prayers.

88. Following are two messages from the Lord with some helpful tips to keep in mind when giving the explanation to your children. These might be especially helpful if they react at all negatively when they hear about the fast of worldly input. Even though the renewal is so positive and the Lord is going to bring so much good into the lives of our children, the Enemy may still try to get in and cause difficulties and battles initially—and if your children are initially frustrated and disappointed, they may take it out on you, dear parents. In that case, as the Lord says, you just have to focus on the outcome and not the current cost; look at the goal and not at the difficulty of the moment.

89. (*Jesus:*) You must focus on the outcome. You must keep your vision on what you're giving your children and not on the current cost to the children.

90. You have one thing going in your favor with these children—they are young, and they adore you! You are the sunrise in their lives.

You represent Me to them. They know you are their parents, and they love you dearly. Capitalize on that love. They trust you. Capitalize on that trust.

91. Capitalize on this love and trust that is in their hearts. Don't let their outward show of rebellion dissuade you. Believe that the heart of that child is still a child's heart, one that is in love with his parent and trusts him implicitly. Build on that.

92. The Enemy would have you focus on the child's hurt or defiance. But you must see past that outer surface into the heart of the child who fully and truly loves you and trusts you. It's there. That heart is still there; it's just been temporarily covered up with the confusion of the moment. You can't be part of that confusion. The child needs you to be the strong and stalwart one in this time of change, and you can do it.

93. You must look at the goal and not at the moment. The Enemy will try to get you to focus on the moment, on the strain of your child throwing accusations or being defiant. But you must keep your focus on the goal, on the life of joy you are leading your children into.



94. (Jesus:) I know and you know that it's good for children who are accustomed to regular System input to learn to broaden their horizons, and especially to realize that there is a lot of fun and joy to be found in spiritual activities or activities involving witnessing and fellowship. But today's entertainment is so fast-paced, professional, and available, that you as parents have some serious competition.

95. Although the children don't need to understand all of the spiritual principles behind the renewal and the purpose of it for the adults, it's still a good opportunity to explain to them some of the spiritual principles that they are able to grasp, such as rewards in this life and the next for obedience to Me and My Word, or the dangers of too much worldly input. But you also want to avoid giving them the impression that something is wrong with them for liking worldly input. This will not bear good fruit

in their lives, because it could cause condemnation or confusion. The truth is, if a young child is exposed to too much worldly input, the fault falls on the parents, teachers, or other adults and young people who have either put too much emphasis on it or have been lazy and allowed worldly input to be a babysitter far too often.

96. Here's the secret in explaining the renewal: It's your responsibility to get across the point that it's going to be six months of fun and exciting new experiences. Don't give the kids the impression that it's some sort of operation to remove a cancer from them—even if you as parents feel that might be the case. Of course, you'll have to make it clear to your kids that they are not allowed to watch System movies, play noneducational computer games, listen to System music, or read System storybooks or novels, but once that's explained, try as much as possible not to dwell on the "don'ts," but rather to constantly emphasize the "dos."

Practical Tip

97. Make it easy for the children to be good by putting away all System movies, CDs, and noneducational books, and by deleting any and all remnants of the non-educational computer games from your computer. If the children are having an especially big trial about the renewal period, then you may want to do this when they aren't looking, so you don't rub it in. However, some kids will understand and actually become at least initially excited about it, and may even want to help you put it all away. It really depends on the child.

98. (Mama:) While I was working on this GN, I was constantly putting myself in the shoes of you parents. I asked the Lord to help me to feel what you were feeling—your battles and burdens. I also wondered what I would do if I was the parent of young children and was in the position of needing to explain the renewal to them. Clearly, the explanation to the younger

children would be very different from the explanation to the JETTs and teens. But I had a hard time thinking of exactly what I would say. Even though the Lord has given a lot of good counsel and His viewpoint is positive and clear, I thought that it would be even more helpful if I could include some practical examples of how to explain the general concept to the children.

99. So I asked the Lord for some sample explanations, specifically for younger children, which He happily gave. These aren't for you to read to your children or quote word for word. They probably wouldn't even appeal to every child. They're just examples for you to meditate on and build on. If any of the examples stand out to you, you could use the ideas or concepts with any other specifics the Lord shows you that will speak to your children's hearts and help them to understand. Since He has the key to each child's heart, He may very well remind you of other examples you can use when you pray and ask Him how to best explain it to your children. There are many different word pictures, ideas, and stories you could use to help them understand, depending on the ages of your children.

100. Example #1: The Word is like the spiritual food that keeps us strong, healthy, and free from spiritual sicknesses. It's similar to how eating healthy foods like vegetables, fruits, and good proteins and starches keeps our bodies healthy and strong. But we and the other adults in our Home haven't been eating enough of the good healthy food of the Word. Instead, we've been eating too much of the white sugar spiritual foods, so we've gotten a little bit weak and tired. It's just like we can get weak in our physical bodies when we eat too much food made out of white sugar and not enough healthier foods.

101. Now Jesus wants us and the other adults to start eating more healthy spiritual food—and more healthy physical food too. He wants us to stop eating some of the things made from spiritual white sugar that are making us weak so that we can get strong again. The things that we've been having too much of are worldly

things like movies and computer games. Although these aren't always bad, and they can be fun sometimes, we need to forsake them completely for a little while so that we can start eating more of the good Word food that makes us stronger and healthier, and so that we can spend more time with you children. Then when we're healthier and we have a better balance, we can eat some of those sweet things again in moderation, but then we will be wiser and won't let ourselves get weak.

102. We would like you children to learn to eat better with us, because we want to be a healthy family. We want our whole Home to be healthier, and Jesus wants that too. So if we forsake the spiritual sugary things like computer games and movies for a while, we're going to learn to eat better food, stuff that's going to make us healthier. The healthier stuff is like doing more fun things like get-outs, exciting Word times, united activities, Word games, new hobbies, parties, special dinners, witnessing outings, etc. We are going to spend more time with you, too, and it's going to be really special.

103. Jesus loves us and all of the adults, and He wants us to stay spiritually healthy for Him so that we can keep serving Him and doing our best for Him. He also loves you children, and wants you to be healthy too. He's our big Daddy, and He wants us to be happy and have fun as we get strong and healthy for Him.

104. We might not even miss the movies and the computer games much, because we're going to be having so much fun. Jesus is going to make it really special for you, and us, and all of the adults and young people in the Home are going to make it fun for you too. So for six months we're going to have a great time together—and this is just the beginning. As a family and Home we're going to do things we never had the chance to do before, and try new things, and at the end, Jesus promises that we're going to be so much happier. Isn't that wonderful?

105. Example #2: Our Home is like a car, and Jesus is our Mechanic. We're a good car, and He likes us, but He just wants to make us

better. We need a bit of a tune-up and we need some repairs. It's like Jesus wants to change our tires so that we can drive better. He wants to fill us up with gas, so that we can drive farther. He wants to fix the engine and make sure all of the parts are working well. He wants to even give us a new paint job so that when we come out of His mechanic shop we'll be brand-new.

106. The renewal is like being in the mechanic's shop. When we're in the mechanic's shop, we're not going to be able to do all of the things we normally do, because we have to be still so Jesus can fix us. Jesus wants us to forsake some things—like watching movies and playing computer games or other things that are not edifying or uplifting to our spirit—so that He can teach us new things, so that we can spend more time together with you children, and so that He can make us a better, faster, newer car. He doesn't want us to be distracted with too much, so that we can watch Him fix us and learn new things so that we don't break down in the future.

107. Example #3: Sometimes when our clothes get a bit old and worn, we have to get new ones—either buy them, or provision them, or pray for the Lord to supply some other way. Well, right now Jesus wants to give us all some new spiritual clothes. He wants to make them for the adults and the children. He wants to make us some clothes that are so much better and nicer than the clothes we have now—they'll be more suitable and comfortable, and we'll really like wearing them.

108. He's our Tailor, and in order for Him to make us the new clothes, we have to take off the old ones. He's not going to throw the old ones in the trash can, because they still have some wear left in them, and we'll use them again in the future a little. He just needs us to forsake them for a while so that He can take our measurements and create the new clothes He wants to give us. We'll be able to try out some of them right away, but it's going to take about six months for Him to outfit us completely. The old clothes we're going to have to forsake for a

while are things like movies, TV, computer games, etc. But it's going to be worth it.

109. At first we might worry that the new clothes Jesus is making aren't going to be as good. But we're going to find out that they're even better than the clothes we wore before. The new clothing represents all the gifts Jesus wants to give you children, like learning new things, spending more time with us, your parents, your older brothers and sisters, and others in the Home, having fun witnessing opportunities, going on excursions, having parties and activities and fellowships, as well as exciting Word, prayer and praise times.

110. At the end of the six months, which Jesus calls the renewal, you'll be full of stories about your new spiritual garments. You'll be able to tell your friends the things you learned and did, and how happy you are with the special gifts Jesus gave you.

111. Example #4, for very young children who might be confused by some of the word pictures: We have something important to tell you. Very soon we're going to be taking a break from TV shows, movies, and computer games so that we can do a bunch of really fun things together instead. I know you like to play games and watch movies and TV, and so do Daddy and Mommy, but Jesus told us that it's not so good for us to do that all the time because we need to learn that Jesus wants us to have fun doing other things so that we make Him happy, and if we do what Jesus says, He says it will make us really happy too.

112. So Daddy and Mommy and all the other adults and children are going to put away all our games and movies for a long time so that we can do other really fun things instead. We're going to do more fun things than you've ever done before. We'll have lots of parties and really big, fun play times with your toys, and we'll go to new places you've never been before [insert other activities that you know will appeal to your children], and we'll even get to do fun things that we're not going to tell you about yet because we want them to be a surprise! What sort

of fun things would you like to do instead of your regular game night or movie night?

Secret to Success #5: Realize That Fun Is a Major Goal

113. (Mama:) The Lord wants the renewal to be **fun** for all of our children, and He wants you parents and teachers—and every Home member—to do all you can to make the renewal a positive experience for the children in your Home. It can be, and will be, with His help! Forsaking worldly input should not be synonymous with forsaking fun. If our children come out of the renewal with that mindset, then something is wrong. The things of the world are being put aside for a time so they can have more fun, not less—and better, more meaningful fun.

114. Worldly input should not automatically equal fun for the kids, and they shouldn't think of one when they think of the other. If you make the children's time without worldly input fun and enjoyable and even better than the life they knew with worldly input, that will mold their future for the better in a positive way. Whereas if they come out feeling like life without the world is boring and unchallenging, then they're going to be worse off than they were before they went into it.

115. This time can be a great time for you and your children. If you use this time to really seek the Lord for things to do with your Home's kids to keep them inspired and to help them see that having fun doesn't always have to revolve around a movie or a computer game, for example, if you take time to plan things for them, interact with them more, and pour into them more, then you will reap the fruits and the results in their lives like never before. This is the best opportunity that you have ever had to tune in to your kids, so don't pass it up. Take full advantage of it.

116. Fun comes in all shapes and sizes—and the fun that comes from activities involving fellowship and bonds of love and good input is the more satisfying type of fun in the long run. Our children need fun experiences, and you parents and teachers, and all members of the

Home, need to make that happen. This is an opportunity to let our children experience a wide spectrum of new avenues for fun and enjoyment. Help them expand their definitions of “fun,” and have a blast doing it!

117. (Jesus:) **It's your responsibility to plan the next six months as much as you can in order to ensure it will be packed with some truly enjoyable activities and experiences.** If the children end up extra bored for six months, then the renewal period could actually send the wrong message—that life is miserable without System input. If you allow this to happen, then you are accountable.

118. Do not simply assume that because I have ordained this renewal period that I will automatically give the children so much grace that they'll hardly notice it. While I will help out some and give them a bit of extra grace for some special circumstances, I want you—all of you adults and young people—to work hard to bring the children so much joy and happiness during the renewal period that they're not even going to want to go back to the same amount of System input they had before. It's going to take more work—especially if you're used to using System input as a babysitter—but it's an important opportunity for you to affect your children in a positive way by broadening their horizons and strengthening them spiritually.

119. You can even explain to the children that the renewal period is a special time of extra fun—where they'll get to go witnessing, maybe have extra fun parties, engage in interesting hobbies, learn new sports, have particularly exciting extra Word times, and have more quality time with you, their parents. You just have to realize that you'll have to follow through with it, even if it means significant extra time and effort on your part.

120. For you adults, the overall purpose of the renewal is not necessarily to try to add lots of extra fun for yourselves, but rather to have more time to dedicate to Me and be cleansed from the world. I'm not expecting you adults to try to fill every minute with other personal fun

activities, but to take ample time to dedicate your hearts to Me and find My perfect will in your life.

121. For young children, the renewal period is intended for a slightly different purpose than for the adults. Obviously, young children are not at the point where they can make decisions about their life, but instead I want this renewal period to teach them that the things of the spirit and the simple things of life can be just as enjoyable as worldly input. Emphasize the fun aspect, and try to make your times of fellowship, activities, outings, Word, prayer, and praise something they look forward to as much as a movie or a computer game.

122. I know you're probably wondering if I really mean that it's possible for your children to grow to enjoy the Word and the things of the spirit as much as they do movies and computer games. Perhaps you wonder if I'm just living a dream world or speaking hypothetically. No, I'm not. If you put forth the effort and a believing will, then your children can grow to love the things of My Spirit as much as movies or computer games. It will take time, effort, determination, and wild and inspiring ideas from the spirit world to get them hooked, but it is possible—and this is the goal you're shooting for. You may not reach the goal immediately, but it's something worth striving for, because in time it will become a reality.



123. (Jesus:) It's going to take hard work to fill up your children's evenings, to be thinking and praying ahead so that they don't look at this time as depressing and devoid of fun. The idea is not that this period of renewal is devoid of fun. You might even have to ask Me for a mindset change as parents regarding your and your children's definition of "fun."

124. You might need to adjust to getting outdoors more for physical activities, throwing or kicking a ball around, taking walks or hikes, going on picnics, getting lots of good fresh air—weather and climate permitting. You won't just be able to kick back in the evening, and might need to think more about having a couple of

board game nights with your children, doing dress-ups or charades or inspirations or testimony nights, taking your kids to special events, going personal witnessing in the park, and more. I am the God of ideas and inspiration, and as you seek Me you will find a fountain that overflows and never runs dry.

Secret to Success #6: Focus on the Benefits

125. (Mama:) Another real key for the renewal is for you adults and young people to focus on the benefits, not the losses, and to help the children to do the same. You are all going to have to invest a lot more time and prayer in planning meaningful activities and input for your children, rather than just opting to sit them in front of a video or computer, so focusing on the gains and praising the Lord for all of the benefits will encourage you and help you to know that every sacrifice is going to be more than worth it.

126. So to give you a boost of encouragement and a peek at some of the benefits, here is a message from our Husband with promises of the wonderful things that the renewal will bring into the lives of your children. He explains how it will strengthen them and you, and expounds on some of the benefits you and they can expect.

127. (Jesus:) This is one of those times that right now seems like it will be really difficult, long, wearying, and something you can't wait to be over. Especially being busy parents, and feeling as if you already have way more to do than you can accomplish in the day, I understand how you would feel that way. Many of you depend on videos and computer games and books to help keep your kids occupied while you tend to other things. And without those "props," you don't see how you're going to make it. I understand. You've become accustomed to leaning on those things, and so without them you're going to feel pretty desperate and stretched for a little while. But I want to reassure you that the benefits are going to far outweigh the difficulties. Let Me give you some examples.

128. As you work to bring the Word alive to your kids, they are going to gain a deep and insatiable hunger for the Word. It's going to become alive to them. They're going to start discovering how interesting, how deep, how fascinating it is. This is going to help them gain the foundation that they need—that foundation that so many of the kids and young people in the Family don't really have yet, because they've had so many other distractions to take up their time and attention, so many things that seemed more interesting than the Word.

129. Without System videos and TV and computer games, you'll be able to spend more time with your kids, doing things together. It's going to forge a bond of love and friendship and togetherness with your kids that you haven't experienced before. They're going to appreciate your time and attention. They're going to start talking to you and to others more, and will learn to find more joy in fellowship and conversation and doing things together. Rather than it being something to just get over with so that they can rush off to their free time with the computer or video or books or whatever it is your kids normally do, they'll learn to value the things you do together more. It will level the playing field a bit, by taking out the fast-paced multimedia experience that no teacher or friend can compete with.

130. At first things might seem slow or boring to them, but after a while they'll realize that's all they have, and they'll start to gain interest. And through that fellowship, conversation, time spent together doing things, discussing things, they'll learn. They'll learn about applying the Word to their lives. They'll learn new skills. They'll learn how to be more creative and innovative. They'll learn how to talk and converse respectfully and with genuine interest. They'll learn how to relate to people better. They'll learn how to make others happy, and thus find happiness themselves.

131. Have you ever noticed that so much of System entertainment is selfish by nature? It promotes going into your own little world to watch that movie or play that game or read that book. So taking all that away opens new doors

for your kids to learn how to interact lovingly and harmoniously with others. It will help them learn to be more loving and giving with their time, include others, and through doing so, they will be happier.

132. Witnessing will be more fun and exciting for your kids. There are all sorts of opportunities that I will raise up to help your kids have fun while they're out ministering to others, so start looking for those opportunities!—Excursions and outings that can combine with some witnessing, or passing out tracts, or following up on sheep.

133. And, My loving parents, you will get to know your kids better. You will see sides of them you haven't yet seen. You will learn to know their hearts, their deep thoughts. You'll have more time to communicate and pray together, win victories together, study My Word together. And after a while, you won't even miss the System entertainment. You'll realize how much it distracted you from the best things. And when it comes time for the fast to be lifted, your hunger for the System will have waned, and your kids' hunger will have too.

134. So take advantage of this time to build new habits, and then fight to keep them, so that when you are allowed to do those other things again, they don't take such predominance in your lives or your kids' lives.

135. Looking back on this time, you'll see it as one of the most precious times of your life. You'll be so thankful that it was something I enforced, because it's not something you would choose to do yourselves, but you'll be so happy with the fruit it bears.

136. Some of your children's service for Me will be saved through this time. It will give them the opportunity to build a true foundation based on love for Me and others, and My Word.

137. I know it's going to be difficult at first. You're going to wonder how you're going to make it through six months. You're going to have to really pray and seek Me about new activities and things to keep your kids busy and happy and out of trouble. But through that praying and seeking Me, I will show you wonderful things. I

will lighten your load. I will help you build new habits. And the wonderful results in your lives, and the lives of your children, will be more than enough reward for every sacrifice. I promise.

138. (*Jesus:*) You've probably read articles about parents in the world who decided that the TV was taking way too much prominence in their children's lives. So they turned it off for a month, or three months, or however long they decided on. At first their kids howled and gave

them a terrible time about it, and it was hard on the parents too, because they had to work harder to do other entertaining things with their kids—reading together, playing together, going out in nature together, cooking or baking, talking, learning new things. But eventually the kids became happier, more communicative. The whole family was so much happier that in some cases they then decided to get rid of the TV permanently, or at least greatly restricted its viewing. They never wanted to go back to the way things were before.

139. (*Mama:*) An interesting fact we found that backs up what the Lord says in this prophecy is that in the U.S. they have a national TV-Turnoff Week.

The goal is that participants unplug the tube for a week in an effort to encourage children and adults to watch much less television in order to promote healthier lives and communities. Since 1995, more than 24 million Americans have turned off their television and re-engaged in life. Afterwards, almost all of the participants responded that they now watch less TV and watch more selectively as a result of the "fast." Many said their viewing habits would be permanent, and that breaking free of TV is a liberating and enriching experience. For many, participation was a springboard to making lasting changes in their viewing—and lifestyle—habits.

140. Some of the reactions from participants in the TV-Turnoff Week were:

- Children "rediscovered" about three more hours each day. They read more, exercised more, and spent more time with family and friends, playing board games, telling stories, and talking with mom and dad.

- It was a very valuable experience. We were forced to think about the role that TV plays in our lives, and we discovered the joy of living!

- Hallelujah! Turn off that TV! I do want to emphatically stress that there is much more to life than the boring, degrading, demeaning fare on the boob tube. I urge [everyone] to use this week to break your addiction to television. Just say no! Turn on life!

- I had a great time, and my only question is: If this is so great, why don't we turn off the TV for the other 51 weeks of the year?

- The worst single choice I ever made was getting my husband cable for his birthday. Now there are woodworking, gardening, quilting, cooking, and home improvement shows on 24 hours a day! If we weren't watching these shows, we'd probably be woodworking, gardening, quilting, cooking, and improving our home.

- I got rid of my television altogether, and I have never regretted it for one moment. My life is so much richer now. I got my imagination back.

- Cutting back on TV is a great way to find the time to play outside, take a walk, or pick up a new sport.

- The easiest way to reduce inactivity is to turn off the TV set. Almost anything else uses more energy than watching TV.

- Because children are influenced by what their parents do, it is important that whatever effort you make to exercise more, eat better, or watch less TV is done as a family.

- Turning off the TV becomes a great family endeavor, a way to bond and spend time together.

- We have not watched TV for more than 16 years, not out of a statement against society or any overt religious injunction, but a simple desire to have time for a more meaningful marriage and family in the face of a busy life.

- I would do it this way again in a minute,

and I think if anyone is considering it, go all the way and toss that TV out! You'll have more family time, better communication, great readers, self-reliant and imaginative kids, and more snuggle time with your spouse!

141. (Mama:) Don't worry, we don't intend to get rid of our TV/video setups indefinitely; we're just going to gain more wisdom and prayerfulness in this, and every other area, of our lives! I'm including these for your interest only, and not because I think we all should toss out our TVs and video machines. Ha! But the point is that turning off the TV for a time to get back to the basics of life and to spend more time with family and friends is not something that no one else in the world has ever done or considered a good thing. As you can see from these short testimonials, even those in the world agree that shutting down the TV, to put things back into perspective, is a positive experience.

142. This might even be a point that you parents can make to your children when explaining the renewal. They'd probably be interested if you clued them in on the fact that this kind of thing is not just unique to the Family. Sometimes people in the world do it too, because they want to spend more time with their children, have more time for people, or gain a better balance in their lives, and they're happy with the results—just as we will be.

143. (Jesus continues:) So many people in the world today wish for an opportunity like the one that's in front of you now, but they just don't have the willpower and strength to make it happen themselves. They know that it's laziness and it's robbing them and their children of so much to let the TV baby-sit, to let their kids play those computer games that are violent and less edifying or educational than they should be. They know that it's stealing the time they could have together, the experiences, the bond of love and the opportunities for teaching and learning

together that families are supposed to have. But they feel they don't have the time to make it happen, so they let it pass. They let these shallow, worldly, meaningless and sometimes downright harmful influences keep entertaining the kids and dictating their lives, which in the long run really take the joy out of life and tear down all that is good.

144. I know it's hard to imagine now, but once you've made it over the hurdle and gotten used to the fact that you can't just put on a movie for the kids to keep them entertained, that you have to do something with them; that you can't let them play computer games for parent time, you've got to read with them, talk with them, walk with them, get out of the house together—after you've made it over that hurdle, My loves, I promise that you're going to love it.

145. You're going to love the peaceful spirit that it brings into the Home, simply because the System doesn't have so many avenues of entrance. You're going to love the greater unity and closeness that it brings, because you're fellowshiping and talking together, rather than plopping down in front of a video. You're going to love the opportunities it gives you to really know your children, to be close, to share your hearts and dreams, to teach them all that you know about witnessing, cooking, mechanics, sewing, or whatever it is they're interested in. You're going to love it!

146. I'm not saying it's going to be easy. The first part is going to be very difficult as you all adjust and learn to accept things, and then, even though it gets easier, it's never going to be as easy as going the lazy way and resorting to System entertainment for times of relaxation. But it's going to be so much better for your spirits—yours and your children's.

147. (Mama:) I want to clarify here that the fast of worldly input does not and should not imply that all movies, computer games, novels, and forms of worldly entertainment are necessarily bad and wrong. This is not the message the Lord wants you to get from the renewal, and it's not the message He wants you to convey to the children. It's simply that the Lord wants the whole

Family to devote this time to concentrating on other areas of our lives that are more important. He wants to teach us all—adults and children alike—to have a better balance in all things.

148. It's not necessarily the worldly things in themselves that are bad. (Unless you have been overindulgent with your children and have allowed far too much of their lives to be taken up with worldly input, or you have allowed them worldly input that isn't wholesome or godly, in which case you'd need to sort this out with the Lord and start following Him much more closely in this area of your children's lives.) We need to forsake the things of the world for a time to focus on the things of the spirit, and emphasize the other important aspects of our lives—and our children's lives—that worldly influences have often overshadowed.

Secret to Success #7: Use the Power of Praise and Celebrate the Renewal

149. A smaller but important thing you may want to include in your renewal success program is a celebration to start off the renewal with a bang. A fun and appropriate idea for kicking off the renewal would be to have a “count your blessings” time with your children, or even with the whole Home—a special praise time where you think of and praise Jesus for all the good things that the renewal is going to bring into all of your lives. Have your children come up with as many things to thank the Lord for as they can by themselves, and then prompt them with some ideas of your own. Turn it into a fun activity with a nice dinner, a special snack, or some yummy drinks. If you are able to have this special “count your blessings” time before the renewal begins, that would be ideal. If not, you could incorporate it into your children's devotions on the morning of June 15 (the first day of the renewal).

150. Here are some “blessings” or “gifts” that you can build on (see *MLK* 198, where the Lord pictures some of these and other gifts for the children):

- That you'll be able to spend more quality time together as a family and as a Home.

- That you'll be able to do more fun things together (specify some that you hope to do together during the renewal).

- Because everyone will be spending more time with people (as opposed to computers or the media), the children will learn and grow in their communication skills and how to relate to others.

- The children will grow in learning how to make others happy, and that will make them happier too.

- There'll be more fun opportunities for the children to witness and win souls.

- There will be more opportunities for excursions and outings, for education and for recreation.

- Parents will get to know their children better, and vice versa.

- Closer and deeper bonds of friendship with their peers, based on the Word and uplifting fellowship.

- The renewal is an opportunity to build new habits.

- New people (older brothers and sisters, and SGAs and adults in the Home) will spend time with the children, teaching them new things and pouring into them.

- There will be more united activities and fellowships in the Home, and even in the area.

- There will be fun Word, prayer, and praise times.

- They will gain more Word in their hearts through doing Word-based games and activities.

- They might have the opportunity to learn a new skill or hobby that they've always wanted to learn.

- They might be able to go on more faith trips.

- Because there will be more united endeavors and activities, the children will feel more a part of the Home and be able to play a more active role in the Home.

- Your Home, as well as each family within the Home, will learn how to pray and hear from the Lord for ideas of things to do.

- They will have a closer and more personal link with Jesus, and see more of the fruits of obeying Him and His Word.

Continued in GN 1076