

It takes humility to seek constructive criticism and feedback. It takes wisdom to understand it, analyze it, and appropriately act on it.

C H R I S T M A S C D C A R D

By the WS GP department

Because the Christmas CD cards have been such a hit in the Family's outreach, we try to provide new designs each year (usually six), while also reprinting old favorites. We'd like to do the same this year as well. However, coming up with new designs that are appealing to the masses is tough! So we'd like to avail ourselves of the help of all of you designers and idea people who might have a burden to put your creative talents to use in designing cards that the Family can use.

What we need is a design for both the cover and the inside of the card, with accompanying text. Written ideas are nice, but what we really need is an actual design of the card—as in a graphic, photo, artwork, or at least a sketch. It does *not* have to be final or ready for print—if it's one that we decide to use we will likely re-draw it, re-lay it out, or modify it. But it's coming up with the initial idea that's often the most difficult.

By idea we mean an idea that's *doable*. (In other words, the idea of "a photo of people dressed up like Joseph and Mary, with shepherds, sitting atop Machu Picchu" isn't feasible unless you're doing the shoot and sending us the photo!)

Also, regarding photos, for security we can't use photos of people in our Home or other WS units, so we're limited in that respect.—So if a photo is involved in your idea, we might need your help, or someone's help, with the actual photo taking as well.

If we end up using your design in a CD card for this Christmas, you'll receive a \$50 gift! If we modify it or redo it based on your design, we'll still send you the gift.

However, this gift wouldn't apply if you just send in a written idea, as it's the practical implementation of those ideas that we also need help with. But if you do have any ideas, even if only written ones, please feel free to send them in. Thanks!

Also, while you can get concept ideas from non-Family material, the designs and text that you send us need to be original. In other words, please don't scan a picture that's copyrighted and send us that, or copy exact text from an existing greeting card. (Text from famous writers of past times such as Shakespeare, etc., can be used if credit is given.)

You can send us your design in whatever format you used (e.g., Photoshop, Photopaint, MS Publisher, Corel Draw, PageMaker, Quark, MS Word, etc.), and each section of the card can be a separate file or it can be all together in one. We'll then transfer it to Adobe InDesign 2.0, which is the design program that we use (along with Photoshop and Illustrator). For those of you familiar with InDesign 2.0 who want to actually do a rough layout of the card, we've posted the InDesign template that we use for our CD cards, on the MO site along with this notice (under Activated, Activated News), which you're welcome to use and send to us.

The deadline by which we need to receive your designs is March 15th. But earlier is better! Please send your ideas, designs and any comments you have about the Christmas CD cards to us at gp@wsfamily.com. If you have any questions, please write us at the same address. Thank you! We look forward to hearing from you!

Would you like to have a part in creating Christmas CD cards for the Family worldwide to distribute? A card you design could reach tens of thousands this coming Christmas, being both a great witness to the public *and* helping toward many Homes' support. Plus, we'd like to give you a \$50 gift for your help.

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“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Our African Christmas highlights

Philip and Meekness, Namibia: This year the Lord inspired us to present our most faithful supporters with a Bible and Family-produced materials as a special Christmas gift. We found the perfect Bibles, and on the first page wrote words of gratitude and appreciation to each of them for their giving and support. We wrapped the gifts in nice paper and delivered them personally to each one.

One lady phoned us in the morning the next day to thank us again and again. She told us, “Thank you so much for all the beautiful books, and thank you for the Bible. I was so surprised! I still have tears in my eyes!” She then decided to buy more meaningful presents for her friends’ children this year, and took seven sets of *Start Early* posters and four *Feed My Lambs* sets. Wow!

One of our Active members and faithful supporters bought 100 “Mottos for Success” to give to her best customers as a Christmas gift. Many people came back to thank her for such a priceless gift. One lady exclaimed: “Oh, thank you so much, it’s beautiful, and it must be very costly!” She was truly impressed.

Whenever someone buys a “Mottos for Success” calendar we offer to print their company’s name and phone number on the bottom. This often encourages them to take more calendars, as it’s an attractive form of advertisement. Business people want to treat others with our “Mottos for Success.” In 2003 we got out 700 “Mottos for Success”—350 of which we got out during our Christmas push, and we ran out of stock!

One friend, the owner of a large company, flipped through the pages of *God on God* and said, “I’ll take 12.—Each of my managers needs to read this book!” (He then took 13, one to keep for himself, ha!)

Another faithful supporter phoned us: “Please, I need 30 of those Christmas CD cards for my workers on Monday. Are

you coming?” We were planning the trip to her town, but we weren’t sure if we’d make it on time, so she sent her courier to make sure they’d arrive on time. The courier traveled around 600 km to get the stuff to her on time. When we visited her later that week she also took 18 *Get Activated* books.

During the past two months we held 11 Bible studies at our Home; had daily follow-up meetings; sent out 130 letters to our friends and supporters; sent 68 thank-you letters to our new contacts; printed out 300 Christmas *Reflections* for our sheep; visited a children’s shelter twice to deliver canned food, veggies, fruit, and toys; and were able to visit the local prison twice to bring letters, posters, and Bible study volumes to the inmates.

Our prayer is that lasting fruit will spring forth from this fruitful Christmas season with changed lives, comforted souls, and open hearts reached with Jesus’ Words.

Impromptu Christmas caroling

Open Home, Thailand: It was a few days before Christmas and our Home was in the middle of our Christmas witnessing push. During dinner someone asked, “What kind of a Christmas-related activity should we have this evening?” There were a few ideas thrown out and someone suggested we go caroling. After some positive response to that idea and prayer, a team of five was put together. After dinner the five of us got together to practice a few songs. We put together a short show, accompanied by one guitar and a small shaker.

It was getting late so we all then scrambled to put on Christmassy-type clothes. Finally we were ready, so we jumped in the van and went to the spot the Lord had showed us to go to. After singing in a few restaurants and getting “warmed up” we moved to another area where there were a lot of bars, also known as brothels. These are very common here. The girls who

work at these establishments sit around on seats waiting for customers. In some places a few customers were also sitting with the girls.

After receiving permission to sing we started our repertoire while Thai Marie started passing out posters, tracts, and Christmas CDs to the girls, which we had brought along nicely arranged in a basket. After everyone received something we then led them all in the salvation prayer. It was inspiring watching a group of these girls praying all together.

After two and a half hours (which included travel time) it was getting late so we decided we’d better head home. We had gotten out 22 CDs, distributed 50 posters, 50 tracts, 15 Christmas *Activated* mags, and won 36 souls. Not bad for an impromptu evening Christmas activity!

Rockin’ Christmas Stars

Julia (of Emmanuel), Brazil: Our kids caroling troupe, the *Estrelinhas de Natal* (Christmas Stars), have performed all over Rio de Janeiro this year, and really rocked out. The kids made news, appearing on the front page of the magazine of the biggest newspaper here in Rio (*Globo*) for the North Zone, with a readership of millions. People would stop in their tracks when they saw the kids sing. Half way through our Christmas season we’d gotten nearly 300 CDs out, 1,000 posters, and many souls.



Rockin’ Christmas Stars: (L–R:) Larissa (9), Kevin (12), Carlin (7), Nathanael (12), Shelena (4), Kathleen (9), Tia Joolz, Tracy (9), and Arthur (11), children of Tracy and Jodie, Eman and Julia, and Veronica

Yearly Christmas function at the Marriott

Asaph, Pakistan: This was the ninth consecutive year that we were invited to sing for two nights at the Marriott, Islamabad. With Pakistan being a Muslim country and Christmas not celebrated at all, it’s a miracle that we can perform and get the message out this way. This hotel is always full with the top of society as well as foreign dignitaries and businesspeople from all around the world. This particular night a delegation from the oil countries were staying at the hotel. Since our most talented singers had recently left to another field, we had to really practice for this program. We had to desperately pray for the Lord’s anointing and key power on our performers.

The Lord gave us the idea to invite some children of our friends from the diplomatic and UN community to help us perform, as well as a sweet little local girl who “loves angels,” and played one of the angels in our nativity scene. We had kids from Sweden, the USA, and Pakistan act in the nativity play that we simultaneously performed during “Silent Night.” These kids came to our house for practice a few times, and their parents were so proud to have their kids participate in this special event. One of the mothers wept while watching her kids perform, and was very touched by the beautiful Christmas spirit. Later, the day before leaving back to Sweden,



Yearly Christmas function at the Marriott: Islamabad singing team

she and her three kids prayed with Joy to receive Jesus!

There was a cute little miracle of the Lord's supply, too! One of our friends is from Eritrea and one day while visiting we noticed she had some big stuffed camels on her patio. She happily agreed to lend them to us for our manger scene. However, since there were only two, we still needed one more as we had three wise men. So another American friend who used to work for her NGO in Eritrea, happened to have one camel exactly the same and so also lent it, and there we had three camels for the three wise men.

Both nights went very well even though there was tight security, as the same day there was an assassination attempt on the president. However, the spirit took over, and the Lord did it! Many people commented

how well the show went, including the wife of the owner of the hotel chain, who was present along with some of her family. We were glad to give hope during these troubled times.

An unconventional Christmas performance

Open Home, Thailand: It has been our Home's tradition for many years to put together some sort of singing team for Christmas to visit and sing for our supporters, friends, contacts, and their staff. We also have several days when we invite our friends to our Home, where we also perform and share refreshments, and in general try to impart the wonderful joy of this season.

This year when we started to prepare our show troupe, we realized that although we had eight prospective performers,

ages five to fifteen, they were all boys—not one girl in the bunch! Try as we might, it just didn't seem to gel to have an all-boys choir, so we were desperate for ideas! The Lord didn't fail, and He showed us to have two separate groups. Our two youngest (five and eight) learned some Christmas songs to which they also did a little dance. Thanks to Angie (YA) and Sam (SGA), our JETTs and teens learned a clowning/dance routine to the songs "Fantastic Friends" and "Arguments Goodbye." Because this is a strongly Buddhist country we have to be careful to not come on too "Christian," even at Christmastime. So it works well to mix some non-Christmas songs in with the more traditional ones. In our case we hit the right formula. Our six JETT and teen boys did great with their clown make-up and suits, dancing great with big happy smiles, as did the younger two with their routine as well!

It's always amazing how few people here know about the real meaning of Christmas, so this time of year is a golden opportunity to witness to them in a more direct and deeper way than we often can during the year. Lots of folks will ask us questions about Jesus and Christmas, and this will open the door to a deep witness.

On Christmas Eve, one of our visitors pulled out a piece of paper on which she had written some questions that

her friend, who is a Buddhist nun, wanted her to ask us about Christianity. This opened the door to a very deep witness to this dear Buddhist woman. At one point another visitor sitting at the same table took up the torch, and started answering her questions very animatedly. Later on they were sitting together, and the Christian girl was still talking away, obviously witnessing to this sheep. Although this woman was a hungry sheep, due to her culture and tradition it is difficult for her to broach this subject in this way during the rest of the year, so we were so thankful to be able to answer her questions and give her the sample. We also gave our visitors Christmas posters and *Activated* mags.

For our Christmas Eve dinner the Lord provided abundantly, and we had quite a feast of mostly provisioned food to share with our guests. They were all so touched and impressed at the Lord's supply. After dinner we went outside to the garden where we had our show, and then sang Christmas carols together. Everyone was so touched and happy with the Lord's spirit!

All in all we had a very inspiring time, sharing Christmas with our friends. Thanks to the power of the keys, He showed us what to do when we didn't really know ourselves, and of course, everything He shows us always works out great!

"12 Bridges Interim Reading List"—Available Now!

By the International CGO board

Do you have sheep, friends, or *Activated* members who have completed the *12 Foundation Stones* course? Are you looking for a further Word program to feed them with? If so, there's something new for you! As you might have read elsewhere in the pubs, the *12 Bridges* discipleship course (the second stage of the *Activated Training Course*, for those who have completed the *12 Foundation Stones*) is now under construction. In the meantime, a "12 Bridges Interim Reading List" has been put together as a temporary substitute until the *12 Bridges* course is ready.

This interim list is primarily a compilation of MLs (many of them in *New Wine*, *Mountain Streams* or *Daily Bread* format), as well as some other Word readings, generally following the same topical outline of the upcoming *12 Bridges*. The *12 Bridges*, and thus this interim reading list, is a course that covers meatier doctrines and beliefs that set the Family apart, as well as further expounding on the basic spiritual principles introduced in the *12 Foundation Stones*. The goal of this reading list (and the *12 Bridges*) is to prepare a student or potential disciple for serving the Lord, whether living in or out of a Family Home. Those who go through the "12 Bridges Interim Reading List" would not need

to go through the *12 Bridges* course when it comes out (unless you feel it would be helpful for them to take certain classes).

The "12 Bridges Interim Reading List" can be found on the MO site under *Activated/Activated Training Course*.

Anyone who has completed the *12 Foundation Stones* course—or in some cases, those who are still going through it but who are ready for additional meaty reading—can be taken through the "12 Bridges Interim Reading List." At the top of the list itself is a fuller explanation of the purpose of the list, and some guidelines and teachers' tips regarding when and how to use it. We pray it will be a beneficial tool for many, helping those who you're ministering to as they continue growing in the Word in a steady manner.

Thanks for your prayers also for the finalization of the *12 Bridges* classes. Our goal is that within the first half of 2004, we will start posting the *12 Bridges* classes, one "Bridge" (including two to three classes) at a time, so that those of you who have students ready for these classes can start using them.

If you have any suggestions regarding the content of the *12 Bridges*, or input on the "12 Bridges Interim Reading List," we'd be happy to receive them. Please send them to us at gp@wsfamily.com.



Amber, Stephanie and Nora witnessing, Vienna



Dan narrating "Richman, Poorman" skit, Vienna

HITTING THE STREETS in a European Summer

By Aaron, Carole, Dan, Amber, Stephanie, Lisa, Becky, Sharon, and Nora, Europe

(Aaron:) The following article covers a five-month experience of learning in action the ins and outs of street witnessing, reaching the top, doing follow-up, seminars, and feeding people deeply.

Early in April 2003, a team of SGAs from Africa—Carole (24), Dan (24), Amber (21), Stephanie (22), Lisa (25), Becky (22), Sharon (22), Nora (24)—and me and my three boys headed to Europe. We went to some of the continent's major cities—Vienna, Zurich, Paris, Berlin, Dublin, Munich—doing street witnessing, skits, personal witnessing, one-on-one follow-up, and seminars. We tried different types of outreach both to witness and to feed people the Word in follow-up, like making appointments for further feeding on a second meeting, and helping the sheep to grow spiritually.

Because there are so many different types of people from every part of the world to witness to in Europe, it's a great place to learn about witnessing, especially in the summertime. Following are different reactions and questions and answers from those on the team.

(Amber:) When I first joined this witnessing team, I had only been back in the Family for about a year and a half. I had been praying for a long time to be in a situation where all I'd be doing was witnessing and following the New Wine completely. I was desperate for it, but the Lord showed me to be patient and to trust that He would have His way

so I could be in His highest will, but also happy and fulfilled.

Well, that chance came and I was given the opportunity to go on this faith trip to Europe, where all we would be doing was learning how to witness to many different types of people.

At the beginning it was tough to get over the hump and just go up and talk to the people, because I was "afraid of their faces." Also, having almost zero experience in this area, I was scared I wouldn't have the answers, and that I would fail.

In the beginning we tried a number of different ways of doing it to see how to get past their fronts and down into their souls. It was a trial-and-error process, and a lot of the time I would go home very discouraged, feeling like it was almost impossible and asking myself why I cared so much, when they didn't ever seem to care that much themselves and were completely self-satisfied.

Every night we would go home to talk about it all together as a team, to share what went wrong or right, to seek counsel and pray about it, and also to hear from the Lord for solutions.

It was very humbling, which I needed, but it made me value my connection with the Lord a whole lot more for His shepherding, and also for His encouragement. Most of the time after a very long day, you go home and still wonder if you got anywhere, but the Lord showed me that I just had to trust Him for the outcome, which I will see in Heaven.

It took a lot of forsaking on my



The team dressed up and ready to go, Zurich

part, such as in my style of dress, to be willing to be all things to all men that I might win them. It also took forsaking a lot of my thoughts or ideas that weren't really very on track. But I know now that the Lord never takes something away without giving something better in return, and for me, it was exactly what I had prayed for.

(Carole:) The last six months have been a total time of change for me—something I dreaded, but something I knew had to happen if I wanted to learn and grow in the Lord. I can't say that I'm proud of the way I experienced these months, or what I went through, because I know I could have done so much better. If I were given a chance to go through those months again, I would have yielded so much quicker to what the Lord wanted to teach me. This trip has shown me that with Jesus we are capable of accomplishing anything and there truly are no impossibilities.

I have been able to see that witnessing to people can and has to become so much more deep and filled with the Word if I want to truly win people and give them a chance to become the friends and supporters that they are capable of becoming.

I had a problem truly believing the Lord's promises of supply and care for me and the team, in this opportunity to step out and experience "the life of faith." I learned what it means to have no backup plan, and to truly trust God for the supply of everything in a land where I personally thought it impossible to see it done. That proved to me that He could do it and that when He meant for something to happen, nothing could stop it.

I couldn't be satisfied with the way things were, and I couldn't let the obstacles move me, because with the keys and Jesus I could do anything He wanted me to do. At times I know that I blew it, and I wondered if I wouldn't do better

to just accept the fact that I was a terrible witness and that I might as well let someone else try to make things happen. But thank the Lord, through this time I was able to learn how to rise above in this sphere.

What really matters is Jesus, the Word, and others, and all the rest of what I had been trying to accomplish was nonsense and was not important. Witnessing was my job, and that was what I had to get good at, at all costs.

Just being a Family member wasn't enough. I had to become that disciple that I had dreamt about. I had to have that channel that I dreamt of having, because my very survival depended on it. I couldn't wait for others to help me any more. I had to grab ahold of the Lord desperately myself if I was going to make it out on top.

Now the most important thing in my life is my connection with my Love. I will do everything and anything He says. Why? Because I know it works, and it's the only thing that is going to satisfy me.

(Sharon:) We had to be open to new ideas, be flexible to new moves. I had to learn how to see my own lack of faith, which I often mistakenly called "common sense." Learning how to fight the Enemy was one of the majors—learning the importance of stirring up godly anger against the Enemy, and using it to win battles.

For me, the main thing was learning to desire change with all my heart and realizing I'm going nowhere if there is no vacuum on my part, seeing that the intensity with which I pray or believe is the same intensity with which I'll get the answer.

Being open to total honesty from my co-workers and to shepherding was a key to why I "survived," and I can honestly say with all my heart that I wouldn't trade the life of faith for anything! The belief in the unseen and my relationship with the One Who is real is what carried me through.

Another thing that came alive to me was the fact that the Lord does leave a lot up to our desperation, and our capacity to receive is often limited by our capacity to believe that it is there, even though we can't see it. To really believe that when the Lord says, "Go!" He will take you. Period. No ifs, ands, or buts—proceed as if possessing, no further delay.

Putting the Lord on the spot is what was missing in my faith, to not have a "Plan B" in case the miracle doesn't happen, but to expect it each time. The Lord never failed us. The times that we did get stuck, were hungry, had it rough, or went through tough times were because we didn't follow through specifically on His guidance right away, or because He was trying to wake us up to the fact that our faith was just expecting too little.

But these lessons are precious and have changed my life and outlook and I would—in my right mind—do it all over again!

Winning the "unwinnable" by tapping into the power

(Becky:) One day I talked to three different born-again Christians. I didn't spend very long with them because there was no need as they're already saved. But the stuff they were telling me was very encouraging, like, "It's so nice to have people like you doing the job."

Other people, even though they were atheists, would say, "That was really special. Thank you for your time."

One guy I was talking to said, "Look, I have lots of time, but am I disturbing you? Are you okay?"

I said, "No, it's fine. This is my job." He prayed with me to receive Jesus, but at the end he was still struggling. He was like a child, trying to come to grips with it. So finally, I didn't even ask him, I just grabbed his arm and said, "Jesus, please help him to be able to understand all this and take it by

faith and come to know Your love and get to know You better." That really touched him.

I did that for an atheist guy also who didn't pray with me. And when I finished praying for him, I looked up and he was smiling so big. That's when he told me, "You really care for people."

(Amber:) People were amazed that we took the time to show that we cared about them. They were so thankful that somebody cared, that we were tuning into them, and that we actually cared where they go when they die. People would often say, "The whole world would believe in God if people were teaching it the way you do."

That was very cool for me, because I often feel inadequate in the way I speak. The Lord would remind me that we're all filled with the Holy Spirit, and we just need to activate that power and let it take control of us. For me He said, "You're supposed to put on My mind and you're supposed to let My Holy Spirit take over. You're not even supposed to be yourself anymore. Just let go."

(Sharon:) There were so many tourists and many of them were only in that city for a couple of hours, or maybe a day, and during that time they actually prayed to receive Jesus with us. Some of them said, "I came all the way over here just to pray with you."

Two Americans I witnessed to were so precious. At first I was a bit afraid to go up to them, because they were my age. But I started talking to them and I shared my personal testimony, and they prayed to receive Jesus. The girl's eyes just lit up. She had this huge smile and said, "Thank you so much for that prayer. Thank you so much." She just kept going on.

It meant a lot to them that someone took time to explain God and Jesus to them, because they both told me that they were total atheists when

I first met them. They were saying, "I hate God, and I hate church." So I explained to them the difference. I prayed for them and they were totally flipped and thanked me over and over again before I left.

(Carole:) I talked to one couple who saw our skit, and found out that they were Christians. They were from Germany, and the man was a surgeon. He said he'd been trying to witness to the other doctors and the nurses in his hospital, but he didn't know how to do it. I asked if I could pray for them, and the surgeon said, "Pray for me, that I can have the zeal and the passion that you have to win people to Jesus."

I said, "Look, that's only Jesus." I prayed for them, and they were so touched they were crying at the end.

The second meeting—Make it count

(Becky:) One thing that helped me when preparing for a second appointment is to pray and ask the Lord for specifics. It's happened to me twice where I prayed and the Lord told me what type of character the person has, the way they were going to be, what to avoid, what to be careful about and watch out for. And both times the person was exactly how the Lord said.

Asking for a donation

(Stephanie:) We always made it a practice to ask people for a donation after a witness. It was important to be Spirit-led and ask the Lord *when* to ask for a donation, what specifically to ask for, and also not to push, but to ask them only once.

It's about praying and asking the Lord about each person beforehand and also during your meeting with them. It's taking command in the spirit, trusting that the Lord will give the opening and lead in how to present it to them. Keeping it short and not rambling on after you've asked them is important—to be



quiet and let the Lord's Spirit convict them.

I had to make the effort to not come across like, "Excuse me for living for asking you," but to have the conviction that yes, the Lord wants to bless them and that I believe that they should help us, and that we are doing the most important job in the universe—and making them realize that as well!

Fighting in the spirit and desperate prayer

(Sharon:) On the way to Ireland, we ended up in a small coastal city in France called Cherbourg for the night. We were to take the ferry the next day. If we had obeyed the Lord and His words telling us to go and witness to the truckers waiting for the boat, we would have been out the next day. But pride stopped us, and we ended up staying there for the next four days.

Those were some of the roughest four days in our entire five-month journey. We were waiting for finances from somebody.

Though the Lord wanted to supply for us, He took us through a little maze to help us grow. Each of us young people on the team in Cherbourg was very vibrant, very enthusiastic, with a lot of get-up-and-go. What the Lord told us was to take that same vibrancy, that same enthusiasm, that same drive, and instead of going out and doing it ourselves, put it all into prayer. Put that determination, that drive, that enthusiasm, that excitement, and that desperation into the way in which you deal with Jesus on the subject.

When we put the oomph into prayer and fighting the Devil the Lord went before the team and within an hour supplied the €600 that was necessary for our travel.

This was a life-changer for me and those involved, as most of us were used to praying but never praying desperately, and never completely depending on prayer as a means to an end. The key was to put into prayer that same oomph that we put into other aspects of our outreach.

Rejection, success, and failure

(Sharon:) Something that was tough for me was being positive and still wanting to go out when

you just feel like crying. One Saturday, it was so, so tough from the beginning. I put the mask on and started crying inside the mask while doing the show, because I was so discouraged. But the Lord said, "Just keep on going. You have another half an hour." Then a precious guy got saved, and that made my day. It was perseverance and trusting the Lord completely—you have to love the Lord so much that you'll keep on going when you feel discouraged. He always comes through for you in the end.

(Stephanie:) One thing new for me was praying *for* people, because I never did that before. I talked with a guy named John, and he didn't want to pray with me. So I said a prayer for him and he said, "Wow, you know, maybe I'll come back another time and say the prayer with you." I didn't think anything of it, but then the very next day he came back. He said, "You know that prayer you wanted to pray with me? I'm ready now. Can you pray it with me?" So he prayed and got saved, and then he wanted to have a Bible study on salvation.

It's really neat how people, after you've prayed for them, are so happy and their face lights up. You really see the change in them, and I had never seen that before. Even if you can just pray for them it makes an impact on their life.

Reaching out to unreceptive people

(Becky:) One thing the Lord is trying to teach me is that it's not so much the people that are so tough and so difficult, but it's more me, and a blockage of thinking that it can't be done. It limits the Lord's ability to use us to reach others.

In one prophecy I received, the Lord gave me four or five different pointers about what to do to be able to reach seemingly unreceptive people. One was to pray for the keys of protection around them against different spirits that they are listening to. Another was to let my spirit helpers influence them and speak to them. Another one was to go in the power of the keys. I've found that it really works.

Once a few appointments we had with people fell through. I asked the Lord, "Why is this happening? What am I doing wrong?"

The Lord told me that I needed to get out there and get desperate, and pray against the Enemy. He said that *He* was the One Who was going to do it, and *He* would touch their hearts. Then it was inspiring, and it went really well.

I prayed with an atheist, which was cool because I'd been getting stuck with them for a few weeks, not being able to pray with them. One day I was talking with the most atheistic person you could find, but he prayed with me to receive Jesus. The point I found is to realize that it's not the people who are so difficult, but sometimes it's we who limit the Lord being able to reach them. The Lord can show us exactly what their key is and how to turn it.

(Sharon:) A young guy who was a total atheist said: "You know what? I know you believe what you believe in. You're so sure of it, and that's really amazing to me." I guess I was the first Christian he met who really believed in what they were saying. He said, "Just the fact that you believe in something so strongly, that's amazing!"

(Stephanie:) A lot of people I've talked to have commented on our sincerity, saying: "I can tell that you're sincere and you believe in this." They would thank me for taking time with them, and even if they didn't pray with me, they would thank me for caring. One guy even said, "When I look at the churches I don't believe in God. But when I see what you guys are doing, that is God to me."

(Dan:) A lot of people told me: "Well, maybe I don't agree with your theories or anything else about Jesus, but the fact that you're sincere and you believe what you believe, I hope for you that it turns out right. At the same time I can't help but consider the possibility because of your sincerity."

What I've also found that works for those who don't want to pray with me right there or just don't have the time, is to give them a tract and say, "On the back of the tract there is a prayer. I believe that if you pray that, Jesus will come through and God will reveal Himself to you in a very special way, if you pray that with

all your heart." I leave them with that, and then at least I've seen them acknowledge it. At least they know that that prayer on the back is special to me and I must really believe it. When they leave I then take a couple of minutes praying for them, that the Lord will grant my request and come through for them in a big way.

(Carole:) One thing I've used a couple of times is, "Look, I believe in this so much. This has made such a difference in my life. It's helped me so much, and it's what makes me so happy that I've come all the way here to give this to people here, because I know that this is the answer. I've found the answer, and I want to give it to you."

Changing our outlook

(Stephanie:) This whole experience has taught me a lot about the importance of asking the Lord everything in my witnessing. I haven't been so desperate in so long to be everything the Lord wants me to be to reach people. It's definitely just got to be Him.

Also hearing from the Lord on the spot for people and being in direct communication with the Lord and the Spirit—that made people actually feel the Lord's Spirit and not just hear a bunch of words you're babbling off.

I realized I've overcome any fears of talking to particular people. Now with anybody and everybody, I know that I can open my mouth and the Lord is going to have to put the right words in. Before, especially talking to businessmen, I had a blockage there.

It's really helped me in my personal life with the Lord. Things have been speaking to me a lot more, like I'm living the GNs more, living what Mama's talking about and what the Lord is talking about and what Peter is talking about, especially in the ones about the keys and using the keys in the "impossible" situations that we are in. Before it didn't mean so much, because I guess we didn't really understand what it was talking about because we weren't in such impossible situations before.

But here, with such hard people, we're learning how to rise above. Thinking back on the first

few days we were here, it was so embarrassing to be out there and it took us so long to get started, but now I'm okay with this! You learn to not really care and not to be so self-conscious.

I reread a few GNs, such as "Nothing Is Impossible" (ML #3316; GN920) and "The Era of Action" series (ML #3288-90; GN882-6), and those have totally come alive to me and taken on a whole new meaning as far as how the Lord wants us to start working miracles now. He's using these things to stretch our faith. This has been a total faith-stretching experience for me.

It makes me desperate to want to stay close to the Lord and hear from the Lord about everything. I feel the immediate need for it, whereas I never really felt it before. Now I feel that when I don't hear from the Lord, things just don't happen. And when I am in tune with the Lord and desperate and praying, then things do happen. When I have Word time, I really want to get everything I can out of it, and not just put in the hours, reading for the sake of reading. Now I need the inspiration and the faith from it so desperately just in order to keep going every day.

Now in my witnessing when talking to people, I'm not just saying memorized lines, which I

used to do a lot, but speaking from my heart because I believe it, and people see that and they comment on it. They can tell that this is more than just a job. Somebody said to me, "This is your life. I can feel that you really believe this."

(Sharon:) I've always been afraid of taking the first step, thinking I'm going to say something wrong. That first step is always so difficult. And expecting people to sit there and listen to me, and pray with me to receive Jesus—for me that was one difficult hurdle. But this has helped me to not be afraid of witnessing. I can be a witness anywhere and to anybody, be they white or Indian or black or whatever.

Stopping in the middle of the street and praying for businessmen, for their health, or for their parents, or for something for them in the power of the keys, and expecting the Lord to do a miracle right then and there—that was something different for me.

(Becky:) I don't think I've ever involved Jesus or the spirit world so much in my on-the-spot witnessing. Before, I basically shared with people what I know and what I've found in Jesus, but I wasn't asking the Lord right there what that person's key was and involving my spirit helpers.

In general I talk a lot, and I've been learning to be able to just say what that person needs and what's important, and not just jabber on about whatever I feel like saying. It keeps things precise and what that person needs to hear.

I've never been so proud of witnessing, I guess because I've never gotten so deep with people. I've never really gotten in and cared. With one guy I met, I felt like, "Please, please pray with me." And when he prayed, I was like, "Yes! Yes!" jumping up and down. I was so happy. I've never been happier and more proud of the witnessing that we've been doing.

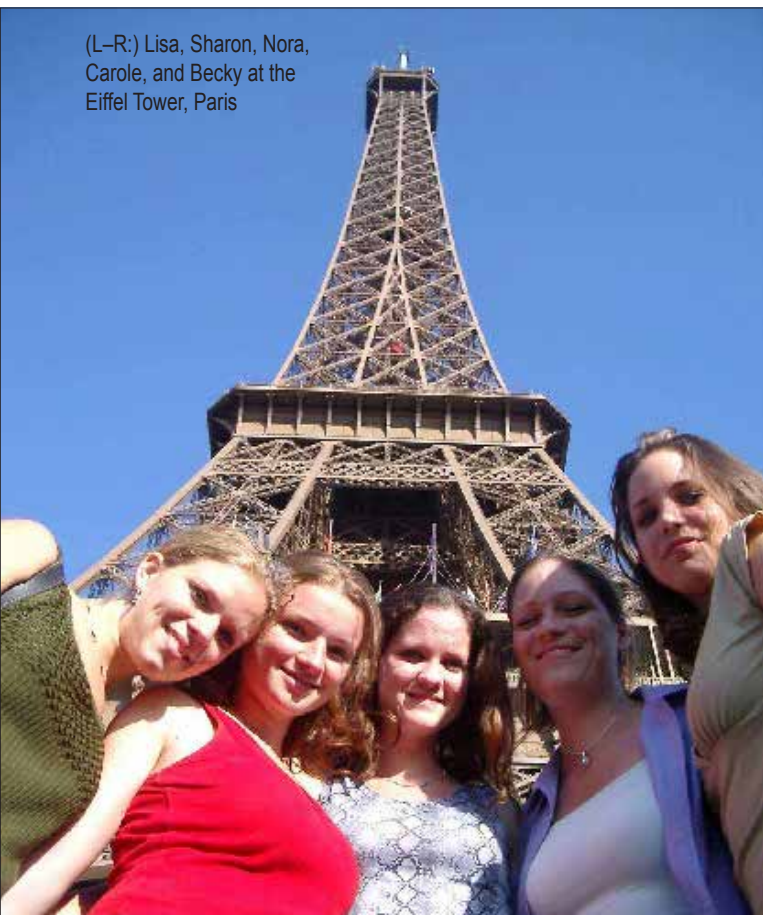
(Nora:) Hearing people's reactions when they get turned on to the Lord or they see the Lord's Spirit in you, seeing their gratitude, and feeling how it's changed their lives, has given me a lot of boldness to be proud of what I'm doing. We met people who were atheists, and we were able to bring them to Jesus.

It makes you very proud of the Family for that part of our message. It's so cool to be able to be different, to be able to stand up for what you believe.

(Sharon:) When I first started—that first week—everything seemed impossible, like it wasn't

going to work. I had to keep claiming the keys that I wouldn't think those thoughts, and be desperate against those thoughts entering my head. The first steps and the first days are always the most difficult, and then afterwards it seems so much easier—having people pray with you, then actually taking time talking with you, and then having them help financially. The whole thing for me was totally "impossible," but then once I would put the Lord on the spot, He always came through. That's something I had to keep holding on to, no matter what the reaction would be at first, and just learn to get over it, claim the keys, and go on even though it seemed impossible.

(Nora:) It was important to keep up our spirits when everything seemed to be going against us, and continuing to go on and on even though it seemed like it was not happening and the Lord was "failing" us. Even on a daily basis when we were talking to people and trying to give out tracts and we were getting "No, no, no," and things weren't going well, and you felt like you don't want to keep paining yourself, but we had to trust the Lord and keep going. We would keep pushing ourselves as the Lord led, and we'd always end up meeting the sheep. It was just a matter of us persevering.



(L-R:) Lisa, Sharon, Nora, Carole, and Becky at the Eiffel Tower, Paris



(L-R:) Nora, Lisa, Carole, Sharon, and Stephanie, doing our skit at the Eiffel Tower at night, Paris

Why wait? Just do it!

By the Botswana Home

The following is an account of what the Lord has been doing here. None of us can take any credit as it's definitely not us, we're just as ordinary as the guy next door. All credit goes to Jesus, only Jesus. He's the sweetest name to our lips, and without Him we can do nothing. He's simply the best!

As we complete 3,295 days in Africa, the Lord has been doing so much for us out here in the middle of nowhere. We are pretty much in the desert.

This year (2003) has been our busiest and the best year by far. Our Home here has distributed 20,000 Mag of the Month in 2003, which is an average of 1,667 per month, or 55 per day. Our order in the first six months from January through to July was 1,000 mags and increased to 2,000 from August through to January. So far in 2004 we have increased our order yet again, from 2,000 mags to 5,000 Mag of the Month.

With lots of road trips under our belt, the Home here has covered 650,000 kilometers of African soil spreading the Activated vision. On a monthly basis we cover well over 8,000 kilometers spreading *Activated*. Our target is 1,000,000 kilometers for Dad and this wonderful Family with *Activated*! The Home target is to shoot for 10,000 *Activated* Mag of the Month out each and every month.

Our wonderful tools are now in 18 outlets all over the country, which includes eight pharmacies, one accounting firm, two book shops, three hotels, doctors offices, Pick and Pay Family supermarket, a photo shop, a gift shop, and a hardware shop. These are just some of the places where Family tools are available. This is only the beginning, folks!

Over the years the Home here has distributed over 20,000 CD cards, well over 20,000 *Activated* mags, 15,000 videos, 200,000 posters, over 3,000 "Mottos for Success" calendars, thousands of *Activated* books, *Stories to Grow By*, *My King and I*, *Grandpa Jake*, and won thousands of souls.

The Family tools are simply the best in the world, and the quality is of the highest standard. The System doesn't even come anywhere near what we have to offer.

One of the main reasons we are sold on the *Activated* mag is that we read them each month, and it has a powerful effect on us. It touches our hearts and changes our lives, and we want everyone that we meet to have them as well.

Some of our friends are buying them in bulk and sending them home to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, India, Tanzania, South Africa, and Malawi,

So where to after this? ... The world, brother! Let's take the world. Anything wonderful can happen because Jesus is here! The Family is still the greatest, and this is the only place we want to spend the rest of our lives! Keep activating!

Flying high by putting *Activated* first

By James Chesspiece, India

We had not been doing so well on our Activated push for the past few months, as we were a new team, moved into a new Home, and there was a lot to do to set up the Home and get to know each other. At one of our area monthly outings, we read together the "Activate the World" GN (ML #3460, GN 1045). It was such a convicting Letter.

The next day we got together as a Home and decided to go on the attack. For the past months our stats were only four or five subscriptions per month as we were always pushing the tools. We were basically living hand to mouth and even dipping into our seedcorn at times to do

We were very encouraged and planned to go to the city where part of our team had joined us from and get their old contacts re-activated. As we were faithfully following up on all the sheep and getting the old contacts re-activated, the Lord has opened the doors there, too, with an order of 100 "Mottos." When we called home to give the good news, one of the brothers in the Home told us that he got a gift of Rs30,000 (US\$650) in the mail.

Here we have been struggling for the last few months, pushing in all directions to get out the tools. The God factor became very clear when we put the Lord first by putting the Activated first.

This month has been our best month because we had 21 subscriptions. (That may not sound like such a big figure to all the Homes that get them out in big numbers, but to us it was because we have given out five times more than our regular stats.) We had an output of 63 tapes, 22 audio CDs, 24 VCDs, 215 "Mottos," 85 souls, and a few unexpected big donations out of the blue. To sum it up, we were out of our financial crisis and flying high for a change all because we put Activated first.

“One of the main reasons we are sold on the *Activated* mag is that we read them each month.”

the daily shopping. This GN gave us the faith to believe that the Lord would bless us if we put Activated first. So the decision we came to as a Home was to show the *Activated* mags first when we are out witnessing, and then show the other tools. What we were used to in the past has been totally the other way around.

Every day teams started to come back home with testimony after testimony of how the Lord blessed them as they presented the mags, and how people were subscribing to them as well as taking other tools. Somehow, when we showed *Activated* first, the first impression people got had such an effect on the people we met. Presenting *Activated* also forced us to get straight to witnessing, to talk about the Lord instead of the usual line of CTP for introducing ourselves.

On the second day of the push, one man we were visiting on some business ordered 50 "Mottos for Success," when we asked him how he got the "Mottos" that was on his table. Amazing! We have so far never gotten out 50 "Mottos" together in this town, which is a small sleepy tourist town during off-season.

Don't file away that contact!

By David (of Tania), India

About a year ago, I provisioned some Velcro from a company when we were screening our Home. Velcro is not something we have need of very often, so it would have been easy to file this contact away indefinitely. However, the Lord showed me to keep following up on the manager in this company even though our meeting was short and he didn't seem so sheepy. He has since blossomed and has turned out to be very receptive. On our first follow-up trip he took a "Mottos" and sponsored a set of videos. On our second visit, he got activated, confirmed his company will be ordering at least 200 "Mottos," and he wants to start pledging a monthly gift!

This second visit landed on the day after we had specifically prayed for a breakthrough with our activating and follow-up. That morning we had memorized and claimed the key promise: "The keys of activation will help you get subscriptions to *Activated*. Call on them and the barriers will disappear, and you will be able to activate your part of the world."

Obedience Comes Before the Blessings

PART 2

—Reactions to “Are You Robbing God?” (ML #3461), and “Show Me the Money, Parts 1–5” (ML #3462, GNs 1046–1050)

The secret of life is obedience

Carmen (CO), SACRO: I haven’t heard a lot of bad-mouthing of our tithing policy, and in fact I myself—and others I’ve discussed it with—have admired how Dad came up with such an ingenious plan to help the Family support itself so totally independent from the System. Pretty amazing! Had to be the Lord! I thoroughly enjoyed reading this GN, and getting such a good review of our beliefs on the subject.

I guess I never questioned tithing because even when I was very young my parents had a real fear of the Lord about the tithe being the Lord’s money, and they passed that on to us kids. They taught us to faithfully set aside the tithe from our witnessing and any donated goods, etc. I’m so thankful that they ingrained that fear and respect in me, because to this day I believe with all my heart that if we give the Lord our tithe (which is pretty measly when you put it in perspective!) He totally outdoes our wildest expectations! I’ve experienced this many times and prefer to leave it up to the Lord to surprise me with His blessings. Which He does, amazingly!

That got me thinking about our kids and asking myself if we are passing on to them these very basic and important principles. I don’t think I’ve read the tithing MLs, at least not since I’ve been of an age where I could really understand them, but I realized that I do have the principles pretty deeply ingrained, and I owe that to my parents. Tithing was not negotiable; it was a way of life. I can’t help but notice that our compromises are really affecting our kids in a big way.

Dad’s points about the lack of fear of the Lord hit the nail squarely on the head. That answered my questions as to “what, where and how” so much compromise got into our lives. For me this is the most important point: grasping how dangerous it is to become familiar with the Lord, or take His love or blessings for granted. This lack of a healthy fear of the Lord is at the root of all the weakness in the Family. It’s so sad to see how it’s even filtered down and is affecting our children. It boils down to lacking the respect or awe that comes from knowing what it’s like to be in the hand of a living God, both when He’s loving and when He’s angry. There is so much compromise even at our kids level. GHU! If the foundation we give them is diluted with compromise, how will they ever have the conviction they need to be Endtime witnesses?

The point about our tithe being what we give to the Lord, *regardless of how it is used*, was very good! It’s so funny how we start thinking it’s “our” money, or that we have a right to have a say in how it’s spent. That’s pretty backwards if you think about it. I always remember Juan’s testimony, and it encourages me that when you give to the Lord—if you’re *truly giving*—you don’t have to worry about what happens to it. Shortly after Juan joined and gave his whole inheritance to the Family, he visited Jethro’s Home where they were—among other extravagances—drinking French wine (which was even illegal at the time and couldn’t be bought within the country!), and Juan started putting two and two together and it kind of stumbled him. Faithy prompted Juan to write Dad about it, which he did.

Dad’s answer was pretty simple: “Son, you gave it to the *Lord*, and the Lord will reward you for that. Whatever happens to it after that is between the people who handle it and the Lord.” I love Dad’s answer because it shows his faith in the Lord’s justice, and that he really wasn’t hung up on money for himself, and in Juan’s case his giving to the Lord was the only part that he had to worry about.

I think we’ve developed a serious case of selfishness, only wanting to give to specific people, and only wanting those people to spend it on specific things. It doesn’t seem to be very Christ-like to give only *if* the money will be spent “your way.” That’s not really giving, and it sounds like the System. I believe that we would be a lot “richer” if we weren’t so stingy with the Lord.

It feels really good to have the Lord setting the record straight on all these compromises that have slowly crept into our discipleship. As the quote says: “The big secret of life—everything good in your life depends on having My blessings, and having My blessings depends on your obedience to Me and My Word” (ML #3461:125, GN 1046).

Immediate results

Thaddeus English, Iceland: While it came as rather a shock that there would be some who would not be giving their tithe, it came as a bigger surprise that we were included in that number as we were not tithing the funds we used as seedcorn for balloons and face paints, as we had lumped it all together with the *Activated* seedcorn.

After going back and correcting this and transferring the funds to the tithe

account, I thought nothing more of it. It wasn’t a large amount, but it just felt good to have got it sorted out with the Lord. Imagine our surprise when the next day we received a gift for US\$300, followed by a new fruit and veggie contact, and a real breakthrough in our *Activated* subscriptions, which has resulted in the greatest number of subscriptions we have ever received, along with the greatest number of mags distributed here!

The challenge is clearly laid out before us and we can trust that, by taking a step at a time, we shall see the fruits of obedience to His Word.

Blessed through tithing

Heidi Butterfly, USA: Tithing is something that I have never had a problem with, even when I was FM and there were times that finances were very tight (especially when I was a single mom with three kids). I always knew that the Lord would take care of us, and that the tithe was the Lord’s and not ours. I saw over and over again how much the Lord supplied in miraculous ways, and I always knew that the Lord would continue to take care of us as long as we didn’t rob Him of His tithe.

During that time we didn’t get a lot back, but we never ever thought not to tithe. Even if we didn’t get anything back in the physical, we still would receive the Lord’s blessing for being obedient. I can honestly say that in my 30 years of tithing, I have never once suffered because of it. In fact, I have felt blessed many times over because of it.

Just \$10 a month

Vine, Canada: I recently heard an inspiring story about tithing and giving. A woman in the ’60s or ’70s gave \$10 a month to help support a child in India through Save the Children. She saved and sent this \$10 every month for some years until the child reached 18. He sent her thank-you notes and they exchanged occasional letters.

Thirty years later she received a phone call from this child she had been supporting, who was now a man. He was overcome with emotion, and told her how because of her he was able to get an education and become a successful businessman. He was helping 1,000 poor children in the Philippines, because she’d helped with that \$10 a month. This story inspired me that though we may not see it now, the fruit of our tithing will be exceedingly and abundantly more than we ask or think.

happenings

Starting the day with united prayer

The Island Festival

Jason, Hungary: The Island Festival in Budapest is one of the most outstanding events of the year here in Hungary. Its advertising campaigns attract thousands of young people from all over Europe and even as far away as the United States and India. On opening day, hordes of youth swarm through its gates eagerly seeking some spot where they can pitch their tents for the week, and start looking for friends new and old as they enjoy the Festival's array of live pop music bands, bungee-jumping and other fun things to see and do. It has been referred to by some as the longest running party in Europe.

There were literally thousands of campers' tents strewn throughout this portion of the island. Like mushrooms popping up after the rain, there were tents everywhere! Walking through this area was like being in a local foreign community neighborhood of the United Nations.

There were campers from many nationalities and languages all around us. We claimed a large portion of the area by throwing a rope around some trees and placing our tents in a big horseshoe-shaped formation inside it. At the entrance of our campsite, we parked our vanload of equipment and lit beside the main circle-road that runs throughout the island. We left a large clearing in the center of our half circle where people could sit and listen to our music or freely join in with the Gypsy dancing that would be happening later.

And there we were! Located right in the center of a sea of tents full of hungry, searching spectators!

Someone had a vision of a mobile sign being held up and shown around throughout the multitudes like we used to do in the early days of the pop festivals of the '70s! But we still weren't sure. A bit later, the Lord inspired us with the idea of using some wide, black, duct tape to spell out the name "THE FAMILY" on each side of our big white van! Completely unknown to the team at the island, that day the Lord had also given a vision to one of the CGO board members who was still at home, in which the white van was going around the island with "The Family" written on it in big letters! Wow! Talk about the Lord punching through! This was amazing!

In the days that followed, when the van was not parked at our campsite, it frequently moved throughout the island gathering supplies and personnel, serving as a mobile sign, advertising the Family's presence at the island. As the van passed through the crowds of onlookers, many fes-



Shannon preaching the Word



Paula, Mary, Liberty, Andy, and Sunny preparing lit for the evening witnessing attack

tival fans from bygone years, smiled and waved frantically at us as they shouted, "Hey guys! The Family is here!"

Witnessing stats for the Island Festival:

(Population of the general public in attendance was 300,000.)

Personally witnessed to: 3,649

Tracts distributed: 13,500

Souls won: 580

Filled with the Holy Spirit: 191

Mass witness through nightly singing, magazine and radio interviews, and administration's surveys: 15,600

[Editor's note: You can read the full article on the MO site with testimonies from those who attended the festival, and responses from those who met the Family during the festival. Check it out at in the Newswire / Witnessing section.]

Tracting at Balkan music festivals

Miracle and Andrew, Yugoslavia: We were able to do some large-scale tracting at "Echo," the most popular music festival in Belgrade where 50,000 Serbian youth came looking for loud music, drugs, and alcohol, but found themselves being presented with "What Some People Get High On" tracts instead! Even the musicians and security people loved it! We got out all the Serbian tracts we had, plus lots of English copies,

which the youth liked, as Serbia is leaning more and more toward the West! A total of 3,000 tracts altogether!

There was also a celebration in Pristina, where there was an evening of rock music on the main street, with all the best bands from Albania and Kosovo performing. Here again "What Some People Get High On" was a hit, and the young people swarming the streets readily received over 800 of them. Miracle found the restaurant where the musicians were waiting to go on stage, and they also each happily received their own copy.

Putting personal witnessing first

Gloria, Argentina: During one of our school breaks we took the opportunity to have most of the Home out witnessing. Every day where we put personal witnessing first, the Lord made it real fruitful as far as funds received, too. We met many hungry sheep of all ages who we can follow up on. With all this witnessing activity, there is a lot of inspiration in our Home, the teams come back real inspired with testimonies, and miracles of what the Lord did for them that day.

Every so often, we choose a basic MO Letter and edit it to make a tract for distribution. Recently, we printed "Mountain Men," and the success has been amazing. People would read it and react to it right there on the spot, giving us great opportunities for a deeper witness.

In Response to...

—“Which Comes First: The Revelation or the Artwork?” (ML #3474, Post-It GN #12)

What’s the fuss?

Christina (of Marcus),

Taiwan: I really enjoy Tamar’s pencil sketches—they have a heavenly spirit! As most people who enjoy drawing know, it’s not easy to draw people with a really heavenly spirit. These illustrations help me to grasp the points that are hard for me to picture in the Letters as well.

My husband graduated from a distinguished art college in England, and has been in photo and layout work for over 30 years in the Family. I have always enjoyed drawing, and won a couple of art prizes at school in my senior high school days. I’ve also taken some short courses on graphic design and interior design as well.

In our experience in pub work, or even when we are painting as a pastime or with other artists, we can see as the Lord, Mama, and Tamar shared, that it’s the norm in the artist world to copy or use others’ artwork. Besides, even if an artist has an original idea, this idea first appears as a vision in our mind, and we simply *copy* it on paper or whatever other art form.

It seems to be a very big deal in the West to be original, maybe that’s why it shocks some people when they find Tamar is mostly a copy artist. (I am too, and I am thankful that the Lord has given me this gift!) In the East, it’s so common for people to copy each other that it’s not an issue at all! Being original is sometimes just a pride trip promoted by some.

All artists copy, they can never have all original ideas. Whatever ideas that they think they come up with in their mind are either put there by God or the Devil, and they just copy it onto paper. So why do people need to make such a fuss over it? It just goes to show, as the last prophecy in the Letter shares, that it has to do with our leaning on our

carnal mind and losing that simple childlike faith.

I have two experiences in the Family to prove what the Lord shares that revelation comes first, and then the artists draw it.

Years ago when I was teaching a group of young children to memorize, some of the verses were not put on the *Memory Book* tapes yet. I made up a tune to the verse, “A true witness delivereth souls, but a deceitful witness speaketh lies,” and taught the children the song to memorize it. The Lord encouraged me to send the song in, but I felt I was not a musician, the tune didn’t sound great to me, so I didn’t send it in. Later when a new verse tape came out, that verse was put into song, and it was the *exact same* tune that the Lord had given me! I felt so ashamed that I didn’t have more faith in what the Lord had given me, but at the same time it encouraged me to know that the Lord can give the same revelation (or same tune in this case), to two different people in two different countries. That encouraged me to hear from the Lord more and obey Him.

Another time I was going through some huge battles and needed to overcome bitterness. One night I had a dream about reading a GN on this subject, and the page I was reading had a black and white illustration of a guy holding an axe walking towards a huge plant of bitterness weed to cut it down. When I woke up, I knew the Lord was speaking to me to cut out the bitterness roots in my life, but I couldn’t find the Letter or the illustration, because there was no such Letter at that time. A year later a Letter on bitterness was published, and one of the illustrations in the Letter was the same one I saw in my dream!

So, as the Lord and Mama shared, who can say

the Lord didn’t give Tamar and other Family artists those revelations and then anoint them to find some illustrations by System artists? Maybe the Lord knows our artists will need to use them, but He makes these System artists draw them just to save our artists time and work.

I pray my experiences will encourage others that the Lord does speak and give to more than one person the same idea or vision. Who cares whose art it is, as long as it illustrates the point? When you look at it, everything in our daily lives is somebody else’s idea. Let’s wake up and know that it’s the Enemy who’s attacking our faith.

The spiritual fight is on!

Mercy (of Byron), Europe:

God bless dear Tamar for her apology. Personally, I don’t think she should be the one apologizing; she was just doing her job. I think the ones who read and believe the detractors’ material should be the ones apologizing. How come they even have time to read that stuff? After all Mama and Peter have said about it, and asked them not to read it, they still do it. It reminds me of the Letter “The Cesspool” (ML #664, Vol.5).

I don’t even look at the pictures of the demons; even in the GNs it bothers me to. I know they’re real no matter what they look like. I know the spiritual warfare is on; we can sense it all around us. It’s all over the newspaper, and if you don’t see that, instead of criticizing the artist, ask the Lord to open your mind. The next time you go through a battle, or if you’re battling

with doubts due to this attack, then start fighting in the spirit, rebuke the Devil, call on the good spirit helpers, and you’ll see changes. The effects of your spiritual fighting will manifest themselves and you’ll know the spirit world is real and you have influence on it.

“It’s what the greatest artists do”

Gregg, Uganda: I was majoring in art when I met the Family and dropped out. One of my favorite artists was Norman Rockwell who used to do the covers of the *Saturday Evening Post*. He is perhaps America’s most well-loved and famous artist. He drew people in various interesting settings, and portrayals of life in America at that time. Just one picture told a whole story and was so interesting, and the characters so vivid and real. I found out his secret!

The reason that they were so real, is that he meticulously searched out real people who fit what he wanted to picture. Usually his picture contained a number of people, and he would arrange them on a set in the exact pose that he wanted. He would set his entire scene with real people and then take a picture of it. Then, he simply copied the picture! I read a book on this once, and it showed one picture that he had drawn free hand, as he either didn’t have the time to get the models or he wanted to see if he could do it on his own. It was really off. The proportions weren’t right and the whole thing just lacked that usual Norman Rockwell magic. So Tamar shouldn’t worry if she copies—it’s what the greatest artists do.

“ I know the spiritual warfare is on, we can sense it all around us... ”

NuBeat Radio Show

Responses

BY ROBIN, UGANDA

After our trip to Paidha (see "Action Africa," *CLTP* #58) we made a similar trip to Soroti in Western Uganda, which for the first time had come under attack from the LRA rebels, causing a lot of fear, insecurity, death and suffering. *NuBeat* has been playing on the *Voice of Teso*, the main radio station that covers the region. Here are a few comments on the impact *NuBeat* has had in Paidha and Soroti.

Simon, I am very much joyous and delighted to hear and receive you live on our radio station (*Radio Paidha*). I was actually praying for the *NuBeat* team to at least come to our region after the planned visit to *Radio Paidha* flopped last year due to the northern region emergency. I thank God for having protected and granted your journey mercy all the way from Kampala to Paidha.

I want to pass my word of appreciation and glory back to God for the life-giving *Activated* magazines you have been sending me. I give glory back to God for what He is doing for me through *NuBeat* who continue to help me in my spiritual way of life and set my foundation on the Rock, which is Jesus Christ. The message you

continue to give me through *NuBeat* transforms and models both my physical and spiritual life.

—Chris

There is nothing that can stop God from reaching His people. That is why I would like to give Him thanks before going further. I hope God blesses you all.

We have succeeded in forming the *NuBeat* Club, though the school administration had accepted to register the club officially next year as one of the clubs in the college. We have a patron, chairman, vice chairman, speaker, deputy speaker, general secretary, vice secretary, librarian, assistant, and other members.

We would like to express to you the feelings of the members to invite you next year to come and open the club to commence its activity officially in the college.

I do appreciate your program, which is so educative; especially for us young generation and the current world. I wish it was aired on a daily basis. I'm a 16-year-old student. I always listen to the *NuBeat* program every Saturday and Sunday. The reason I love the program is that you play nice music which is spiritually good, and it makes me feel good and loved by others, especially my friends who've come to know the program through my efforts.

—Oneka

I listened to *NuBeat* for a couple of years. It consoles people, changes people's lives, and at the same time helps people to know the Word of God well. It can even convince people to know the Word of God well through this show. The music always, through a Gospel show, teaches and makes people really happy. So I like *NuBeat*, and will continue with *NuBeat*.

—Francys

I always listen to the *NuBeat* show on *Radio Paidha* on Mondays and Saturdays. I really enjoy and appreciate the great music and words of hope. So many things keep on happening in my life, and I thank God for whatever happens for I know He has a master plan. God be with you.

—Ronald

NuBeat is a good Gospel show, and it inspires us so much. It helps us to know what the Gospel is all about. It has helped people a lot to improve their lifestyle. It has improved the world! The music also keeps people tuned in to the radio station a lot. It's really great! The program has also helped to preach the Gospel, and has converted a lot of people into real, real Christians. That's why I really love *NuBeat*! Thank you!

—Ricky

GRAPES OF THANKFULNESS

To dear **Phillip** (of Dawn) for the super inspiring and envisioning *Activated* meeting during the Family Camp in Hungary. Your conviction and total dedication to the *Activated* program inspired us all, and gave us the boost we needed to keep going! Thank you for that life-changing meeting, and for all you are doing for us in the field. Keep up the good work!

To the staff who worked so hard and organized the Family Camp 2003 in Hungary. While we were enjoying the fellowship and the fun you all worked so hard to make everything possible. Just want to let you know that all your efforts have been noticed and appreciated by many. You are great! Thanks!

—PAOLO ALLELUIA, CROATIA

Dearest **Mike and Cat, Jonas and Lisa, Sela and everyone else I met in Stockholm** this summer: thank you so much for everything; you're all great people and I appreciate all the help you offered! Praying for you folks!

—Love, Ab

While most people were having fun and relaxing at the Family Camp in Hungary, I was especially touched by the sample of loving shepherding and kindness

Dawn showed to many there. Seeing her listening, talking and praying literally for hours with various people there made me so thankful for true shepherds like her! I particularly noticed it, because I know it must have been draining, as I experienced it myself at times, but your sample of love and truly laying down your life for others in need, within the Family, really convicted me, Dawn! Thank you so much!

—ANGELA, CROATIA

This grape of thankfulness is to **Jonathan Clay**. Thank you so much for your love gift to help pioneer Eritrea. I want to let you know that we are here now—John and Marianne also. Your concern and giving made it possible for us to be here, and I want to thank you.

—NEHEMIAH, ERITREA

We just wanted to thank our wonderful Family in supporting us for our move to Canada. We especially want to thank dear **Faithy and Mark (JP006), Gideon and Joan (JP28), and Aaron and Joyful (IA56)** for their generous gift. It's so sweet of you, and we are deeply touched! Thank you again a thousand times!

—JOHN AND JACINTHA, INDIA

This is a grape of thankfulness for **the ABM in our area**. We want to give you a great applause of appreciation for always being prompt to pass on any messages. What would we do without you? And to the **Media team**, we want to thank you for your faithfulness and quickness in replying anytime we need your help. And while we are at it, we'd also like to give our appreciation to our **VSs and COs** for their faithful shepherding on our area.

—PHOENIX HOME, ROMANIA

Tim Lovebridge, thank you so much for your kind help! Wherever you are, we are keeping you in our daily prayers. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated!

Dear **New Zealand Family, Michael, Christine, Jonny, Dave, Maria, Santi, and kids**, our stay there would not have been possible without you! Thank you for going way out of your way to take such great care of us. We admire you for keeping up the good work all these years, even though you're at the ends of the world (quite literally!) We love you, and remember you and the work there in our thoughts and prayers.

—LOVE, ANTHONY, ANGEL, AND BABY KENNETH, INDIA

Pray!



Healing key: The keys of healing contain Heaven's power, so use them when you pray, and you will see wonderful, outstanding, and supernatural miracles.

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

Sam (of Mariapaz), Colombia:

When Charles William, our daughter Dawn's second child, was born, it seemed he had contracted pneumonia while in the womb. The doctors said there was a possibility that the baby had something in his stomach, as he had ingested some liquid. The infection in his lungs was seen in an x-ray, and the doctors told us the baby would need to stay in IC for around 20 days.

We prayed with all of our hearts, claiming the keys of the Kingdom, and also started a prayer chain with different Homes. We didn't want to be overwhelmed by the opinions of the doctors. The Lord didn't make us wait long for an answer.—The next day, little Charles was totally healed from the pneumonia, and had no bad symptoms in his stomach.

Thanks to Jesus and the keys, he began to nurse and digest his food. The second x-ray showed that his lungs were totally clear. All glory to the Lord! Dawn's delivery was also a beautiful testimony to the doctor and nurses who attended, as she wanted to have a totally natural delivery without any drugs or anesthesia. This brought a lot of attention, because most of the System women only think of how to avoid the pain. Also, she had the faith that the Lord would heal her baby. Thanks to our dear Husband and the Keys of the Kingdom we are able to tell this testimony.

Vera (of Daniel), Ukraine: I want to thank everyone for praying for me. I was diagnosed with a staph infection, and have had cervical erosion for the last five years. I am also pregnant. Despite the fact that I took treatment twice (one natural, one antibiotic), the results of my tests remained the same—the level of white blood cells in my body was high. The infection didn't clear up, and I was long overdue to have the cervical erosion treated, which required a minor operation. Cervical erosion, when left untreated, can develop into cervical cancer. The doctors were waiting on my infection to heal up before operating on my cervix, all along suspecting that the cervical erosion caused the infection to set in.

I sent in my prayer requests a few times, and the last time I was checked they gave me a clean bill of health! My white blood cells are within the norm, my infection was not detected, and even my erosion is getting smaller. The doctors say that it might heal up on its own! What a miracle! I am so thankful for the time you spent praying for my healing!

Asia

Joy (of Jim): She has had a recurrence of cancer that has rapidly spread throughout her body. Please pray for her faith and encouragement at this time, as well as for her family.

Liberty (of Ivan): Rectal cancer that has spread to the glands. Liberty has chosen to not go the medical route with an operation, chemotherapy, and radiation. She has been experiencing some pain when walking, has serious indigestion at times, and lately is bleeding again. Please continue to uphold Liberty in your prayers, that the Lord will deliver her from the cancer fully, for regular digestion, physical and spiritual strength, and for a proper diet.

Europe and Africa

Jordan David (3 months, of Adam and Esty): Liquid in his testicles, to drain without any medical help; against a possible hernia in his testicles; for complete healing and no further complications.

Love (of David): Arrhythmia of the heart, hemorrhoids, uterus erosion, nerve jamming in sacrum, pain in coccyx, against hypostasis, metritis.

Philip (of Gentleness): Spinal hernia. Philip has been suffering for over a year with severe backaches, and has undergone different treatments—regular massage, chiropractic visits, special exercise programs in fitness centers, etc.—and the pain has not subsided. He recently had it diagnosed as an advanced case of spinal hernia, and the usual option is an operation. The Lord miraculously led us to a very skilled doctor, who has the faith to try natural treatment. The treatments consist of massage, stretching of the spine, electric impulses, different vitamins and medicine, etc. It will take 14–18 of these treatments before it will be certain if his body reacts positively to the treatment, but thus far the doctor is optimistic.

We would like to ask you, dear ones, to please fight with us in prayer, claiming Philip's complete healing and relief from pain via this treatment. If it is successful it will still take a year for his full recuperation. We would also like to ask for your prayers for our financial situation, as these treatments are relatively expensive. Please pray that Philip's body reacts positively to the treatment, for the

Lord's anointing on the doctor. Complete relief from all pain and discomfort, and complete healing via this treatment and that no operation will be needed.

Rachel: Recently, I was diagnosed with gastritis, ulcers and disbacteriosis, which also seem to give me an outburst of acne and eczema. I want to be healed not only from the manifestations of this problem but that the One Who made me would fix my organs and make them work in unison from now on. Thank you for your prayers for my healing.

Ruthie (of Baruc): Breast cancer; she has had two operations to remove the tumors. The Lord showed her that He wants to heal her without further medical treatment, contrary to the doctors' advice. Please keep praying that she doesn't have a relapse, but that her body continues to get stronger.

Stefan Pioneer: Against the inflammation of the tissue in my knee; that the inflamed tissue will not produce water. Against the backaches (lumbago) that only allow me to have four or five hours of sleep; for strengthening of my back, my weakened body (because of the lack of sleep) and full recovery. Against the small hard lump under my skin below the ear, whatever it is; to vanish completely.

Victoria: For the iron level in her blood to go up so that she can have the operation she needs. For strength for her heart after a recent heart attack; general health and that her body will recuperate fully after all these health problems.

Pacific

Family in China: For the protection and safekeeping of our Family there from SARS, as there is a suspected recurrence of the disease there. That this will not prove to be SARS, but some other sickness. That whatever the sickness, that it will not spread and that there will be no more SARS in China. Please pray specifically for this as it is going to hit the Homes pretty hard if it is, as many are still pulling out of the financial slump from the last epidemic and have little in reserves.

South America

Angela (of Jonas): Recent tests showed she has traces of cancer in her thyroid gland. She needs to do several tests, which are exhaustive, and she is unable to use the hormones she is accustomed to using.

Stephie (7, of Daniel and Charity): Suffered injuries after a car accident. For the complete healing of her body, and that there won't be any further hemorrhaging or retaining of fluid, and for the clearing up of the infection in her lungs. For easy breathing, and complete restoration of her irritated vocal cords.

entertainment

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

THE LAST SAMURAI (2003)

Tom Cruise, Ken Watanabe

An American Civil War veteran is brought to Japan to train the emperor's troops to defeat the last of the country's samurais.

(Jesus:) This is a moving portrayal of the samurai at the time of the modernization of Japan. It clearly sides with the samurai; though in history nothing is completely black and white. Modernization did help the country in some ways, and hurt it in others.

This is a good movie because it focuses on the importance of a clear understanding of other cultures and peoples. So many in history have made the mistake of making assumptions about others who they didn't understand, and as a result of those wrong assumptions they ended up as enemies when things could have been resolved more peacefully and cooperatively.

The movie is well made and filmed, and will be especially interesting to those who are interested in the Japanese culture and traditions. Despite some bloody scenes, it is nonetheless a movie worth watching.

While you, My children, are not of this world and so you cannot have such a deep love for your culture and land as those in this movie do, you can have that deep love for your Family—doing anything at all costs to preserve your foundation and beliefs.

Good points about this movie are:

- * Insight into the Japanese culture.
- * The way the movie doesn't follow the Hollywood formula of making the Americans, either as an entity, or even the persona of the main character, the "hero" or "good guy" or "smartest" or "strongest."
- * The exposé of war, and its horrors.
- * The sweetness of the character study, the delving into the hearts and minds of the main characters rather than keeping them shallow; the demonstration of how a life can change through care and friendship.
- * The fighting spirit manifested; the determination to fight for a cause, even until the death, if need be. Though the cause of the samurai may not have been the most "righteous" one, and though in a way they weren't even fighting so much for a cause as much as to defend their honor, it is still inspiring to see that fighting spirit, that spirit of "never give up." If men of the world can fight with such strength and courage for their cause, or even their honor, how much more should you, My children, be willing to fight to your last breath for the ultimate cause?
- * It showed how discipline leads to excellence, which is an essential element of the Japanese culture and part of what has made them so successful in many ways; this is an aspect of life that has been largely lost by Western cultures.

The things in this movie that were not godly:

* The over-glorification of the samurai values: both their warlike nature, and their stubborn belief that honor is served by dying nobly, and in many cases by your own hand. It is pride to have so much sense of self-worth that you cannot bear to be conquered or to submit to another.

* There is a subtle anti-Christian, pro-Buddhist philosophy and message portrayed; as in, the Americans were Christians and they were such savages, and the samurai were Buddhist and therefore wise and strong and peaceful and balanced and all these good things.

Overall it has a good message, a message of fighting and being strong, resolute, and loyal. It's an inspiring example of courage and bravery. It's a heavy, thought-provoking movie, one which is only good for those who can have the maturity to extract the proper conclusions and not be misled.

WHAT'S COOKING (2000)

Mercedes Ruehl, Alfre Woodard, Juliana Margulies, Kyra Sedgwick, Joan Chen

Four imperfect families, representing four ethnic groups, prepare for their traditional Thanksgiving dinners.

(Dad:) This is an interesting look into the cultural differences of U.S. immigrants and how they handle problems that come up in their lives. It's a character study with insight into the Latino, Vietnamese, African-American, and Jewish cultures. The story keeps jumping from family to family, as they all live out their Thanksgiving Day centered around their turkey meals and the different ways they are prepared and the different side dishes associated with the different cultures. It's humorous at times and serious at times as their troubles as well as their dinners play out.

It's interesting to see how they celebrate, cook, and pray. But most of all it's interesting how they deal with their family struggles and the acceptance of different difficult issues. This is probably the main theme that the producers are trying to convey—tolerance to new and different things. There is a vein of trying to get the viewer to accept certain values and morals, such as lesbianism, and an underlying message of accepting the politically correct agenda of the System. The lesbian couple are presented as misunderstood and not accepted, and the impression is given that some need to go against the Lord's standards and principles to find fulfillment and love, which isn't true.

There are also sensitive issues of infidelity addressed, and in some cases the perspectives of the people in the movie are not the perspectives the Family should have. This movie is insightful, and not harmful for

the Family to watch, as long as they understand not to swallow all that is presented.

Movies Rated for Junior Teens and Up

LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING (2003)

Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen

Conclusion of the J.R.R. Tolkien trilogy, portraying the final great battle to save Middle Earth.

(Jesus:) The content of this movie is very much in keeping with the style of the previous two, and the overall spirit of the Tolkien series. It's a continuation of the great battle between good and evil, culminating in a victorious ending, albeit one with its tribulations as well as sacrifices. It's a fun adventure for those who appreciate that. It also has spiritual parallels that can be applied to your lives as My soldiers and disciples.

This movie comes at a good time in the history of the Family, and of the world for that matter. Never before have the forces of darkness amassed such armies to fight against all that is good and loving in this world. Never before has My Family been given so many spirit helpers to help fight this royal battle—and truly, if it weren't for their help, it would be an almost impossible task.

The Enemy has besieged the Family and you have attacks from within and from without. You must sound the rallying cry to man the walls and to attack the Enemy head on—to not accept defeat or to lay down your swords. Never give in. Never desert your post. Stand strong and hold the line!

Lessons that can be drawn are lessons of faith, and specifically of recognizing the Enemy's devices of doubt, dissension and disunity, and temptations of power or the pull of the "forbidden fruit." There are lessons on unity and working together, for as the peoples banded together and helped each other they were strong enough to overcome the powerful strength of the enemy. There are lessons of courage and bravery, of honor and valor. Also lessons of fighting, perseverance, continuing to hold on and press forward despite seeming impossibility.

The movie shows, like the others, the pull that greed and desire for power can have on people. It illustrates very clearly the struggle that even good people go through, as we are all men of like passions.

This movie is more violent than the first two, with major battles; you witness the pain and sacrifice and suffering of war, so sensitive viewers should be mindful of that. But while there are a lot of fighting scenes, it's not senseless battles as you get in some movies today. These battles were against evil and darkness; they were a fight against oppression and wickedness.

Some other strange and “spooky” things are also portrayed, as has been the case in all the movies in this series. Anyone who is sensitive to violence, or very spiritually sensitive, should be prepared for this, or avoid it; and, because of the presence of this darker side, the movie is not suitable for younger audiences.

There are some topics that may need some discussion or explanation with some younger teens, such as the topics of insanity and suicide that are brought into the picture, and some relationship issues—including parent/child relationships, and man/woman relationships.

The darkest hour is just before dawn, and that’s what this movie portrays. The main characters don’t have much chance of winning, but through their faith, perseverance, and fighting spirits, they pull through to victory. As the final chapter in the trilogy of the *Lord of the Rings*, the message it leaves you with is positive and uplifting. It has a happy ending, and just as surely will I come to make things right—I, the real King and heir to the throne.

TIMELINE (2003)

Paul Walker, Frances O’Connor, Gerard Butler

A group of archaeological students become trapped in the past when they go there to retrieve their professor.

(*Dad:*) This movie has excitement, mystery, a little romance, very little bad language, and overall it was quite well done. I like sci-fi, and also historical epics, and this was sort of a cross between the two.

With these action-adventure movies set in the olden days, there’s always that element of knightly bravery and heroism that you don’t see in modern action films. This one has a twist, however, in that it’s modern folks learning the ways of the past because they’ve been transported there. It’s interesting how each one reacted and blended in, or didn’t. It was pretty different back then.

This movie takes place during the Hundred Years’ War between France and England, so it’s quite violent throughout. It’s a shame that it didn’t explore more of the interesting differences of life back then compared to life now. It would have made for a more well-rounded movie. But alas, they wanted to make this movie more “exciting,” so it’s pretty filled with violence.

The movie portrays how cheap human life was back then. It was shocking to those who went back in time. They were pushed into the situation of “kill or be killed.” I tell you, it’s not all that different than the last hundred years, with the two World Wars, Vietnam, Korea, Yugoslavia, the Congo, Rwanda, Afghanistan, and Iraq, amidst numerous other wars. Human life is still being taken for granted today. It’s just that all that ugliness is being hidden a bit

better, so that the general population will accept it more easily. That’s the drawback to this movie—all the violence. But other than that, it’s a fun adventure, albeit very unrealistic.

Movies Rated for JETTs and Up

POSSUMS (1998)

Mac Davis, Cynthia Sikes

In a small town in Oklahoma, the mayor is on the brink of canceling the school sports program. To save the Possums, the local high school football team, a Possums supporter goes on the air at the local radio station, fabricating fantastic Possum plays that never happened.

(*Jesus:*) This movie has some good lessons on having faith, forgiveness, not giving up, and unity. It shows the good effect that positive speaking can have on others. It’s the “tell her she’s beautiful and she’ll be beautiful” theory.

It brings out the sample of how far you can help someone by having faith in them and encouraging them and seeing the positive. The students had to apply themselves to become a good team, but knowing someone had faith in them was the motivator in making it happen. It brings out some points on teamworking as well.

The part about Jake, the student who loves football but is afraid of being tackled, isn’t very clear. It’s never brought out why he has this fear, but it shows that he does overcome it. Our children are blessed to have the power of the keys, prayer, and the Word to help them overcome their fears. Also, there is one part where a father is very proud and doesn’t want to receive some help from his son. It’s just his pride that keeps him in bondage to a mistake he made many years ago. These parts, and perhaps others, might need explaining.

This movie could be shown to JETTs and even those who are younger, if the parents have seen it beforehand and are prepared to explain the parts that are not such good samples.

Movies Rated for MCs and Up

BARBIE AS RAPUNZEL (2002)

Animated, voices of Kelly Sheridan, Anjelica Huston

Abandoned as a baby, Rapunzel has been raised in a manor house hidden deep within a magic forest. One day she accidentally stumbles across a secret passage leading to the world outside where she meets a handsome stranger.

(*Jesus:*) This is a movie about good versus evil, love versus greediness, and love and friendship overcoming all odds. Some kids will enjoy it more than others, and it’s definitely more of a girls’ movie, but it has its good points. The evil isn’t scary to the point of giving nightmares, but just enough

to show that it is bad, and to bring out the good in the other characters.

One thing to warn parents of is to explain the bad woman’s power and tell the kids that My power is much greater. There are many kids’ movies that show people with power, and unfortunately, most of them are bad people using the Enemy’s power, so this needs to be powwowed with the kids.

Another discussion point that can be brought out is how if the kings of the two different kingdoms had worked things out and talked about their problems, they could have worked together and found Rapunzel. But instead they were fighting with each other and were doing exactly what the bad lady wanted them to do, just like the Devil doesn’t want you to work things out and work together in love, but tries to get you fighting and bickering.

It has a good ending, as everyone learns good lessons in the end and everything works out for good. It can even be good for some YCs, but there will need to be an adult there to help preview and powwow it.

kidbits

Michelle Karishma Melody, 3rd child, born to **Snezhana and Jonas** on October 4.—India

Alessia Rain, 2nd girl, born to **Angela and Jonathan** on October 4.—Italy

Kenneth Hayden, 1st child, born to **Angel and Anthony** on October 6.—India

Aman Jed, 1st child, born to **Lily Happy and Peter Patience** on October 7.—India

Jessica Karyn, 12th child, born to **Pearl and Steven** on October 12.—Thailand

Emma, born to **Sara and Francis** on October 14.—Czech Republic

Ioana Teodora, born to **Priscilla and Francesco** on October 20.—Moldova

Riccardo Vincenzo, born to **Angela and Ezekiel** on October 22.—Italy

Laurence Thomas, born to **Crystal Dear and John Benjamin** on November 1.—India

Adina Devanshi, 1st child, born to **Daniella Joy and Joshua** on November 4.—India

Marco, 3rd child, born to **Angie Flame and Ike** on November 11.—PACRO

Chloe Su, 5th child, born to **Michelle and Paul** on November 16.—SEA

Rachelle Catrisse, 1st child, born to **Pandita and Chris** on November 23.—Thailand

Suzanna Kay, 4th child, born to **Natacha and Ken** on November 29.—Japan

tidbits

New CM/FM disciples...

Heidi Maria (21, German), rejoined in France

Maria Lisa (19, Italian), rejoined in Italy

Shine On—November 2003

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
SOUL SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003		
Gideon/Magdalene/Rachel, So. Africa	3,814	22,882
Angel/Daniel/Hefzibá/Pablo, Venezuela	2,797	25,172
Pablo T., Ecuador	1,695	3,390
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	1,012	5,058
Rosita H.H., Mexico	750	1,500
Maria Rosa, Brazil	550	1,100
Aaron/Joyful/Luis/Paul, India	432	3,022
Belen/Ezequiel/Rejoice, Brazil	417	2,500
Peter Swedish, Thailand	331	1,654
Bart/Gabriela/Mercy/Victor, Venezuela	302	2,112

TRACTS SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Love/Victor, USA	3,025	12,100
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	2,912	11,648
Alcides/Emmanuel/Heber/Stephen, Peru	2,838	22,700
Joy/Lydia/Michael/Santiago, Dominican Rep.	2,040	12,240
Crystal/James/Spring, So. Africa	1,586	11,100
Dulce/Matthew/Perola/Priscila, Brazil	1,571	11,000
Marianne F, Mexico	1,375	5,500
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	1,271	6,354
Lily/Rose/Steven, Cameroon	1,061	6,367
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	1,040	5,200

ACTIVATED DISTRIBUTION SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	1,500	6,000
Anaik/Joy/Sharon/Tiago, Brazil	1,265	10,119
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	371	4,454
Abraham/Celeste/Chris, Mexico	330	1,320
Emanuel Libertad, Venezuela	273	1,090
Angie/Isaac/Ruth, SEA	190	760
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	185	925
Claire/David, USA	170	678
Anna/James, Brazil	150	300
Claire/Ginna/Marc/Peter, USA	148	1,181

ACTIVATED SUBSCRIPTION SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Angela/Faithy/Priscila/Victory, Brazil	754	754
David/Danielle, Brazil	211	211
Angela/Brian/Claire, Brazil	117	117
Ana/Regina/Robinson, Brazil	109	109
Katrina/Maria/Mateo, Brazil	102	102
Ester/Juan/Melody, Brazil	100	100
Christina/Iris/Joseph/Michael, Brazil	95	95
David/Susanna/Virginia, Brazil	78	78
Beth/Carina/Crystal/Jon/Joy/Karishma/Mamta/Sam, India	76	76
Prem/Ruth/Sharon/Simon, India	62	62

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
POSTER SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003		
Jeremiah/Mary/Tim, Japan	2,934	8,801
Dust/Mercy/Nathan/Rejoice, Japan	1,193	7,156
Rosita H.H., Mexico	780	1,560
Christian/Maria/Michael, Japan	769	4,614
Andrew/Clare/Peter/Ruth, Japan	502	2,008
Daniel/Milah/Sarah/Tina/Yan, USA	471	2,353
Meekness/Philip, Namibia	400	800
Claire/David, USA	372	1,488
Jazon/Meeky/Perle, Thailand	333	1,000
Gabriel/Melody/Mercy, Philippines	288	2,300

TAPES/CDs SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	625	2,500
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	446	1,785
Angelo/David/Dawn/Peter, USA	222	1,776
Angela/Heidi/Katia/Vincent, Australia	198	2,181
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	195	974
Gideon/Lamb, Norway	170	511
Love/Victor, USA	168	670
Charity/Christopher/Elizabeth/Gareb, Mexico	161	643
Merryheart/Simon, Ireland	155	1,240
Jan/Maria/Paul, Nigeria	123	617

BOOKS SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	341	1,364
David/Dream/Faye/Lovely/Nehemias, Italy	196	784
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	141	707
Maria/Philip/Svieta, Russia	102	714
Isacco Oasis, Italy	90	360
Esther/Ezequiel/Tamar, Brazil	83	416
Cristina/Paloma, Spain	81	322
Aaron/Angie/Joy, Brazil	79	393
Andre/Mary/Michelle/Paul, SEA	78	310
Abigail/Ezra, India	76	151

VIDEO SHINERS FOR NOVEMBER 2003	Per Adult	Total
Andre/Cheryn/Philip, Lebanon	61	488
Pablo T., Ecuador	59	118
Alex/Ama/Dove/Jessica, Mexico	40	722
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	31	125
Daniel/Rejoice/Spring, Indonesia	27	247
Victor/Maria, Lebanon	23	70
Ahlai/Dust/Heidi/Joni/Lisa, Mexico	21	190
Angie/Isaac/Ruth, SEA	21	84
Peter Swedish, Thailand	19	95
Ivan/Ivan/Virginia, Russia	18	72

backtracking...

Due to including an Activated Home's stats by mistake, the following Homes should have been included in 10th place in October's 2003 "Shine On" section:

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
TAPE/CD SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003		
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	63	251

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
BOOKS SHINERS FOR OCTOBER 2003		
Chris/Daniel/David/Shayna, India	94	750

QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION STATS BY DESK

Activated Desk	September	October	November
Brazil	856	1,167	2,155
Chile	11	76	13
Colombia	20	34	89
EE/Russia	133	327	133
Europe/Africa	173	187	126
India	405	378	443
Japan	49	47	N/A
Mexico	84	126	58
N. America	33	25	35
Philippines	95	83	50
Taiwan	N/A	223	121
Total	1,859	2,673	3,223

Sharing the Word

Naomi Meekness, Moldova: I sent my cousin a couple of *Reflections* recently, and when I met her she said that she liked them so much that she took them to school and read them to her classmates. She is a high school student, and I was impressed not only at her courage to read the *Reflections* to her classmates and risking to be mocked for reading something about God, but also at the positive reaction from the other students, considering that at this age they look for what is cool, and many times that does not include "religious issues." She asked me to send her some more so that she could read them again to the whole class. God bless her for sticking to her convictions!

Personals

I'm looking for **Joana (of João and Ana)**, in Brazil. Please contact me at stanley_andi@hotmail.com. Thank you, Filipe

former friends —seeking contact

Former member, Paolo Branca from Rome, would like to get in touch with **Italian/Swiss Cinzia** from Zurich. They met each other in India. His Family name was Davide. His e-mail is: iuypb@tin.it.

My name was Sylvia ApRoberts. My father was Paul ApRoberts. I am now Sylvia French, and my father passed away three years ago. We lived at 6106 Oakhurst Rd., Seattle, WA. Dad met Hannah, a beautiful Hawaiian lady, in Chinatown in 1978. He took us both on a trip to Europe that summer, and then opened our home to the Family. Nina and Scott moved in with their kids, and there was another man too, but I can't remember his name.

I lived in a Family Home in the late '70s and early '80s when my father joined after my mom passed away. I really want to try to find some of the people that I knew then. There was a man with wavy red hair. Then there was Nina and her husband Scott. They were moving to Switzerland where his folks lived. Scott's father worked for a grocery company there. **Nina** was like a mother to me, and I'd really like to find her again. My address is wsfrench@cablespeed.com.

Thanks!

Sylvia

I am Tuan Luu (a.k.a. David Reacher), and I used to live with the Family a few years ago. At that time I was with Peter (Denmark) and Praise (Thailand) and their five children—Matthew, Maria, Mark, Melissa, and Magdalene. We went to Thailand and stayed in Bang Khen together with other Family members, including Rose of Sharon and Jeremiah (Jerry). Jerry was a handyman at that time. I cannot remember his age. We lived together, I think, from August 1995 through December 1995. If I remember correctly, our Home was a teen Home.

I would really like to establish contact with **Rose and Jerry** again. Rose used to live in Japan, and she speaks the language. She is married now and I think, they have a child, but I'm not sure. Last I heard from her, she lived in India, and I hear Jerry is in Croatia now.

Please contact me at kirshna@tdcads.dk. Yours truly, David Reacher (Tuan Luu)

The news and views from Family members published in the *Grapevine* do not necessarily reflect WS policy. Suggested reading age for this publication is 14 years and up. Selected portions may be read by or with those younger at parents' or shepherds' discretion. All Family members in China use pen names for their contributions to the *Grapevine*. *The Grapevine Family*, c/o TRIAG, Aussergrütstrasse 2, CH – 6319 Allenwinden, Switzerland. E-mail: gv@wsfamily.com Copyright © 2004 by The Family