

the GRAPEVINE

JULY 15, 2001 CM/FM
ISSUE 116

Never discourage anyone who continually makes progress, no matter how slow.—Plato

prayer request for Mama

BY PETER

Please continue to keep Mama in your prayers. Just a few days after my return from Brazil, Mama began to experience severe dizzy spells and nausea, to where she couldn't turn her head or get up without being extremely dizzy and in danger of fainting. These symptoms have subsided for

the most part, but please pray with us for her complete healing.

The Lord said this was an attack of the Enemy on Mama, to hinder, delay and set back the work, as well as exact upon her an intense and long-lasting illness, with the intent to cause her injury. In answer to your fervent prayers for Mama's health, along with those in our Home who have been praying daily for her recovery, the Lord is doing the miracle.

When asking the Lord about it, He said: "Faithful and fervent have been the

prayers of My children for their queen. And because they have been such, the Enemy has not be able to exact upon her what he had planned. The dizziness would have been more intense and debilitating and long-lasting, but because of your prayers, his attempt to hinder and delay My work and cause a setback has not been able to take place. Neither has he been able to discourage My queen nor cause her to unduly worry, for she has trusted in My Word and I will honor her trust and give her complete healing.

"Never underestimate the power of prayer, the fervency of prayer, and the immediate results that take place when you pray. There are many instances where I have protected each of you from serious harm and injury due to prayer. When you get Here, you'll be able to see many times how I worked in the spirit to keep you and it will amaze you. But you can know how I have protected you by simply asking Me as your queen has asked. This will encourage your faith in prayer and in My love for you."

By Mama

Thank you for your prayers for me, dear Family. I'd like to ask you to also pray for Peter who has very high blood pressure and has been experiencing heart pains over the past week. Please pray for his healing—for his blood pressure to go down, that the Lord strengthens his heart, and gives him good rest and time to fully recuperate.

Changes in the *END*

BY YOUR *END* EDITOR

As you may have noticed, the format of the *END* has changed over the last few months. We've added a "Men's Corner" section and have also begun to include longer messages from the Lord and Dad commenting on current events, the world economy, and Endtime questions.

As part of the *END*'s focus on the Endtime, it will also include material which has generally appeared in "World Currents" GNs in the past. This gets these messages out to you quicker than they would have gotten out in Currents GNs, and we hope you'll find them inspiring and informational.

So if you want to keep up with what's happening in the world and gain a Heavenly perspective and insight into it, don't miss the monthly *END*! (We hope to reprint some of the more significant or important prophecies from the *END* in the future, God willing.)

featuring...

A "ws news" special!—*Activated Adventure Brazil*! See pages 8-15 for the detailed log of Peter and team's recent trip to Brazil, attending Brazil's Sixth Annual National Retreat.

Check out accompanying FSM 374 for the retreat's general schedule, some more news, and a PHOTO LOG to fill you in on the main events!

Also featured in FSM 374: Meet just a few of our Family's *many* wonderful Active members in Brazil. Get a glimpse of their lives and what they're doing for the Lord!

**You're
guaranteed to be
inspired!**

SPECIAL
ACTION
FSM #10

FSM 374
CM-FM
7/01



Sending former Family young people CM Word

Q: What are the guidelines for sharing quotes and sections of CM and FM lit with those not in those categories of discipleship? Specifically, we have children (teens, YAs and SGAs) who were raised in the Family, but are now out, going to school, etc. We sometimes come across a quote or section of a Letter we'd like to send them, to feed and encourage them. Is there any leeway for sending quotes, paragraphs or sections of Letters, and not the whole Letter, and have it be counted as "feeding the sheep"?

A: In the Charter it states in the "Responsibilities of World Services' Leadership and Homes," page 145:

Any Home newsletters, appeal letters, flyers, pamphlets, video or audio tapes or CDs with limited local distribution, or designed for distribution to the Home's contacts, may be approved by the Home.

Homes are permitted to include quotations and artwork from Family publications in their local pubs, and may translate these from the original publication without approval from their continental office.

On page 146 it says:

If the Home wishes to use quotations from the MLs in a newsletter, appeal letter or other local pamphlet, they may do so. If these quotations appeared first in an original English publication and

have not already been translated into the needed language by an CRO approved translator, the Home can translate them if they have a suitable translator. *(End of excerpt from the Charter.)*

Under this clause it would be permissible with the approval of the Home, to include quotes or sections from CM or FM pubs to those you correspond with or minister to who are not in the Family. The security of the Family's CM literature is very important, and although with your Home's agreement you may share quotations or portions from the pubs with those you correspond with, it remains an excommunicable offense to give Family literature classified as CM to non-Charter members.

We trust that as a Home you will be able to seek the Lord on how to both feed those you correspond with and keep the security of the Family's CM pubs.

in My arms...

Written by Angela (VS, USA): Last night we found out that **Matthew** (20, an ex-member young person, of Tim and Maria) went to be with the Lord on July 1. It seems it was a suicide. Please pray for Tim and Maria (pregnant with #11), and for their children's encouragement and faith during this time.

Tim told me about a prophecy he had just gotten from Matthew. In it, Matthew said he was very sorry, that he couldn't find a way to resolve his problems and he thought that was the easiest way. He's sorry for all the pain it's caused, and if he could undo it, he would. He said he was into "free thinking" and that's where he really got off. He said he left for the trinkets of the world, and ever since he left the Family he knew he had made a mistake, but pride kept him from coming back. He said he wants it to be a lesson to other young people in the Family.—He left because he thought it would be better, but no matter how rough it is in the Family at times, it's not as bad as it is out in the System. Matthew said the Lord met him and was so sweet, loving and forgiving. He didn't condemn him. He was so merciful and Matthew felt very undeserving.

Jesus: It was not Matthew's time to come Home to be with Me, but it happened in a moment of despair. He had strayed far away from Me, leaving behind his wonderful heritage, leaving behind his faith and his trust in Me. And without his faith and active link to Me, he didn't have the strength to weather the battles and rise above the problems and difficulties and trials that surrounded him on every side. But even though it was a mistake for him to come to Heaven so soon, it was not in vain. I will use even this for My good. *(End of excerpts of message from Jesus.)*

Activated forum

We'd like to open an *Activated* column in the *Grapevine*—featuring where, when and how you do it! ... Getting out the mags, that is. What zany things do you do to get someone interested in subscribing? What's a good ice-breaker to present the *Activated* mags to someone right off the bat?

Send in your original and realistic ideas for how we can win the world for Jesus by getting hundreds, thousands and millions of people subscribed to *Activated*—hooked up to the feeding they need. Write today!

Ministry of miracles

By Mama

“The Lord spoke to me and said He had given me the ministry of healing and the ministry of miracles.”

—FGA MAN, CHINA

As you read in “What the Future Holds, Part 1” (GN 942) about the ministry of miracles that He is putting before some of you, the Lord said: “Now, beginning today ... you will see raised up from among you those who will perform miracles of healing, deliverance, casting out devils, foretelling the future, and eventually even raising the dead and calling down fire from Heaven. ... These obvious miracles will cause no small stir; they will not be done in a corner.

“You are now ready, My loves, and this is the beginning of the obvious manifestations of My power within you, the giving of signs, the working of greater miracles. I have already begun to speak to your hearts, you whom I wish to raise up as My modern-day miracle workers. ... I speak to you and call you who have already had dreams and received personal messages from Me and your spirit helpers. You have even had others—both within the Family and

outsiders—say things that have confirmed this secret leading that I have put within your heart. Now I will begin to put you in situations and engineer circumstances that will challenge your faith. You will discover that there will be times when the door will open for you to make known your gift. The choice will be yours to follow through on such opportunities, according to your faith” (*par. 49, 53*).

In response to my request to hear from those of who you feel the Lord is calling you to this ministry, or who have had some miracle-working personal experiences thus far, we’ve received 34 testimonies from you so far!—8 from China, 5 from India, 5 from Europe, 5 from South and Central America, 3 from the U.S., 2 from Russia, 2 from the Middle East, 2 from Asia, 1 from Taiwan, and 1 from Africa.

If possible, we’ll try to publish excerpts of these testimonies in the future, but in the meantime we thought you’d be inspired to know that as the Lord promised, He has already spoken to some of you about this ministry and given the gift of miracles to different ones in various ways, and more testimonies continue to pour in!

Here are a few snippets from some of your testimonies:

FGA man, China: As amazing as it is, the Lord has secretly shown me that I have the gift of miracles over my 25 years in the Family several times. It hasn’t been heavily manifested on a regular basis but just

enough for me to believe what the Lord was telling me. ... There have been a few that would be undeniably miraculous such as healings of high fevers, illnesses such as pneumonia or a bad flu, hemorrhaging during a miscarriage, and herpes, which were quite miraculous because the Lord did it right on the spot. ... Most of the times when someone gets healed or I get healed, the Lord tells me first. Just a year ago I was riding in a taxi and the Lord spoke to me and said that He had given me the ministry of healing and the ministry of miracles.

18, male, Argentina: Half way through this GN I decided to hear from the Lord. He told me that He had chosen me and many others for this task, and it was up to me if I was willing take the challenge. I made the commitment to make the changes that were needed and give Him my all. I also made a series of vows to the Lord while I was receiving them in the spirit.

FGA man, India: Years ago [someone] arranged for me to visit a physic in central London. What she did was take the palm of my hand and place it on the palm of her hand, and I saw with my own eyes these little brown dots begin to appear on the palm of her hand. There were several of these little brown dots. She said that meant that I had the gift of healing.

I have prayed for people on several occasions and often times I will feel the center of the palms of my hands get very warm to the

point of being hot. I heard from a supporter of ours that he knows a man who has the gift of healing whose hands experience the same sensation.

FGA woman, Central America: At the Feast 2000, after we had finished the ceremony and heard from the Lord, [someone] got a prophecy directed to me personally, where the Lord told me I should ask Him for the gift of healing. He said I had a gift already for healing, especially of the eyes. Perhaps this person had the faith to receive this because he remembers well one incident where I prayed for a woman’s mother while visiting her house. Her mother’s eyes were healed.

FGA couple, China: After reading this milestone Letter we received a beautiful message, saying that He had chosen us to receive the anointing for greater miracles. It was so beautiful.

SGA woman, Europe: Ever since the Feast I’ve been able to feel and receive some amazing things while holding people’s hands. I would get the feeling that I was supposed to say what I was receiving, only I never did for fear of the different reactions people could have. I thought it was just my imagination, so I never gave it much thought.

I asked the Lord about it and He said that it was a gift He had given me, the ability of “reading people’s hands.” The next day my sisters all asked me to do it for them and I did. It was incredible, as while I did it I could feel two hands over mine.

happenings

[Tools to famous people]

Jonatán Nubes, *Conéctate*, Chile: Recently the Lord has helped us to reach a couple of famous people who passed through our area. President Andrés Pastrana of Colombia received a TA video for his kids, a *Peace In the Midst of Storm* cassette tape, a tract for countries suffering from civil strife and a personal letter from me, as I studied with him in high school. When we heard he was in town, we went by the embassy and left the package with his secretary, who promised to deliver it to him.

The famous Nicaraguan poet, Ernesto Cardenal, who has written some "Loving Jesus" poems and has been a sort of political rebel, excommunicated by the Pope some years ago, received a package with a *Conéctate* mag and prophecies taken out of the book *From Jesus - with Love* during his visit to Chile for a poetic gathering. Jonathan and Ezequiel attended an assembly he held with students at the university and on his way out, while accosted by the press, Jonathan was able to break through the security and delivered the package. The moment was shown live on TV.

[Greetings from the Palestinian ambassador]

Stefan, Islamabad, Pakistan: A. and M. (from the Palestinian Embassy) have attended our Christmas program at the Marriott Hotel for the second consecutive year. Mr. A. also attended our annual appreciation dinner and said that the Ambassador sends us his heartfelt and warmest greetings for the occasion and mentioned how touched he was to receive the message "Prayer for the Palestinian People."

[Out of the army]

Tommy Thai, Thailand: Thank you for your prayers! I'm totally free from having to do any military service! Hearing from the Lord step by step became my most valuable asset. There were so many good "offers" for doing less time if you volunteered, etc.

The Lord eliminated every possible way out in the flesh so that I had to utterly put my trust in Him and pick lots. While the usual procedures went on, I was able to minister to a lot of the other boys who came for roll call as well, over 1,400, mostly looking for a way out of military duty. Sharing a bit of faith, hope and comfort with those I came into contact with in this "impossible" situation opened the door for some deep witnessing, and even strengthened me as it was an intense experience. We had to stand in line from seven in the morning all the way until three the next morning, being treated roughly through various inspection and medical checks.

All except one boy from my home district picked a black card and it became a testimony for all, especially under the circumstances when it looked like the odds were all stacked against us. They even kept shaking the can with the lots in it, hoping someone would pick red instead of black. It felt like being in an arena, with all the relatives and townspeople who came to watch, even whole neighborhoods in some cases. Basically the whole town would be screaming "RED, RED" or "BLACK, BLACK!"

But, PTL, when the time came, the Lord did the miracle and at 2:00 A.M. I picked a black card and I was free from man's army to continue service in the Lord's army—the best in the world! TYJ!

[Humanitarian aid contact for Mexico]

Marc and Claire, USA: We met with our friend, A., the president of a prominent commercial organization, at our weekly car wash. We hadn't seen him in a few weeks, as he travels a lot to Mexico and also accompanies congressmen and senators on trips to Spanish-speaking countries, so he's quite busy.

He was happy to see us, but very sad that we had just missed a special dinner held the day before, hosting the former president of Mexico. He mentioned that in a speech to the large audience,

former President Zedillo specifically thanked their organization for their help and support for victims of the flood. They had sent a generous donation through Ben and Maria's project in Mexico to help the victims of the flood, so A. felt very rewarded for having worked with the Family on this project. A. mentioned that he would like to continue working with our different projects so as to help the needy people of Mexico and other Latin American countries. Thank you for your prayers for A. and that together we can continue to help relieve the suffering of the poor in these needy lands!

[Aussie Olympians—to India!]

Peter, Australia: Last year, as the Sydney 2000 Olympic games were fast approaching, we asked the Lord to provide some way of raising funds to get to the mission field. He did many miracles to help Kiran, Sancho, Priya, Joseph and myself to get work helping to clean up at the main stadium at the games. As a result we were able to witness the opening ceremony, the closing ceremony and many of the track and field events while we worked and got paid too. Many of the spectators were paying a lot of money to see these events!

We stayed at a converted motor race circuit where the camp was set in dormitory style and all the amenities were set up for the work force. We were able to meet so many people from many countries who had also come to work. In the first week there was a short article in the camp newsletter how we were there as a family together to raise funds to get to the mission field.

At the camp we met two chaplains who were there to help the work force with counseling. Many times we sat together at mealtimes and were able to share testimonies with them about our life and working for the Lord. One evening one of them came to see me and said that he had been looking for me for a few days. Then he said that he had been praying for us, when the Lord showed him to give us \$400 to help with our fares! It was very encouraging for us as that day we had been a bit discouraged as we had to pay more than we expected for our accommodations.

Since the Olympics, both Kiran and Sancho were able to go to India and in a week or so Priya will be going to India. Joseph will go to the field with the rest of us when we are ready with our whole family!



Yes!



Nothing is impossible!

By Elisabeth (13, of Abe and Mercy), Taiwan

How the Lord helped me to graduate with honors in Chinese Language!

This story begins six years ago, when I was seven years old. We had just moved to Taiwan, and a few months later, we children began attending Chinese classes at a nearby primary school. We went to school for about two hours every day, five days a week. Of course we usually spent twice that much time on homework and extra studies. A lot of the credit goes to my dad, as it was his idea to begin with, and he practiced and reviewed with us every day for the first year.

We started in first grade without knowing a single word of Chinese; we couldn't even count from one to ten. The first few months were the most difficult, especially the tones, because in Chinese the type of stress on a syllable will totally change the word's meaning. Then there are a few thousand characters to remember and the grammar is totally opposite

from English. It was so hard that I wanted to quit, but we had prayer and asked the Lord for a Chinese spirit helper. He faithfully honored our request and from then on it was much easier.

As I advanced to higher grades, I was very thankful that my mom is a national, as that was a major plus. She helped me preview the lessons, practice sentence structure and many other things. I couldn't have made it without her. But still, even with help, we had to work very, very hard. Many words and expressions that come naturally for the local Chinese kids, we had to memorize. Textbook lessons and essays also had to be memorized. Now, you may think, what's the use of memorizing System textbooks? Well, we had to memorize them to pass the tests, but later on, when we memorized different *Good Thots* stories, articles and lots of Chinese Bible verses for witnessing, it really paid off. We were used to memorizing, and also had a strong foundation in the language, which made it a lot easier. Besides, we were able to form good habits in concentrating and applying ourselves.

As far as witnessing goes, it is wonderful to be able to converse deeply with people and clearly understand them. Not only in Taiwan, but also on road trips to China, people feel comfortable when you know their language and often pour out their innermost feelings and trials. Here is an excerpt of one man's letter to my mom: "I can see how much you love the Chinese, because your children speak our language so well. I would not have received Jesus and come to know



Receiving my special award at the graduation ceremony.

our Savior, if they did not speak my language."

On one trip to China a very educated woman was insisting that home schooling is not enough, you must go to college, etc. Finally she pulled out some English university papers and asked me to translate them into Chinese. After I had done so she was dumbfounded and dropped the subject of higher education. We were then able to lead her to the Lord, TYJ! Of course, going to public school also has a few downsides, and we had to stay close to the Lord and pray against System influences. You can really see the shallowness of the System's gold and glitter, the many lies and wiles, and the misery of people's lives. It sure does make me thankful for all we have in the Family.

The years passed by quickly and I just graduated from 6th grade. I am especially grateful for my 5th and 6th grade teachers. Everyone had told me that the last two years of elementary school are very difficult and that many kids would see their grades slip. But these two teachers were exceptionally kind and took a personal interest in each student. They

were both very impressed with our Family lifestyle and training, thanks to the Lord, Mama and Peter. Best of all, both of these teachers readily prayed to receive the Lord.

Due to their excellent teaching and my spirit helpers working overtime, by the time I finished elementary school, I had received eight awards for being top in my class at different Chinese language exams. At the final test, I made 100% and was the number one student in my class. At the official graduation ceremony I was awarded a special plaque for "Outstanding Achievements," even though I wasn't even an official student of the school. Praise the Lord! I certainly couldn't have done it myself. It still surprises me when I look at all those awards, to see how the Lord can use anybody.

I hope this testimony will encourage those of you who are struggling to learn a foreign language. It can be done, through perseverance and with the Lord's help. It certainly is worth it all, when you see how many souls can be won to His Kingdom through knowing the language of the land.

Catching the *ACTIVATED* vision!

—THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE ACTIVE MEMBER EXPLOSION IN BRAZIL!

BY THE *ACTIVATED* PROMO ROAD TEAM*, BRAZIL

First step: Carnival two-day retreat

While most Brazilians were drinking and making merry during their yearly Carnival festivities—a world-famous yet truly pagan glorification of the flesh—the Lord led us to hold a seminar for our bellwether Active members (live-out disciples) and their live-in shepherds. We baptized it “Entering into the Era of Action.” From 12 cities in Brazil, a total of 76 representatives (34 CMers, 5 FMers and 37 AMers) attended this pace-setting two-day meeting where we were able to unite under the banner of the *Activated* vision and establish common bonds of cooperation and strategy to prepare us for the coming promised harvest.

From the experience of those of us who had the privilege to participate in the Mexico *Conéctate* meetings, we became more convinced than ever of the need to all meet at the Lord’s feet and drink in the full *Activated* vision together—sheep with shepherds, CMers with FMers, live-outs with live-ins, young with old, in order to “all speak the same thing.” The Lord also showed us that because many of our Active members here have already been working with us as true co-workers over a period of years, they needed to know more of the inside scoop about the Family *Activated* vision.

In prophecy the Lord told us to break the box of the recent *Activated* GNs and let it roll! He said that if we would open up and show them how needed they are to fulfill the vision, then they would be a lot more motivated to get out the *Activated* mag’s themselves, as well as prepare to become shepherds of the



sheep they are winning.

This particular two-day meeting, held in February, was only the beginning of what ended up being a full tour of all of Brazil (during March, April and May), where we held these *Activated* meetings.

Growth of our live-out retreats

A brief look over the last five years of the live-out movement here in Brazil shows growth to be about 45% a year! At our first national retreat held in 1996, we had 75 in attendance, of whom about 60 were live-outs. The next year, that number grew to 110, then in '98 it went to 180, then in '99 there were 250, then last year there were 360! Our last national retreat, held in June of 2001, had over 500 attendees!

Because of the rapid growth of our extended family, the Lord has led us to consolidate our gains before growing much more, and this Car-



nival retreat and the consequent meetings throughout Brazil were an answer to start the boat moving more in that direction. The *Activated* vision is helping us to get on board with a common vision and the time is now!

GNs read: “Era of Action” and the “Action Series”

Jere VS did a wonderful job of pulling portions from the “Era of Action” GNs as well as “Our Activated Future” GNs (part 1 and 3) to give everyone the vision. The two-day retreat was a lot different from past live-out retreats where we focused on keeping the inspirational level high with dynamic classes. This time we geared it much more to the style of an officer’s training camp. It was like a typical family delegates meeting, where the New Wine is read and commented on, we focus on and get in unity for the next family push.—And the trumpet is

sounded! It was inspiring to see our live-out bellwethers respond so positively to the seriousness of the challenge and our openness to share the New Wine with them.

It was also special to have Pedro CRO there to share a bit more about the applicable messages in “That Banana There.” The thought of truly entering the era of action is a bit scary, as we know there are still a lot of adjustments to be made—as the Home checklists make so clear in the third part of the “Action Series” GNs. But the united call to both us live-ins and live-outs was quite a sobering experience.

Second step: Rio, northeast and south

Things went so well with the Carnival retreat that we felt compelled to repeat these type of meetings in Rio, as well as the rest of Brazil. By faith we set the goal to hold *Activated* meetings all over Brazil before the traditional national retreat date of mid-June. The Lord helped us to reach this goal. Hallelujah!

While this was a sacrifice because it took time away from our dear Homes and families, as well as time away from preparations for the national retreat, we felt the sacrifice was well worth it because these meetings provided a golden opportunity to inspire as many people as possible to attend the National Retreat, and it gave us a chance to see and interact with about 90% of the Brazil voting member CM population, plus a good number of FMers and Active member bellwethers to unite around the *Activated* vision.

We ended up holding a total of nine meetings in São Paulo, Rio, Salvador, Fortaleza, Belém, and Camboriú.—A special thanks to our dear Homes, mates and children who so willingly forsook us to make these meetings possible. We love you!

* PEDRO (CRO), TOMMY, EZEKIEL, JERE (VS), SPANISH JUAN, AND THE *CONTATO* REPRESENTATIVES: MATT, LEILA AND AMENDOA.



Northeast and south meetings

The first Carnival meeting and subsequent Rio meeting were similar in format as they had almost an equal number of Active disciples as CM/FM attending. The Lord led us a bit differently in how to hold the Northeast and South meetings. In these meetings the attendance was primarily CM/FMers. The Word content was basically the same, but since most of these cities have not been working with Active members for as many years as São Paulo and Rio, we felt led to hold a local Church of Love to bring in their present friends and give the local Family a taste of working together and enjoying the fruits of feeding their sheep via united events, which is a key in a growing work and in preparation for the great harvest promised.

Salvador

Over 100 people were present at Salvador's first Church of Love (otherwise known as an *Activated* meeting to avoid a religious connotation) and it looks like there's no stopping! On our way back through two weeks later (after holding meetings in Fortaleza and Belém), the area held their second COL with the same number of people attending, the difference being that there were many more visitors than CM/FM members.

Immediate good fruits came about as a result of this step of faith the Family took,

A former member from Spain, Andre, got so turned on that he rented a conference room in a nice hotel near his house in a classy, central neighborhood of Salvador to hold Bible studies. He witnessed to the owner of the hotel for about three hours and then got a 70% discount to use the hotel for the next three months! He then showed up with the key the next day after the COL. He could hardly sleep because of the excitement that he felt. He felt inspired to contribute in his own way and thus become more active in his service to the Lord with the Family!

Fortaleza/Belém

In Fortaleza and Belém we followed the same basic plan as we did in Salvador: Meet with the brethren for two days of meetings, hold a hot Saturday night party including the young people, organize an area-wide COL the next day, then close with a meeting of the area's shepherds to do a final evaluation, set goals—mostly related to keeping the COL vision alive, and have final prayer and prophecy.

The Church of Love in Fortaleza had a total of 65 participants, including several FMers and former members who are now totally turned on to the vision and are already introducing us to several potential disciples, now that they see that we are seriously getting back into winning disciples and feeding the sheep. Tommy even met a girl he led to the Family 24 years before,

and Ezequiel was best friends with her husband. He called the next day amazed at the impact the new expanded Family vision had on him.

At the COL, we once again used the *Activated* #1 mag as the base message; the young people did a skit and nearly all the shepherds of the area participated in some way (prayer requests, inspiration, etc.). It was clear that the "collective Family anointing" was back! The era of action had begun in Fortaleza! In unity there is strength! It was brought up how there had been several attempts at opening COLs in the past by individual Homes but they never got off the ground as it was too much for one small Home to organize and supply all the gifts to make it a success.

Camboriú

The same thing happened in Camboriú where the local Church of Love had a tremendous impact on all present, bringing to life the *Activated* vision. We packed out a dear friend's hotel with about 90 people for the Church of Love, had a rousing inspiration, followed by once again the reading of *Activated* #1 and a skit, and ended with a love feast and songs.

Contato (Activated) desk participation

Matt, Leila and Amendoa, our *Activated* desk team, were able to promote the first three books of the *Get Activated* series in Portuguese, which were finished just two days before the Carnival retreat! We shared a simple three-month plan as to how we could start using these books right away in our newly baptized *Activated* groups, of which we already have dozens rolling all over Brazil. With a simple vision for reading through each book over a one-month period, we all made a gentleman's agreement to experiment with these

pic captions

1. CM, FM, AM fun fellowship around digital pictures taken during event.
2. Inspiration time! We had lots of fun praising the Lord together.
3. Leila shares *Contato* news

beautiful new books during the months with our groups and then all arrive together for the National Retreat in June, bringing our sheaves with us!

The *Contato* team showed the latest three or four mags and the new cover for the first one, inspiring the crowd to push the mags with their new updated visual design. Everyone flipped to see how much the mag is improving! Stats of subscriptions were shared, which challenged us all to do much more to see the fulfillment of what the Lord said would happen in South America with *Activated!* (LNF: After the tour of Brazil the subscriptions have doubled in only two months. We believe this is only the *beginning* of an explosion!)

Ideas for Church of Love

We were able to design six *Contato*-based Church of Love formats to facilitate the follow-up of the Church of Love over the next months after we move on, using the first six *Contato* mags and including appropriate songs, skits, Family introductions and closing remarks so that we are all speaking the same thing.

Selling Activated

During our meetings, several *Activated* subscription shiners were able to share their testimonies. This was a highlight, as there's nothing like a success story to get everyone motivated. We also held an open forum where we were able to ventilate some touchy, yet important issues such as unity between Homes, overcoming the "who's my sheep" syndrome, what exactly is expected of an Active member/disciple (formerly known as live-outs), what will their role be in the coming promised harvest, etc.

(Editor's note: Check the MO site for reactions to these meetings!)

The place:
São Lourenço, Brazil.

The time:
June 14 through June 17.

The event:
Sixth Annual National Retreat.

The theme:
Rise Above.

The attendees:

Roughly 320 Active members,
80 Active member children,
120 CM/FMers, Peter and WS team,
and a sprinkling of brand new sheep
fresh off the streets of São Lourenço.

Here's a basic sketch of the four-day retreat—nothing too tidy or methodical about it. That's simply because the role we (Misty, Jenna and I) had in this retreat was to be roving reporters and news-gatherers. Due to lack of time we didn't make it to every single class; didn't see the CM, FM and Active members in action during their get-out times after lunch each day, and didn't even make it out witnessing every night. But thankfully we *were* able to meet countless Active members, sheep, and Family SGAs and veterans alike. We recorded their stories and took their pictures, and Lord helping us, we will get their stories out to you in the Lord's time and way.

Check out the accompanying FSM (374) for the general schedule of this retreat, accompanied by a photo log. Thanks to Peter's presence at the retreat, you can also look forward to an upcoming GN or two on the role of Active members in our Family, and the ever-expanding *Activated* program.

In this account, we'd like to share with you some of the excitement of the retreat as we experienced it. I was happy to be the official log-keeper for our little team, though as the retreat days went by and our team of four was spread far and wide—with only a few minutes a day spent together, I didn't have a lot of time to gather notes. We spent our time meeting wonderful Family members, hearing personal testimonies that had us in tears (happy tears!), and being blessed to be a part of this very inspirational and moving retreat.

In short, the Family rocks, *Activated* rocks, and it was a special blessing for us to be a part! Special thanks to Ahlai, one of the attendees from Mexico, for also faithfully keeping a log, which filled in the blanks in many places.

ACTIVATED ADVENTURE

BRAZIL

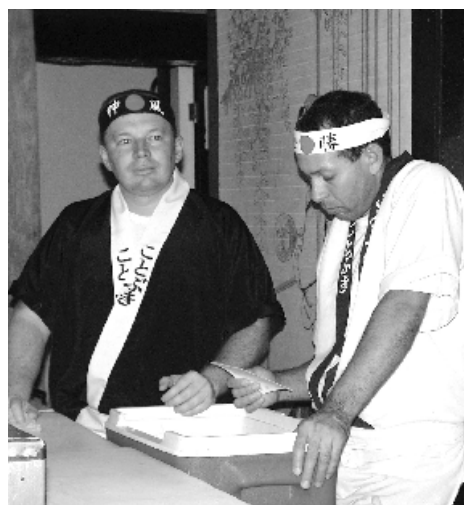
Written by Kayla, 25, WS

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 11 and 12

Pedro and Claire picked us up with their little adorable six-month-old, Susanna. During the forty-five minute van ride to our apart-hotel that we stayed two nights in, they shared interesting tidbits with us about the Active member explosion, including the fact that often at retreats or other gatherings, it's difficult if not impossible to differentiate CM/FM Family members from Active members. Cool! Claire also shared that a number of people in Brazil no longer call their gatherings "Bible classes" but rather "*Contato* meetings."



Hotel manager and little Susanna.



These two men took turns reading the tract that we gave them.

at our hotel, who was ripe fruit and so hungry for the Word. Misty quickly bonded with this dear woman:

Misty:

Miriam was very helpful, and we left her with a tract when we first met her. The next time we passed the reception desk, she pulled out her tract and asked a lot of questions. She was very hungry for any witness.

While we were standing there waiting for a taxi to come, we told her about *Contato*, our missionary work and the Family around the world. We explained we were on our

The highlight of our two nights in Barra (say Ba-ha), Rio, was passing out tracts. BRALIM did a speedy job on the new "*E O Dia Dos Namorados?*" (Lover's Day) tract that Anthony in South Africa illustrated. Since we were there on Lover's Day (Brazil holds Valentine's Day on June 12), we were happier than ever that we had 200 of those very tracts. (Thank you, dear translators!) We passed them out to everyone that night when we went for a meal in a nearby mall. That night oodles of people were out on the town having dinner with their significant others. Virtually everyone smiled when offered a tract. The people are so warm and receptive here.

Oh, dear Miriam was also a highlight! She was the young beautiful receptionist

way to a retreat and she was flipped. Just then a young guy walked into the hotel and approached the other side of the reception desk. Jenna and Kayla both mentioned how cute he was, to which Miriam chuckled and whispered, "He's Max. He's very famous—a *novela* (TV show/soap opera) actor." Kayla promptly took off after him to give him a tract, and as soon as Miriam saw that they were talking a while, she said, "Oh, I'd

better go help her translate!" Such a willing witness and potential co-laborer!

We learned that Miriam's husband was waiting for her at home; they had planned a Valentine's evening together, but her replacement was half an hour late due to a huge storm and the resultant traffic jams! So we offered to pray with her for her replacement to

arrive quickly. We held hands, prayed aloud and she joined in wholeheartedly, following our lead in saying such things as "Thank You, sweet Love. We need You," etc. Within twenty seconds after praying, her replacement walked in the door! She said joyously, "God answered your prayer!" She hugged and kissed us, and later Pedro was able to give her a contact number to get more information.

During our time at our hotel Misty, Jenna and myself met together to further plan our retreat strategy—namely, how to get the most news and testimonies possible in the three short days of the retreat! At this point we established our specific roles or focus on the team. We were all to be reporters, getting as many interviews as possible, but besides that, Misty's primary responsibility was making sure Peter had everything he needed, Jenna was our primary photographer (and also faithfully tried to send prayer requests and updates to Mama while we were there), and I was to put together a newsy log of the entire trip and retreat. Misty and Jenna, being more familiar with trips such as this one, chuckled and tried to explain to me (since I'm always trying to be as organized as possible) that even though we were making a tentative plan, once in the action, things would seem very much like "organized chaos." It was a diffi-



Our hotel view of Barra beach!

cult concept for me to grasp, as I'd never been in the middle of so many Family members—500, including CM, FM, Active members, and new sheep. I was soon to discover just what they meant.

Thursday morning, we got up at 7:30 and packed up our few things. Jenna sent what turned out to be the last successful e-mail and update to Mama we were going to get off during this trip, as the phone lines went downhill from then on. (Thankfully we were still able to send brief updates and prayer requests to Mama every few days even though e-mail wasn't an option.)

Thursday morning, June 14

We left at 9 A.M. Thursday morning for our long drive up into the mountains, to São Lourenço (pronounced "Sow Lorenzo"), the retreat site.

On our four-hour journey, we passed by cow fields filled with reeds that looked like wheat sheaves of Joseph's dream, through two-minute long tunnels through mountains, past overgrown lots with tangles of vines, and by flat expanses containing small



square brick houses with corrugated tin roofs. In the distance there are great mountain ranges, and even though this is Thursday morning there are

young men and boys playing soccer in dusty courts in town. (We learned that it's a national holiday, the Catholic feast of Corpus Christi, and a long weekend. The retreat is purposely planned during this time every year as it's when the most Active members can pull away from their work for the duration of the retreat.)

Something fun happened on the way. We saw a packed van on the road ahead of us, and guessed correctly that it contained Family members heading to the retreat. We

gradually passed them and waved and smiled. They all waved and smiled back, and then everyone's mouths opened in shock, as they recognized Peter waving at them from the front seat. So they are the first ones, outside of the retreat organizers, who knew about Peter attending the retreat.

Another interesting tidbit is that the *Contato* Desk in Brazil offered a prize during the last three months to the person to obtain the most *Contato* addresses.

Thursday afternoon, June 14

We arrived in São Lourenço, a city nestled between the mountains, complete with quaint cobble-stone roads and horse-drawn carriages. The city is spread out on countless steep small hills, making the last leg of our journey a very interesting "going up one minute, down the next" experience. São Lourenço is famous for its natural water springs and the water park that contains them, and judging by the amount of large hotels in the center of the city, it is a popular getaway destination.

Nina, a CM sister who used to live in São Lourenço and was very familiar with the city, told us the following story in brief:

"There is a prophecy that is told about a spiritual awakening taking place in São Lourenço in the third millennium. There is a legend that says that all the people who are in a spiritual dimension, on



The little town view of São Lourenço from our hotel window.

a spiritual plane of this new consciousness of this new millennium, one day will come together here. And in the year 2001 this retreat is being held that is going to change things—this great explosion!"

The hotel we're staying in is the center of the retreat itself. All the meetings will happen here. The attendees also occupy two other hotels close by, but Family members and retreat attendees fill ours entirely.

(Ahlai):

(Ahlai:) They came from all over Brazil from the northernmost tip of the Amazon, Belém, to the southernmost border with Argentina in Porto Alegre—well over 500 attendees in a pilgrimage to the retreat that was in the planning for over eight months.

The Family practically took over the town of São Lourenço! When I gave a tract to a girl at the Internet café where I was checking my mail, she was already *Activated*, and would be having a Bible class in her house that coming week!

Ah!ai:

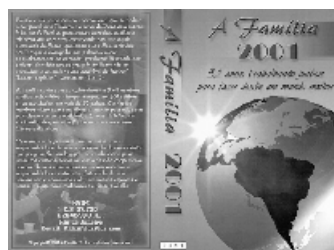
The lobby of the hotel was a non-stop love feast of Family and their new disciples for six hours straight. TO TOP IT OFF, in the middle of all this, you see off to the side, a tall, bearded brother with long hair pulled back in a hair elastic, unassuming, at least trying to be when you have 50 people hugging you at once.—No, it can't be! You look again. Oh my, is that Peter? Then the hugging and loving really began. He must have hugged, with words of encouragement and welcome, over 200 people—men, women and children, new disciples, the organizers, the newcomers, everyone—and this was just the first day! He was more excited than anyone about being here, and humbly said, "How could I NOT come! This is such a big happening, Mama and I knew that we had to come!"

People recognized and greeted Peter in the lobby, with expressions of surprise. Not many people have arrived yet, perhaps 25 or 30 are milling about.

We just settled in our hotel room, and Sunny (of Ezequiel) just dropped by along with Juju, their 25-year-old daughter-in-law. She married Ezequiel's and Sunny's son, Tigo, and she is a new disciple—also a lawyer.



Our first view of the hotel hosting the retreat, from our van window, with Family members milling about.



[Note: If you're interested in ordering these videos, contact the BVM team at: kidz@kidzVids.com.]

Tommy just gave us two video covers, one called *La Familia 2001*, and *Getting Activated*. Cool! Johnny B. and his SGA coworker, Gabe, just finished editing these two videos to bring to the retreat.

Our team stopped to pray before we got into the thick of meeting everyone. We went around in a circle and prayed for the various aspects of our time here. We asked the Lord if He had anything to say to us. The Lord gave a beautiful prophecy encouraging us that He would anoint us, which was comforting since we're all a little overwhelmed with the size of

the crowds that will be here.

Peter headed down to the lobby to greet people, while Misty, Jenna and myself met with Tommy and Jere to talk about how to gather the material we need while we're here. We gave them a list of basic interview questions which they translated, printed and distributed to all the Active member shepherds for us. Jere helpfully offered to help set up interview appointments for us, coordinating with the Active member shepherds and working out the timing, which was a godsend. We closed our little meeting in prayer and re-

ceived a confirmation from the Lord on our interview plans.

I noticed people wearing *Contato* nametags and asked Faith—one of the retreat organizers—how I could get some for our team. Each attendee is receiving a spiffy blue A4-size folder from a table, personalized with his or her own name sticker. The nametags are inside each folder, so Faith finds four extra name tags and I pass them out to Peter, Misty, and Jenna. We also receive name cards with our room numbers, which will grant us entrance to the central dining area for all our meals.

Then I bumped into Mark CRO who gave me directions to the main meeting room where I heard the band is practicing. I went up from the lobby to the meeting room and watched them practicing "*Libre*."

We all went to dinner in the massive dining hall at around 7 P.M. There are two buffet tables in the middle of the dining area, which is where breakfast, lunch and dinner will be laid out daily for those staying at this hotel. There is soup, beans, meat, noodles, salad, and an entire stretch of counter devoted to the dessert bar. All the food is part of a package deal with the hotel, except for the drinks that can be ordered from the waiters milling about.

This first meal I sat by Cristal. She is a SGA single mom with two small children who I met in the lobby. She approached Peter and asked if the children could meet "King Peter." So she was a friendly



Cristal, Gabriella and Joao

familiar face (all the rest are friendly, just not familiar!)

The Lord supplied for Cristal and Home (that is approx 9 CMers and 24 Active members, from the Amorozo Home in Rio) to come. They don't have to pay the retreat fee for children under six, so Cristal brought along her two adorable kids, Gabriella (3) and Joao Felipe (1).

I also sat with Priscilla (13) and her grandmother. Priscilla joined with her mother Virginia (a lawyer and now a CM shepherd of Active members) in 1997. They live in a Home in Copacabana and brought 15 Active members to the retreat. Priscilla explained that she helps research Word on the HomeARC for classes that her mother teaches. There is a central hotel between several of the Homes in Rio, and Active member shepherds in each Home take turns giving classes.

Another interesting piece of news was to learn that Cristal's brother, Rafael (22) who was formerly in the Family as a child but left later on, is now an Active member. He is a brother through and through, out witnessing during the retreat like there was no tomorrow, and right up front, jumping around during every inspiration.

Thursday evening, June 14

The opening inspiration and welcome orientation began at 9 in the evening, with Jere and Joyful as the Emcees.

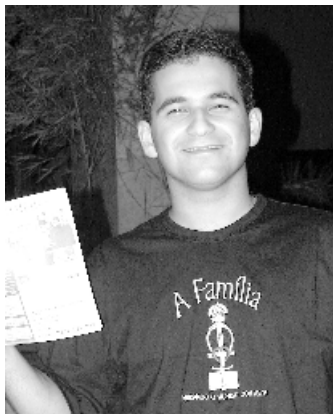
This is exciting beyond belief. It's 11:25 P.M. and everyone's milling around fellowshiping in the hallways and meeting room after the inspiration. Jenna just walked up with Gabriele and Tabitha, two teens from Curitiba, who invited us to go witnessing with them downtown. (I later discovered that both sisters have just

Ah!ai:

Thursday night was an **INSPIRATION** with everybody into it like you only see at live concerts—playing the **MUSIC THAT MADE THE LATIN REVOLUTION!** The place rocked! No one sat down for a couple hours. Then they almost had to turn the lights out to get anyone to bed when it neared midnight. I never saw anything like it. The hot songs that started it all and keep it going, along with really good new stuff, sung by this great band, with all kinds of singers, dancers, and very good musicians on this huge stage; mostly young people, but other people too, it really didn't matter. It was one big blend of dedication that rocked the place.

recently rejoined the Family, an interesting story I recorded during a break in the following days.) We told them we'd like to go and that we'd just get a prophecy confirmation. Jenna and I stood outside the elevator with people teeming around us and asked the Lord to give clear direction on whether or not we should go out. We know tomorrow is going to be a day packed with interviews, photos, and logs, nevertheless the Lord shows me to go along, and shows Jenna to stay behind this time.

While waiting in the lobby for everyone to gather together, I meet Jeremias Fire (22) from Florianopolis. He's a former drug addict who found the Lord, and now he works with druggies like he once was. He's been serving the Lord for one year.



Jeremias Fire, collecting subscriptions!

On this trip everyone's taking *To You with Love* and *Deal of a Lifetime* tracts, as well as *Contato* subscriptions.

When we got going, there were about 20 of us, plus two guitarists. (We were later joined by between 20 and 40 more

Active members in the crowded downtown plaza.) We walked down the narrow cobblestone street which has no cars at this time of night, and to the first tiny café called "The Antarctica." There was one little outside table and about eight people inside. Our team just bombarded them; they all went in and gave them tracts and *Contato* ads. The response was so enthusiastic. Our team started singing "Nice to be Here Today" and all the sheep at the outside table were clapping along and afterwards we moved on. Next was a little café called "*Café Adega Veranda*" (or some equivalent). The team made a semi-circle outside and sang "I See Sunshine" and a few other songs. There are people walking by behind us, all looking very interested.

One girl sitting at a table just started weeping during the singing, and the team witnessed to her more. The last I saw she was writing her address on the *Contato* subscription form, and her friend writing her address on the back because there wasn't enough room on the front.

Then I went to offer a tract to a beautiful girl with long black hair, but she and her friends didn't want it! This is the first time a tract has been refused that I saw. But Andre jumped in with his guitar and sang to them, and the next thing I know, the girl and her boyfriend and other girlfriend were repeating the salvation prayer after him. Then the next thing I know, they're all

singing "You've Gotta Be a Baby" and these brand-new babes are clapping and putting their arms around their new brothers and sisters and dancing like our early disciples.

We went through a little shopping mall singing and around the corner to a place called Takay Shopping, just crammed with young people! Up until this point I had the impression that São Lourenço was a little village which had the sole attraction of containing famous water springs around which they had built a beautiful water park. So to see an open-air plaza filled with a good few hundred people was quite a surprise. One of the Active members stood up on a brick wall and led at least 100 people in the salvation prayer. He didn't just ask them to pray,

place with tracts. After a good hour of this, we slowly headed back up the quiet walking street we originally came down from. We found another cluster of five young people and everyone made a semi-circle around them, and sang what I now think of as the "magnetic song," where everyone looks deep into the eyes of the sheep and sings, "And we just wanted to tell you that we love you," all extending their arms at the same time. I almost cried every time I saw that.

A little further up the hill again and Paulo Santos, shepherd of Active members from Criciúma, called the entire team together in the almost-empty walking street for a powwow. Paulo launched into a stirring talk, asking how many



Gabriele (19) and Tabitha (16)

he yelled, "Who wants to pray!!!" and then bellowed out the prayer enthusiastically, and everyone in the crowd yelled the prayer, repeating after him.

Down in this crowded plaza we were joined by many more Family and Active members, who joined in the deafening and inspirational Holy Ghost sample taking place. I just found out that of the many Active members who are downtown with us, their shepherd (Paulo) is the very same Active member who led the crowd in prayer.

It's gloriously hectic around here. Once the singing got started, it was totally the happening thing in the plaza. Brand-new sheep—including the girl with the long black hair I mentioned earlier—were dancing arm in arm and clapping along. We blitzed the

actual *Contato* subscriptions had been gotten. The answer was about 10 subscriptions total, and Paulo replied that there were a whole bunch of fish over there and we could've gotten 50 *Contato* subscriptions so we could continue to feed them afterwards. He explained that while people were singing, others could've been not only winning souls (which they did) but also getting addresses from people and explaining the three free *Contato* magazines. Paulo said that a lot of people would love us to be their church, but they don't know where to find us. Tomorrow, Paulo said, everyone's going to go out with a pen. Tonight we got a lot of souls but now we're going to get *Contato* subscriptions.

"People want to know if we're a church. We're not a

church," Paulo said, "we're a movement that is changing the world! As we change our lives, we'll change the world. So the secret is *Contato*. It's not just a magazine, it's the Word. We're getting disciples before the End comes—that's what this is. Tomorrow then we'll go out in smaller teams and have our songs and get addresses. The girl who cried over there, wasn't that beautiful? We got her *Activated!* Are we going to lose a sheep like that who cried when we sang for her? No, we can't lose her. We got 10 *Contato* subscriptions and 100 souls, and tomorrow night we need to have 100 souls and 100 *Contato* subscriptions. But it was beautiful—we got 100 souls and we just need to fine tune our methods. What's the future?"

"*Contato!*" Everyone chanted.

As we walked back to the hotel I talked to Paulo and found out that he's been an FMer for three months, that he was in fact a live-out for 14 years before that. He began in Curitiba, but five years ago he left his work and his family and he went to Criciuma.

There's a whole ministry of young people there, in *Contato* groups. Paulo said, "I believe in *Contato*. I feel it makes everything easier."

Paulo then introduced a young couple who works with him in Curicima, Daiane, and her husband, Rafael, who are some of the leaders of *Activated* there. Daiane then linked arms with me and told me some personal words she would like to pass on to Mama, which Softy translated for me. "I want to write a letter to Mama, I really really love her and I totally identify myself with her. She's so relatable. I'm totally in love with Mama!"



Daiane (17)

Friday morning, June 15

It's 8-something and I've just dragged myself out of bed, but last night was so worth losing sleep over. My mind is already spinning about the day ahead, but first I have to download the photos I took while out last night and hope that they came out. (Thankfully James, SGA and photographer from Rio, whom Jenna and I have gotten acquainted with, took hundreds of top-quality photos as well.)

Jessica and her sister Jolie from Salvador invited me to sit with them at breakfast. They told me their adventure with their father, Jesse, of hitchhiking all the way down here to the retreat, and the miracles the Lord did for them along the way. They hitchhiked for three days!! They are going to send pix and testimonies of that adventure.

At the Friday morning meeting Peter got up on stage and said a few words of greeting to everyone. It began with:

"This is the biggest crowd I've ever spoken to. It's really different to be in front of so many people, because usually I sit home at a desk, so please pray for me. I want to say that Mama and I really love you. (Everyone claps.) We really think you are wonderful and I am very happy to be here. Maybe one day Mama will be able to visit too." (Wild clapping, yelling and hollering.) And on the intro went.

Peter expressed how much love Mama sent to everyone, and announced that there are photos in the hallway of Mama for people to see during the break. These photos are extremely classy—Mama dressed up in a variety

Ah!:

And speaking of never seeing anything like it—guess what Peter's surprise gift to all of us was? He put up on the wall outside the meeting room, HIS PERSONAL BIRTHDAY PHOTOS FROM MAMA! I have never seen anything like it. She is HOT, but in the most awesome, alive and free kind of way—the Spirit of God shining right through her like a laser beam. Whew! Matt Mountain had all his *Contato* tools attractively displayed and other folks had every other kind of Family music albums and CDs, symbol rings, T-shirts, books, videos etc.—but everything was eclipsed by Mama's pictures on the wall and overrun by admirers cramming to see our loving and very lovely queen.

of pretty outfits, sitting or standing, her long beautiful silver hair flowing over her shoulders, and her pure, loving, and Spirit-filled personality shining through her beautiful eyes.

During the half-hour coffee break, I met Julie (20) from Tommy and Joanie's Home. She works in Tommy's Home, helping to research and produce follow-up materials to fill the great vacuum for such things. She's also on the staff for this retreat, printing materials for the shepherds to use in the classes and so on.

I also bumped into a fellow named Tod. He's 20, and came from South Africa ten months ago to Rio. He joined in South Africa three years ago. I got his story on tape, it's very



Tod (20)

cool. His mother used to be in the Family before Tod was born, but left, yet kept contact with the Family over the years. But Tod was never interested in it until one day out of the blue. And he ended up joining the Family.

Friday afternoon, June 15

I stood in the lunch line with Phil Teacher, who is organizing the care of the children at this retreat—80 in total. We made an appointment for an interview after lunch about how to care for kids at a retreat. During lunch I sat with Pedro from Rio, Fisher (who works in the Rio studio), Marco from Mexico, Ezequiel, and a long-time Active member turned FMer, Alexandre. An interesting point is that Alexandre became an FMer specifically because he wanted more Word!

Jere (VS) set up a 1:30 P.M. appointment for me with my first Active members! So far I've just gotten short captions or testimonies during hallway hit-ups; these are my first "official" sit-

down interviews. Misty and Jenna have already been fast and furiously garnering interviews, some right over lunch. And as the primary photographer on our team, Jenna had already been setting up appointments with people to take photos.

(See FSM 374 to get a glimpse into the lives of some of our Active member Family!)

Spanish Juan and Tommy led two classes during the afternoon meeting slot, titled "Action Through Prayer" and "Uniting Forces for the Coming Harvest."

There was a funny skit about an Active member getting up in the morning and brushing aside Word time to

rush to work, then coming home and not asking the Lord what to do for his Bible class. None of his sheep show up for some reason, and when he hears from the Lord, the Lord tells him it's a new era and the Enemy is fighting more, so he

has to pray at every step and be more on guard. For this class and others they pulled down a large slide screen on which text or photos or even video footage from a computer is channeled through a slide projector via Microsoft PowerPoint.

Ah!ai:

Friday's morning class (after the coffee break) was given by Faithy (Tabita) and Paulo (Bilinho) and it was taken right from "Rise Above" (GN 921), with skits and visual aids on a large overhead screen. All the Active members are intensively fed in their local groups with their local shepherds, and are advanced in the Word and all the new weapons, have all been through basic courses, know all about who we are, what we do and have done, and where we're headed. They are also completely on par with the reading and the feeding of the new GNs. This is their passion, and this infusion of new blood and hunger for every word is contagious.

Every class that followed was equally dynamic. The shepherds of these Active members have, in sincerity and humility, let the Active members take over and take the forefront in every realm of this live-out explosion. God bless them all for having the faith, initiative, vision and courage to see it through. For over five years they have dedicated their lives to this vision, the Great Commission, and teaching others to teach others. God's anointing has caused them to do it, God bless them, and Peter clearly brought this out and commended these who have helped to spearhead this revolution.

In Mexico, we were blessed to receive the *Activated* seminars from the traveling team of Tommy, Pedro, Ezequiel and Sam—and the live-out explosion pubs have been our Bible to begin the same there. However, even with all that put together, rev it up a whole bunch, and then you can just about figure what it's like to actually be among these new disciples and the vision they have for saving souls and changing the world.

Friday evening, June 15

During Friday's talent night, I sat on the floor in front of the stage, with Brisa (daughter of Ezequiel and Sunny) and James (photographer). Brisa translated for me so that I could follow the skits and songs and testimonies. There was one particularly outstanding testimony from an Active member named Luis, from Belo Horizonte. He stood on stage and read his story, how he had actually persecuted the Family for some time, until he himself was won to the Lord and now he is an Active member!



Luis, giving his testimony.

Ah!ai:

After the talent night, **MORE WITNESSING!** This time till 5:00 in the morning. Roughly 300 souls were won that night, and the next day Taby and Gaby, Robin from Mexico, and a bunch of others asked us to get together with them and ask the Lord how they can **DO MORE** to win the lost quicker!

Saturday morning, June 16

Peter gave his main talk after the morning inspiration, and it was mostly directed at the Active members. (We don't want to steal the thunder of the GN that will be presenting this talk for the entire Family!)

In the beginning of his talk, Peter shared that the photos of Mama that had been put up on Friday were a very special proof of Mama's love, because Mama had taken them especially for Peter's birthday gift. Peter said it was a token of both their love to everyone, to show how they feel married to everyone. This brought roars of applause from the audience.

Peter also announced that everyone may have noticed he was wearing his new *Contato* shirt and said it was because he wanted to talk about that for a few minutes.

He said that we're all salesmen, because we have the most wonderful product in the world—Jesus—and we're trying to impart that product to others. Then he added that the best salesmen are the ones who are really sold on the product themselves. Peter brought out that when we go to talk to others about *Activated* and they ask us if we've subscribed to it ourselves, what are we going to say? "Oh, I don't really need it ... but YOU really need it." Peter concluded the point by saying to the Active members and visitors who didn't yet have a subscription, "You can subscribe yourself to the magazine at the desk right out there," pointing to the hallway, which received great applause from the audience.

At the end of Peter's talk, the crowd gave Peter a standing ovation.

Saturday afternoon, June 16

Ah!ai:

There were four workshops given by the veterans (we love the use of this word for the FGA Family missionaries!), going simultaneously in different conference rooms. It was hard to decide which one to attend, so our delegation from Mexico prayed and decided to split up to try and cover all the different topics, which were: discipleship courses on the new weapons, *Contato* magazines and books as the basis of discipleship courses, how to start a CTP, and a deliverance session from "The Lord Is My Deliverer."

Saturday evening, June 16

More interviews during and after dinner. It's becoming a little difficult to keep an hour-by-hour log. This retreat has indeed become happy, organized chaos (ha!), just as Misty and Jenna mentioned when we



were planning at our hotel in Barra. Peter continues to talk to, hug, and encourage people. I see Misty and Jenna every now and then as they're holding micro-recorders to the mouths of people as they get story after story. Everyone has a story! Jenna is also taking photo after photo, including photos of many of our lovely women for potential *Eve* covers, DV.

While in the lobby I noticed James (photographer) sitting on some couches with Gabriele from Curitiba, and some guys I didn't recognize. I went over and discovered that three of the guys were brand new babes right off the street!

The first guy saw us all dancing around like wild Indians on Thursday night and thought we were crazy, but then he saw that we had the Spirit and he came over to find out what it was all about. He's in his mid-teens. They witnessed to him late into Thursday night, and arranged to meet him at one o'clock on Friday and he was there right on the dot. He brought two friends with him, 15- and 16-year-olds and they even came back Friday evening to the talent night!

They wanted to meet again on Saturday for more input, this time with two more

friends! This guy has a vacuum like I haven't seen in a long time. According to Gabriele, he wants to know everything, and know it *now*. He just wanted to stay with them so he attended the deliverance workshop and later the workshop on Spiritual Growth and the New Weapons. James and Gabriele got their addresses to send them *Contato*, and also gave these guys their e-mail addresses.

An inspiration and dance night took place on Saturday. At 9:30 P.M. they cleared all the chairs away from our massive meeting room and put up large clusters of balloons.

Joanie got up and sang "Take One Step for Jesus" and other songs which really got the crowd moving. The entire conference room was full of people sitting around the sides or dancing.

The beautiful thing was that everybody there was mixed—young people, SGAs, teenagers, even JETTs and then older adults, all mixed together—all dancing together, all dressed in different styles, but all mingling together. Often during the singing they would make circles and go in and out in Gypsy dancing style, enlarging the circle and then shrinking it.

Peter was at the first part of the dance, hugging people

and dancing with them. He spent the second half talking with individuals in a quiet place, something he did during every spare moment of this retreat.

Afterwards everyone cleared out and there was still confetti and streamers all over the floor because about halfway through the dancing everyone started popping all the balloons. They heard that there were prophecy snippets inside one line of balloons, which brought about an instant balloon popping spree. It was really fun.

Ah!a!:

There was a **TERRIFIC** dance, with **EVERYONE** together, one big happy Family enjoying the Spirit together. Of course, out front were the Active members, Gypsy dancing and leading the way. CM, FM, Active members, all in one wonderful blend of Family. The Lord was very present.

Sunday morning, June 17

With time running out, we finished our interviews and heard the "Song of Victory" booming out of the large meeting room, so quickly went to join in. There was King Peter up on stage with the band and the shepherds, all hands clasped and raised, singing our Family song together. The entire room was a heartfelt chorus.

I thought that might be the final song, but no, not at all. They were just getting started! Young people started piling onto the stage along with the band and the other shepherds already up there. Jenna and I were both pulled up to join in the fun.

It was awesome to be up

on stage, looking out over 500 Spirit-filled people, 300 of whom are Active members. As we sang "Oh Happy Day," "Jesus the Light," and many Family-penned revolutionary songs, the crowd was like one giant moving body, swaying and raising its thousand arms in the air in rhythm, clapping and singing its collective heart out. It was moving and awesome. The last song was finally sung, but then, a chant went up from the crowd: *Porque paro? Paro porque?* (Why Stop? Stop, Why?) Over and over the chant came in Portuguese. So we sang some more. And more. And more. We all wished it never had to end!

Peter:

Thanks and appreciation

We're very thankful to all those who contributed to making the retreat a success. We realize there was a tremendous amount of unseen labor, prayer, hearing from the Lord, dedication, planning, organization, and plain hard work that brought "that banana" about. Thank you—to all those who had a part. Our team was very privileged and blessed to have the opportunity to attend. We appreciate all those who helped make our stay so enjoyable, and helped us to do the work that we needed to do while there. We love you!

Ahla:

Ezequiel gave a very inspired bird's eye view of our Family in many countries around the world, and in Brazil, with the use of visual aids and photos on the large screen. It was interspersed with responsive readings where everyone quoted together memory verses on evangelism. It made us all proud to be part of the Family.

Peter gave the closing speech and thanked everyone, praying for this movement and dedicating it to the Lord. Tommy and Jere called up our delegation of the *Conéctate* work in Mexico. We're thankful to everyone who went before us, and for sharing the prophecy the Lord has given us that: "You can't do it. You don't have to do it, because I am promising that I am going to cause the same revolution in Mexico that you have seen here." Then they prayed for us, and invited us back next year, bringing our Active members with us!

Sunday afternoon, June 17

Sunday was slipping away, minute by minute, and there were still more interviews lined up. David's young-ish Active member crowd from Rio presented a T-shirt to Peter and a folder of their CTP work, dubbed *Gesto Amor*—Gesture of Love, after which Jenna and I interviewed a number of them.

It's 2:15 P.M. and lots of people are leaving, but over 50 people are piling back into the dining room to sing for all

the waiters and cooks who fed us three times a day during this retreat.

After that I met Leonardo (20) and Mark (31), two more brand new sheep. They went to all the retreat meetings on Saturday. Gabriele met them on Friday night and they came to the Bible class in the morning on Saturday and here they are again today. Gabriele says they're super on fire and that Leonardo has decided to start doing something in São



Lourenço, working with a Home close by. Leonardo already had a background in the Word and is very potential.

The big buses departed mid-morning. The lobby, which held hundreds of people at the

beginning of the retreat, now looks like a ghost town. By the afternoon, the small festive flags strung across the room, gently fluttering in the breeze from the open doors, were the only sign of movement.

Jenna:

It was exactly like I imagine the early days of the Family were—constant witnessing at every opportunity. There were about 50 of us and the hotel staff was all brought together in the dining room, about 20 of them all lined up. David (CM, Active member shepherd) first said a little prayer for our time together, and then launched into witnessing to the staff, explaining what we were doing here, etc. He quoted the salvation verses and they all prayed to receive Jesus.

Then we sang "I See Sunshine" for them, and they were visibly moved. Some were crying. At the end, in the traditional Brazilian Active member fashion, all 50 of our group stretched out our arms to end with the words, "We just wanted to tell you that we love you!" I don't see how anyone could not cry—I was in tears! After that, the whole group of Family and Active members scattered to give all the staff hugs and kisses.

When everything had settled, a voice was heard saying, "Okay, on to the other hotels!" And off the group went to witness and win the staff members of the other hotels too.



Note:

(About forty people, including our small team from WS, stayed on for some meetings to discuss the growing Active member explosion and how it affects every aspect of Family life. These were exploratory meetings, identifying some of the challenges that need to be tackled, as well as the issues. No conclusive decisions were made, and Peter and Mama will be gathering more input and information, praying further and will publish more about the Active member movement for the Family over the next several months. Stay tuned!)

On the day of our departure, just as we were walking out of our hotel rooms with our luggage, I bumped into one of the sisters who'd stayed behind after the retreat, Nina, from Rio. Her daughter, Cristal (24), had been out of the Family for several years. Cristal came to the retreat at her mother's invitation. She almost didn't make it as the night before the trip she was drinking with her friends and barely arrived in time the next morning for the trip. Cristal said that here at the retreat she had found the real Family spirit again that had first won her to the Lord. Nina said that Cristal is now going to Joinville to join Samuel Apocalypse's Home and to serve the Lord again.

(Editors: We apologize if we've gotten any names, places or facts slightly mixed-up.)

ACTIVATED ADVENTURE

BRAZIL

By Peter

"It's viable,
doable and
tremendous!"

It was wonderful to attend the retreat and see firsthand the "Family of the future" at all levels—an inspired gathering of CM, FM, Active members and friends of the Family. Meeting the Active members was a great inspiration. They are

genuine disciples and fellow Family members.

God bless the Family members in Brazil who have been faithful to follow-up and feed the sheep, because by starting small and being faithful to hold weekly Bible classes, this movement has exploded into a discipleship revolution! The Active members are in love with Jesus, whole-hearted, faithful witnesses, supporters of the work, hear from the Lord in prophecy and more. In short, they are

true disciples—Family members just like you and me.

The vision the Lord has given for our Family's future is viable, doable and the fruit is tremendous! I saw it with my own eyes! It works, folks! Let's keep the follow-up revolution hot and moving, pushing *Activated* and being faithful to feed the sheep, raise up new disciples and win the world for Jesus! Amen?

P.S. Please continue to pray for the Brazil

Family and all those who are involved in this follow-up ministry, and the Active member revolution and expansion of our Family. Pray for the continued growth of the ministry, and for the shepherds and Family members to stay united and close to the Lord. And of course, pray for the Active members to continue to be fed, to grow in the Word, and that the Lord will bring many, many more to our doors to be fed and to be part of us!

Activated news from you!

Kids are *Activated*

ROSE GARDEN HOME, INDIA

We are seeing that our childcare setup is a very important part of being an *Activated* Home—that is our sample when the sheep start coming Home to see how we teach and train our children. For some it is even the bait to get them interested in *Activated*. Recently our children sang at a birthday party, and after that the mother wanted to visit our Home and see how we teach our children. The first day she came she signed up for *Activated*.

A new youth ministry

DANIEL, CRYSTAL AND STEPHEN, INDIA

For a long time we have been burdened about our youth ministry and Bible study group as for some reason it was not working out. But the Lord was working behind the scenes. One of our Christian friends who we have been ministering to for some time now never seemed to show much enthusiasm to be a part of our work even though our relations with him and his family were quite good. Over the years that we have known him we have seen the Lord work in His life through his business, which never seemed to take off and he lost a lot of money.

About 10 months back we got him *Activated* and that is the best thing that ever happened to him. His older son and daughter-in-law love to read and share the magazine with their friends. Recently when we went to visit our friend, he opened up his heart and shared how the Lord has been pushing him to play more of an active role with the youth in his church and not to be so caught up in his business. He committed himself to this, calling and opened up his house to us for weekly Bible study for young people. We are very thankful for how *Activated* changed this man's heart.

Activated in Singapore

CONÉCTATE DESK

We heard an encouraging testimony from Paul and Beth regarding how far reaching the *Activated* magazines go. Beth, who

is Singaporean, handed in an *Activated* subscription for her brother in Singapore over a year ago. We have been sending these to him regularly each month. Beth visited her relatives a few months ago, and inspired them all with the vision to not only get strengthened themselves through the Word, but also to witness and reach out to others, as they are all saved.

She recently told us how the magazines and *Activated* materials are being a major blessing. Her relatives are holding meetings with the people they are witnessing to, kind of like a church-in-the-home type of thing that they have organized on their own initiative, and are using the *Activated* magazines, along with the *Activated* material, to feed their sheep. The Lord sure is getting His message out, in a country where there are no Family Homes!

kidbits

Carolyn Sharise, born to **Rachel and Shem** on March 15.—Taiwan
Malcolm William Free, born to **Michelle and Jason** on March 25.—Taiwan
Julia Faye, 1st child, born to **Victoria and David** on April 8.—Brazil
Isabella Diana, born to **Linda and Isaac** on April 21.—Latvia
Dasha, born to **Maria and Gabe** on May 2.—Russia
Russel James, born to **Meekness and Gideon** on May 7.—Greece
Priscilla May-ling, born to **Liz** on May 9.—Indonesia
Melany, born to **Melissa and Matt** on May 11.—Guinea
Cydney Jane, born to **Joanne and Sol** on May 12.—Taiwan
Anita Paulina, 1st child, born to **Romanian Perla and Mexican Tim** on May 15.—Romania
Larissa Cristina, 10th child, born to **Joy and Aaron** on May 16.—Brazil
Peter, born to **Nadia and Andrew** on May 17.—Russia
Vera An, born to **Almendra and Miguel** on May 24.—Chile



Asia

Stability in the **Middle East**.

Tania: Serious, persistent rash that has troubled her for many years.

Dani Joy: Abnormal insulin levels.

Faithy: Severe back pain that may require surgery.

Daniel E.T.: Dangerously high blood pressure.

Esther (of James): Cervical spondylosis (degeneration of the spinal column), causing weakness, pain and involuntary tremors in arms and legs and occasional blackouts and minor strokes.

Thai Rose: Hemorrhoids and hives.

Mary Renewed (of Adam): Ovarian cyst.

Thai Promise: Developed another cyst.

Shanti: Recurring bladder infection.

John Mark: Recurring cyst on neck.

Joanna (of T. John): Psoriasis.

Akemi (of John): Fibroid in her uterus.

Khaled (10 months, of Luke and Catherine): Hernia.

Europe and Africa

Mary C.: Cancer.

Faith (of Dan): Recovery from operation to remove cancer on breast.

Victoria: Bone cancer.

Spring (of Leyland): Arthritis and pain in her arm.

South America

Maria (of Andy, Medellin): Ovarian cyst.

Andy (16, of Gabe and Ruth): Serious eye infection causing the retina to detach from eyeball.

tip of the day

When I initially started to use PGP and would encrypt a file to a potential recipient, I didn't realize I could also specify myself as a recipient, so that later, if needed (and I've found this is often needed!), I could decrypt the sent file to check what I had sent.

In order to be able to open your own encrypted messages that you send to others, right click on the little lock icon at the lower right hand corner of your screen. Click on "options" and then on "general." Check the box that says "always encrypt to default key" and that'll take care of it!

—PGP USER

help wanted

Extra Mile West Africa—Accra School Home, Brekusu Camp David (Ghana)

We've been here for a little over three years and our work is overwhelming. We have had four young missionaries pass through this establishment who have gone on to set up their own work in the Caribbean (God bless you, Robin, Autumn, Chris and Windy)! Our teacher trainees have taken up the torch to run our nursery school. But now our work is getting larger. We have two new potential disciples who are visiting daily for Bible classes and for on-the-job ministry training. We have had appeals for leadership consultancy in other parts of the country. As of now our station cannot accommodate our enterprise. The chief and the traditional council of a village in the Akuapim Hills overlooking the Accra Plains have donated a piece of land which we have registered to develop our own mission station and school.

We have 35 pupils in our nursery school who we give a meal to every day. There's also our Teachers' Training Program. We also run a scholarship fund for needy pupils in local schools. We need some funding to take care of these

responsibilities. We want to call on you to invest in our vision because as an educational institution for missionaries you may be sending your young ones here for specialist training! Investing in the Accra School Home is spreading the Gospel in West Africa.

Here are some figures from our budget (per month):

US\$8.50: Sponsorship of one pupil

US\$18.50: Allowance for one teacher trainee

US\$110.00: Food, household, toiletries for 13 adults and four children

Building Project: Cost of 1 borehole for school and mission center:

US\$5,700.00

Office/Computer:

US\$1,500.00

Can you help with the sponsorship of any of these items?

Please contact us through extrmile@africaonline.com.gh or extrmile@hotmail.com or via the office. We're counting on you and thank you for your cooperation. We trust that we'll hear from you very soon.

We, John and Kalyani, are Indian nationals who would like to

home school our three boys by enrolling them in the CLE full program. We are a very big team with lots of children, and the Lord showed us to send out this ad. Whoever has the burden to help us with our children's educational needs, please help us. We found out that we need a minimum of \$1,000 per year for their CLE registration and books as well as other school needs. Even if you'd like to send us a little or whatever is possible for you on monthly basis, we'll be very thankful. Please specify this as a designated gift towards John and Kalyani's children's education. TYSM! We really are desperate for your help and we know that God will provide for their needs. We thank you so much. Please send your gifts through the TRF to: "John and Kalyani, IA#20, India, TLP Home." Also send us the information via e-mail to tamarai@kmr.net, so we can keep in touch and send you a thank you note right away!

I'm Esther in Ukraine, and I'm presently on the road and am taking care of the last bits of the needed paperwork for my trip. I am moving to South America, with the desire to be a blessing to the work there, be a help to a sweet family with four kids that is receiving

me and that I am feeling a team with already in the spirit, and put my all into the *Activated* ministry. I am also planning on taking trips to Cuba, basing from South America in order to bring encouragement, help and the message of God's love to the precious people there.

Due to some changes in visa regulations, I was not able to go to Western Europe or the States to fundraise, as was the plan, and it seems that I will have to travel to South America straight from Ukraine or one of the neighboring CIS countries. This is very expensive and I also have to make my trip soon.

I want to ask if you can help me with any gift, however small or big, to make it possible for me to make this trip soon and to get to my Home within the next few weeks. I will really appreciate your help. Because I am on the road, it will be better if you will be able to get in touch with me via e-mail at: skylark_hvn@yahoo.com. If you get in touch with me and I will send you my key. I also really appreciate all your prayers. I count on you, and thank you for being there for me. Thank you for being such a wonderful Family!

(Editor: See more of Esther's personal note to her fellow Family members on the MO site.)

entertainment and reviews

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

THE TAO OF STEVE (2000)

Donal Logue, Greer Goodman

Comedy about a man who invokes the personality and style of the late actor Steve McQueen to try to charm women. It works with amazing success, but when real love comes along, he's not quite sure how to handle it.

The Tao of Steve

(Jesus:) This movie is simple, but well acted, and has some good lessons about love and life. This movie shows how far off track people can get in their philosophies when they come to the wrong conclusions regarding love and relationships because of mistakes, pride, and fear of failure. It also shows that the ability to love and find love in return has nothing to do with outward appearances.

Movies Rated for Junior Teens and Up

LARA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER (2001)

Angelina Jolie, Jon Voight, Daniel Craig

Based on a popular video game of the same name. Lara Croft—a tough, sexy, armed adventurer who was born into wealth—faces her greatest challenge yet: to find two halves of an ancient artifact buried in space and time, while taking on a powerful and dangerous secret society.

Lara Croft: Tomb Raider

(Jesus:) This movie is, for the most part, typical action movie fare—definitely not a serious message movie, and with a fair amount of violence. However, if you pray as you go into it and ask Me to help you see more, I will show you spiritual parallels through this movie—parallels of the power you have through My Spirit, and particularly the power of the keys of the kingdom.

The things you have at your disposal are awesome and marvelous, and even though they may seem ordinary to you because you are accustomed to them, the Enemy knows of their true power, and seeks to harm you and take away your power through them. But he cannot ever win all the power he desires, because right will overcome and truth will triumph. Your part in this triumph is up to you. If you train in the new weapons well, you can

become a spiritual “tomb raider”—stealing away from the Enemy the treasures and souls and lives he thought he had laid claim to.

CHOCOLÁT (2000)

Juliette Binoche, Judi Dench, Alfred Molina, Johnny Depp

A non-conformist single mother moves to a village where nothing much has ever happened. She opens a chocolate shop during Lent, while everyone is being encouraged by the church to fast, and before long, little by little a lot of things are changing.

Chocolát

(Jesus:) This is a sweet movie that entertains and uplifts. It also exposes the hypocrisy and self-righteousness of the church. It is a movie about love, tolerance, understanding, and acceptance. It shows the power of love. It also shows what lack of love and intolerance can lead to. It shows what one person can do to change their part of the world. Of course, no one can truly and completely change things for the better without My love in their hearts, and My power and wisdom, and this movie doesn't bring that out, which is sad. But in general it is sweet and edifying and portrays godly principles.

Movies Rated for JETTs and Up

ATLANTIS (2001)

Animated, voices of Michael J. Fox and James Garner

This fictional deep-sea animated adventure follows the explorer Milo James Thatch on his mission with the *Shepherd's Journal*, an ancient book containing long lost information, to locate the legendary lost continent of Atlantis.

Atlantis

(Jesus:) This movie, like all Disney movies, has as its aim to spread certain doctrines. It's not promoting Me, but rather promotes a New Age type of light to follow. However, those of age will be able to discern this, and therefore it's watchable. But it's not to be shown to younger children. JETTs on up could view this. Even for some JETTs, if they do not have their questions answered, it would be best they didn't view it. This will give rise to questions in their hearts, questions about Atlantis, but even more so, questions about spiritual principles.

If you view this movie with your

JETTs, be sure to point out to them that I am the only giver of light, and the only way to Heaven and overcoming. In this movie the light even empowers the demon general in the end, who represented the Devil or one like him. However, My light does not empower the Devil, but rather he is totally void of all light because he has turned his back on Me.

Take encouragement from the story of the princess, of how you can give yourselves wholly to Me, and be fully empowered by My light to help save the lost in these last dying days of the world. Just as the princess gave herself wholly to the light and had the power needed to save her people, so you can give yourselves wholly to My light and receive My powers in full, through My keys. And what was required of her to gain this power?—Simply the yielding of herself and saying yes. Yield yourselves wholly to Me, My children, say yes to My call, and you will have all My power at your command.

Movies Rated for MCs and Up

SO DEAR TO MY HEART (1949)

Animation and live action mix; Bobby Driscoll, Burl Ives

Heartwarming family musical about a young boy who takes his

ill-tempered black sheep to the county fair in the hope of winning a medal. Very sweet and edifying movie for young children, but older ones might enjoy it as well.

There are a lot of good lessons and all the characters are very loving and encouraging. One scene when the young boy and his little girlfriend go on their own might need to be explained for younger kids. There's a scene of three ships having trouble in the sea, with a dragon chasing them, which could be disturbing for younger children; if a child has a fear of storms or of the sea, it could add to that fear. Parents should view this before letting their younger kids see it, so they are aware of the different scenes, especially this one, and can prayerfully decide if it is okay for their child or not.

So Dear to My Heart

(Dad:) Kids, here's a movie with true values. There are probably a couple of things your parents will point out of samples or even sermons that aren't right to follow, so listen to your parents on those parts. And then soak up and enjoy this Godly, edifying movie. It's one you'll enjoy and be strengthened by. It reminds me of the good values many folks had when I was a boy. My, how things have changed today. The world is really going downhill, and rapidly.

movies@wsfamily.com

Our WS movie preview department now has an e-mail address for feedback from you. If you have come across a movie that hasn't been rated, but which your Home has previewed and feels is worth recommending to the Family, please do let us know about it. Information on children's movies is particularly needed. We'd appreciate getting a little write-up of the movie, why you feel it is worth recommending, and the age group you showed the movie to. However, if you don't have time to give us this info, the movie title, main actors, and year of release would suffice. You can reach us at: movies@wsfamily.com. You are also welcome to send other thoughts, comments or suggestions about movies to this address. We appreciate the input.

Are you behind the Activated revolution? Do you read the Activated mags? If not, how do you know what you're feeding the sheep ... Or what the new follow-up revolution is all about?

...on Family education

FGA, long-time-on-the-field, male, India

I was happy to hear that something is in the pipeline for improving Family education and that it is being prayed about along with the board vision. I've been a teacher in the Family now for perhaps 12 years, in big Combo schools, small Homes, and presently only my own children.

Over the last few years I've talked with many parents, young people and others about the topic and listened to a lot of ideas and opinions. I've always felt that it would be so convenient to make everything uniform in Family scholastic education, including text/workbooks, levels of achievement, etc. But one thing I've come to realize is that expectations vary from family to family, from field to field, nationality to nationality.

Some families' main idea of schooling is to give the kids a minimum education and hopefully escape getting in trouble with the System. Some families on foreign fields are still answerable to the school authorities of their home countries and must tailor their home schooling accordingly. It is not always practically possible to just stay away from their home country indefinitely. Other families feel that even 8th grade is head stuffing and a waste of time. Yet others are of the opinion that the kids have a right to 8th grade skills at the very least and should not be denied it. (I'm saying all this in context of Family home schooling.)

I've met SGAs who've come from western countries, mainly from the U.S. who say they've not done much scholastics since they were 12. Some regretted not taking it more seriously, others were casual about it and not bothered. Yet others blamed the FGAs for not doing their best to give them an education.

I think that if a person has initiative and a good attitude and well-developed communication skills, advanced education is not a requirement.

Now, what I'm going to say now may be a sensitive subject for many: a casual ap-

proach to education does not go down well in this field (India) with the people we witness and minister to.

We all sincerely desire and want all of our children to remain with us in the Family, but the reality is that some don't. Now if a person is not well-equipped academically, he can survive in most western countries and even do well if he has a good attitude. But that is not the case in this field.

The minimum legal requirement in most states of India is up to a 5th grade education, but it's not really enforced as is evidenced by the hundreds of millions of illiterate masses here. The fact is, though, that the Family here has to compare themselves with the educated middle and upper classes. They are the main witnessing targets, not the masses. The people we relate to mostly are very highly educated (arguably over-educated for the jobs many of them hold). Practically everybody goes through the equivalent of college or some form of higher education. Indians are very advanced in math and technical subjects. The kids start school early here and it is extremely competitive. So while the law doesn't seem to pose a threat, the people we minister to often wonder if it isn't unfair to deny our children (national children in particular) higher education.

The "land of opportunity" thing doesn't really exist here. It's a land of seething, struggling masses living mostly below the poverty line. Opportunity is only for the ambitious or politically connected or unscrupulous persons in a dog-eat-dog environment. I'm thinking of all national young people now. If they decide not to stay, what might become of them is almost unthinkable in this country. Of course they still belong to Jesus and He will take care of them somehow. I wonder if some might just stay with the Family just because there is nowhere to go in the System, which is not extremely bad as long as they're not just hangers-on, or not really here in the spirit.

I think many national families would like their kids to study up to 10th grade at least. In fact, there is an "open

school" plan in India in every city. Any citizen can enroll and study at home, and take as long as they like, even three years. They can then sit for an exam at an appointed place and it probably doesn't cost more than \$20 total, if that. Many have already done it, not with a view to leave the Family but more as a confidence booster to prove that they're not intellectually inferior to their Indian counterparts.

All that to say that there are many varied expectations within the Family as to what should be the goal in home schooling. Maybe we need a national conference on the topic if we haven't done it already. (Our Home missed a recent national Family meeting and we're the only Home in our city.)

I'm not the best teacher in the Family and I'm realizing a lot of my lacks, but I'm burdened about it and would like to help.

Peace Livingstone, Bosnia

On the subject of Family education, I personally feel many of our young people don't appreciate the input they've been blessed to have in their years growing up in our former school situations (a.k.a. Combo days). I have to give credit to our Family schools as most have operated in a very professional manner—similar to the "best of the best" of private secular schools.

Recently I had the experience of teaching in a well-known international private school in our area. This school is supposed to be the best private school in the country. During my time teaching there I noticed that although the director strove to have a high physical standard, nonetheless the school had other very serious lacks—one of the main ones being lack of the love and attention we give our kids, helping them to learn at their own pace as well as our constant input around the clock, teaching important values.

Most of the teachers were fulfilling their duty in hours of teaching but lacking charisma and inspiration to pour into the kids. The curriculum they followed was based on the Brit-

ish Oxford books but which I would consider to be far inferior to our Family-based curriculum and *Childcare Handbooks*.

The areas that I would consider weak areas in this school were the lack of individual attention afforded the students, as well as the lack of sequence in class subjects. Often it was the norm to just follow along with what the teacher was in the mood to teach for the day and not so much order and sequence by following the curriculum. Also, one very noticeable lack was that of classroom discipline and control by the teachers. Some did well in this area, others were constantly losing their patience with the kids. I felt I was often losing ground with the kids when I couldn't point the kids towards the Word. I could see how in handling disciplinary matters we have a great advantage in that we are free to point the kids to the Lord and the standard of the Word, whereas the System standard is way off from teaching any spiritual principles to help the kids be motivated to behave more lovingly and considerately towards their teachers and peers.

I feel led to share this as often I've heard young people in the Family who've grown perhaps familiar with the Family standard of schooling that they don't see all the great advantages to our Word-based education. Believe me, if this school I taught at was considered a "top school" in System standards, then we are at a bigger advantage in so many ways! Thank God for our Family educational standard! Who hears about young kids learning to read fluently at a young age of four or five? How many others have the privilege of private tutoring like our Family kids do in our Family Homes? With the growing popularity of home schooling in the States now it is considered a very "cool" alternative to formal education and many people go to great lengths or pay lots of money to hire private tutors.

We are definitely blessed to have it all at our fingertips in the Family, as well as the host of material we receive in the form of teaching material, childcare reference books, Word books and the list goes on!

letters to the editor

Re: "What Some People Get High On"

FROM LYDIA, CHINA

This tract has worked wonderfully. The first time we used it we were on the road; we gave it to a young person who has everything in life. He grasped the meaning of salvation easily. It is a simple and clear illustration to use to explain and lead people to the water of life.

It can be used in any situation and with all ages and classes of people: With the older people, those we shared it with have experienced all of the things this tract describes, so it was easy for them to understand it and to want to pray the prayer. It's great for the successful businessman who is just starting to experience or wanting to try all of these things in life. To the Buddhist, it is excellent stuff, because it doesn't come across so religious.

I am so thankful for our wonderful Idea Man Who continues to inspire us with many goodies, making our job easy to share His gift of eternal life with others. And to the receiver of ideas, David K., thanks a bunch for your comic work!

ad space

"I will soon be fifty years old. ... Some of my best teachers came into the world weak and helpless, unable to do anything for themselves. ... My little teachers would always come back with a smile and forgive me my outbursts of anger. ... Today most people don't think like that anymore. They say that those little teachers cost too much money, that they take too much of your time, so have them as late as you can and even then try to have only one or two. Many people even decide not to have any at all. ... Personally, I thank God that he sent me nine of those little teachers. I guess God knew that one or two or even three would not be enough to teach me all that I needed to know, since I was such a slow learner."

Read the full version for yourself—printed in a Taiwanese newspaper. Titled: "My Best Teachers" by Shi Ya Li. On the MO site!

former members—seeking contact

I would like to get in contact with old friends from Germany, like **Simon Fighter** (we met in Venezuela), **Jonah Whale and Susanna, Leyland and Grace, Rufus and Conny** (I lived with you in Nuernberg and also **Pearl** who lived in the same Home), **Abraham** (we lived together in Hamburg Bergedorf), **Julia and Johannes, Mark 16:15, Joan and Leona** (we lived together in Mannheim), **Andreas and?** (we lived together in your VW Bus), **Selah, Rose, Ahias, James, Stefan** (we lived together in Duesseldorf, where I joined in '76), **David Courier** and anybody else that remembers me as Elisa or Norbert, my new name is James. Please write me at: jamesyruth7@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from you soon!

My name was Abez and I was in the Ellenville, NY Home in 72. I'm looking for **Jaziz and Pearl E. Gates** who were there also. Can anyone help me find them? I'm interested in making contact with anyone else that remembers me from those days. It changed my life forever and I thank God for the Family members that helped me. I miss them and have always been sorry that I lost touch. Contact me at e-mail: miketerlesky@aol.com or P.O. Box 8053 Norfolk, VA, 23503.

personals

Juanito Felipe y hermanos (de Eliseo [Arg] y Vicky [Bol], somewhere in Brazil), tell Ma and Pa to write us. Love Juan, Letizia, Philip and Natasha. juanletiziaphil@yahoo.com or amoreinazione@tin.it.

Tim and Joy Streams: Where are you? Please write us! Remember the Arrows? E-mail: betterfuturenow@aol.com. Love, Patrick and Christina

Kerenina (of Gideon and Lamb) would like to get in contact with **Pearl (of Ester Gypsy)**. We were together in St. Petersburg. Please write me at ninacolada86@yahoo.com.

Dear **Francesco, Paul, Timmy, Michael, David, or anyone else I used to know in Albania**. PLEASE contact Sarah (of Spanish Faithy) at mrs_bean83@yahoo.com. Saw some of you on the *Vine* videos. Be great to get in contact again. Love you!!!!—Sarah

Hello! I'm looking for **Felipe and Clara**. Last I heard you were in Rio. Please get in touch with Cristal as soon as possible. My e-mail is: jolufeme@agevir.com.br. Thanks!

David and Victoria want to get in contact with **Simon and Daniella**. Please write us! E-mail: dav_vic@yahoo.com.

Faith (of Elkanah) in Hyderabad (India), please write to Mary (of Michael) in France at e-mail: mmkeat@aol.com.

requesting tips and how-to's

Could we request ideas/tips/suggestions/how-tos from our clowns (when using one or two clowns max at an event) all over the world on how they do...

- ♦ An hour-long party
- ♦ A puppet show—and what else do you do? (What stories do you use? Where did you get the scripts?)
- ♦ A CTP for kids, an hour long
- ♦ What games you use?
- ♦ What skits you do?
- ♦ What songs you sing and use?
- ♦ Any hot tips to make your show a success.
- ♦ What do you wear that is out of the ordinary?
- ♦ How do you win souls doing your show or how to witness to kids and lead them to the Lord during your show?
- ♦ Any tricks for magicians that are easy to do, use and learn?
- ♦ Do you have script tapes available to buy or get copies of?
- ♦ Any important tips for preserving puppets?

Your talented know-how is needed. Please send your comments to gv@wsfamily.com, and we'll print them for all, or post them on the MO site. Thanks!

The news and views from Family members published in the *Grapevine* are not intended to reflect WS policy. Suggested reading age for this publication is 14 years and up. Selected portions may be read by or with those younger at parents' or shepherds' discretion. *The Grapevine*, P.O. Box 168751, Irving, Texas, USA - 75016-8751 e-mail: gv@wsfamily.com Copyright © 2001 by The Family