

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Your Stories Wanted!

Dear Family,

In-depth stories of how the Lord made things work for you in your Home, in your life, or in your marriage are a great help to others, and receive rave reviews when we print them in the *FSM*, *CLTPs*, or *Reflections*.

So if you have testimonies on any of the following topics, please send them to us. We need your faith-building testimonies!

Activated: Is your Home supported by follow-up? Do you have a disciple-winning ministry? Are you a fruitful Activated Home? Please tell us how the Lord led you into these ministries, and how you do it.

Personal Testimonies: Have you joined or rejoined the Family recently? Let us get to know you, and write about all the Lord did to bring you to dedicate your life to Him.

GP or DFO Love Stories: Do you have an inspiring love story? If written for our DFO or GP audience, it may be useful for a DFO or GP publication like the *CLTP* or *Reflections*.—Let us hear from you.

We especially love to hear the important details, the turning points, the factors you consider essential—such as *why* you feel the Lord has blessed you in the way you are writing about. Or *what helped you* do what the Lord was calling you to do. This is great to hear! Please write us at **fsm@wsfamily.com** (if for *FSM* or *CLTP*), or **ref@wsfamily.com** (if for *Reflections*).

Much love,
Your *FSM*, *CLTP*, *Reflections* teams

P.S.: We also love receiving Family-written stories for adults, written in *Guideposts*-style, which we could use in *Reflections*, or for a Family-originated *CLTP* mag for friends, or to post on the MO site. These stories can be dramatic accounts of true events; or they can be from departed saints or spirit helpers relating either

true events or fiction; or they can be fiction that you write. Please just tell us which is the case when you send in your piece! Remember that the point is to uplift, inspire, encourage, or instruct the GP, our friends and contacts, or Family audience, so there should be some message or underlying theme that will help the reader in some way.

True stories are great, and we need more! You can write on the topic of Christmas; or how the Lord made you a missionary; or a miraculous, amazing, or touching moment in your life for the Lord.—These would make great reading for friends and sheep, and for us in the Family too! Please send them in, written in a DFO/GP style, so we can share them for the feeding and inspiration of our friends and Family. Thanks! We love you!

“Call out to Heaven in the power of the keys for the ability to write testimonies that will stir the heart, excite the emotions, motivate the will, and help others take action to follow Me!”

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Featuring

By the *FSM*, *CLTP*, and *Reflections* teams

Thankful for a Reason to Sacrifice

By an SGA, Africa

I recently had a chance to visit an old friend of mine who used to be in the Family. It was with a lot of prayer and counsel that I set out on the trip in the first place, with the Lord's leading and guidance and a series of little miracles from day one with the plane ticket being amazingly dropped in my lap! Meeting these different ones served to strengthen my faith in the Lord and the Word, as I was able to see very clearly how small the world of some of these former members has become, and how distorted and very narrow their vision is. The verse is so true about how if you reject the truth you receive strong delusion so that you believe a lie. I found myself in daily conversations where I had to stand up for the truth, and how the Family really is.

In some cases what I found myself having to discuss and defend was pretty laughable, such as, "We young people in the Family would not even know how to open a bank account!" Wow, now that's pretty funny! Here in Africa we have a team of young people in one country who've been living there for about eight years and who've not only managed to survive, but have a thriving, well-supported, and fruitful work! Not to mention the countless other pioneers all over the world who've learned to work and live in so many different cultures and do a whole lot more complicated stuff than open a bank account! I'm sure they could certainly figure out how to do this in a western country where everything is made so easy by comparison!

The vision and perspective of some of these ex-members has changed so much that they forget to realize that our goal is to win the world for Jesus. I found myself often in our conversations coming back around to, "Well, what's

the real point? We're here to serve the Lord!" When given that, it put the point being discussed—such as college funds and prep for getting a job—in better perspective.

One of the neat things the Lord did for me during this time that I was all alone and meeting a whole lot more unfavorable former members than I expected to, was to reveal Himself very clearly to me through little miracles that I knew He had done for me personally to encourage my faith. For example, I needed to go visit a CM Home that was pretty far away by train. I didn't have much money and didn't want to have to spend any money on that train ride. I told the Lord this, but it wasn't a big request as it seemed illogical that I would get a free train ride unless I provisioned it, which I wasn't going to do, as it'd seem silly to provision a \$5 train ride. It wasn't much to pay, but it was just one of those little "I wish" things.

Amazingly enough, the next day I happened to have a ticket from the night before that my friend bought, which we didn't end up using fully. I didn't know how the subway system worked very well, but I went ahead and used that ticket which had about \$2.50 on it. I went all the way to where I was going and back, and couldn't believe it every time I got through with that ticket. At the last stop, the ticket ran out and I had to pay a few cents, but due to not having the correct change, the security guy opened the gate and let me through. So there I was walking back to where I was staying after being out all day and not paying a cent, feeling positive that I was in the Lord's will, and that He'd see me through my next few days there.

The Lord did many more little miracles for me like this, which assured me that I wasn't alone and gave me the

faith and strength to stand up for each new test and conversation/attack from the former member I was visiting. It felt like Endtime prep, where the Lord made Himself extra real in such special little ways and helped me to feel so strong and unwavering in the spirit! It was a high!

I wouldn't suggest visiting former members in order to strengthen your faith, but in this case, the Lord led in this way and used this as an opportunity for me to be forced to stand up for what I believe in. It was an experience that I'll never forget. It's amazing how the Lord can do this, but He opened my eyes on that trip to see the System for what it is. I've had other trips to visit relatives that were a lot more fun, easy going and even tempting, but this trip the Lord engineered was very different, and the Lord used it to show me the reality of the System, and how lonely and bleak life can be without Him!

I came home so thankful for the Family and thankful that I'm still here! I'm thankful for a reason to live, a reason to sacrifice, a reason to give all. These former members are sacrificing too, and in many cases giving all, but for what? I'm happy that they feel successful, but they don't have anything on us, who have eternal rewards in Heaven for living each day to give back to the Lord the life He gave to us.

backtracking...

In *Gen-Up #7*, on page 8 in the narration box at the top of the comic the text says, "Outside of Roddenburg." However, this should instead say: "Outside of the town:" as it's not "Roddenburg" in the story at this point.

12 FOUNDATION STONES TEACHERS' TIP *By the International CGO board*

Picking and choosing

If you are using the *12 Foundation Stones* classes, you will see that while each class is meant to take approximately two hours, there is more than two hours' worth of teaching material in each class. Some of the material is marked as "optional" and you are free to pick and choose from among this what you feel is most

needed and appropriate for those you are teaching. Even with the content not marked "optional" there is room for adjustment. You don't need to read every verse or every anecdote and illustration. Select what you find most helpful to get the point across depending on the amount of time you have and depending on your audience. But do cover every *Focus*

Point (those are the ones marked with a black arrow [▶] before the title), even if you don't read everything under that section.

(More tips on using the classes can be found in the Introduction section of the *12 Foundation Stones Class Book* and in the *Teacher's Supplement*—both available on the MO site and coming soon in print.)

What counts as beautiful?

Anonymous young person, USA: It is my opinion that as far as appearances, many of the young people in the Family are leaning pretty far over towards the System's views and ways. It has been said in the Word that we are so revolutionary that we don't have to necessarily look revolutionary, but there is a balance to this! A lot of the young people and teens who I have met in the last few years or seen in pictures on the MO site look more Systemite than many Systemites themselves!

Of course, we should all look nice and presentable, and that includes taking care of our physical appearance. I know for a fact that the majority of the upper-class intellectual group of people, who we should all be witnessing to, at least sometimes, do not go for the gangster, mall-style type of appearances that some teens and young people are into.

It's hard to understand how people can go out witnessing, asking people for donations for their missionary work, and then go spend a lot of money on a certain style of clothes, piercings, or tattoos. People are giving you their hard-earned money in full faith.

I know a few teens who are full-time witnesses and they make it a point to dress simply and look clean and nice. The sheep are their first priority, not how cool they think they are.

Even many of the adults in the Family could stand to work on this. In the Home I live in, all of the young women really like to look natural and feminine, and this is something that our sheep, friends, and contacts comment on a lot. They like it that we don't look like everyone else who they know, and it helps them get the idea of how different we really are! One of our very influential friends has often said things like, "Everyone in the Family (for him that means in our house) is so beautiful—the women and the men. I've never seen so many beautiful people all together. You can tell that no one is trying to draw attention to themselves."

Other sheep, both men and women, comment on how nice it is to see a group of people so natural and healthy looking, or even how nice it is to see so many women with long hair. It seems like the majority of women having long hair is a thing of the past in the Family, but that doesn't mean it cannot be a witness and even a good sample

in many ways. Some of our friends have gotten so used to us looking a certain way, that when some teens who obviously have "their style" have come to visit our Home, our friends and sheep have commented or at least looked very surprised.

I think it is very sad that so many people in the Family are trying so hard to look like the average person in the System. It takes away from our very natural, free way of loving and living that all of us in the Family are agreed on. Beautifying our spirit is what makes the difference.

Prevention of huge battles

Female, Africa: One thing that I've come to realize is that all the things I'm supposed to do to grow spiritually, such as 90 minutes of quality Word time with prophecy, praise, Loving Jesus, and 30 minutes of intercessory prayer, etc., are not an unreasonable to-do list. These things are really for my own benefit and happiness, as they act as a force field of protection from the attacks of the Enemy. When I do these things, even though it may seem a sacrifice, hard to find the time for, or I don't feel like doing them, when I take the time regardless, the rewards are greater. These requirements that help my spiritual growth are far better than getting attacked heavily in some area of my life because of a chink in my armor, and then having to fight extra hard to get back on the straight and narrow. In essence, keeping these requirements is prevention of huge battles. I consider that worth the effort.

Handy reminders

Mary and Meekness, England: Something that we have tried, and that has helped us with the comments and suggestions section of the TRF, is that throughout the month when we come up with a comment, suggestion, or reaction, we write it down immediately and pin it on a corkboard, so we have it handy when the day of the TRF arrives.

[Editor's note: You can also keep these on a file on your computer. Type up your comments, suggestions, etc., into that file, and cut and paste them into your TRF when the time comes.]

Learning to stick it out

Female, Africa: A friend of mine went through a battle of discouragement when after joining a new Home it didn't

turn out for him, and wasn't how he'd hoped it'd be. I went through something similar a while back. Here is what the Lord showed me to do. It might help somebody going through similar stuff.

When a Home didn't work out for me, the first thing I had to realize was that I'm not perfect, and I might have given a hard time to some people in the Home. In my case, I had to be honest with myself—I knew I wasn't doing that great spiritually. When the Lord originally showed me to go to Africa, I knew I was going to have to pull up my socks. I was going to a Home where I didn't know anybody. The Home and people sounded good when they answered my ad, they looked sweet in the photo, and the Lord confirmed that it was His Home for me.

When I first joined the Home, my take was like giving a last chance for a Home—any Home—to work. I committed myself to stay a year in this Home, and I told myself that even if I didn't get along with anybody and had a hard time in the Home, and even if I struggled with liking the field, I was going to stick it out for a year no matter what. I felt that in my spiritual state I absolutely had to do it to get the victory.

I don't know what did it, but it ended up to be the best Home I ever lived in, and I loved the field as well. I believe it had a lot to do with my attitude of "come what may, I'm sticking it out" that the Lord blessed.

God, grant me TRUE LOVE

God grant me love—
 Love that forgives,
 Love that forgets.
 That asks what it can give,
 Not what it can get.
 If there be a task so divine,
 It'd be to love until I find
 There's good even in the worst.
 Just like the sun cast its first ray,
 To turn night into day,
 I believe that some day,
 True love will eventually
 find the way.
 God, grant me true love!
 —Mary, Japan



MESSAGE FROM JESUS

(Jesus:) My dear ones, My heart goes out to you in this time of heaviness of heart and spirit. I see your tears, and My heart feels the pain you feel. I now come to you both in great love and compassion with the balm of My Words. For though your hearts are heavy, and you grieve, there is strength yet to come. There is greater faith yet to come, and even greater joy yet to be found through his tragic passing.

Zion passed peacefully into My arms. His spirit called out to Me as he was passing, when his eyes dimmed and darkness was surrounding him, and his angels and helpers lovingly and with great compassion guided him through that darkness into My arms. The first touch he felt was Mine as I embraced him in great, unconditional love. And the first *sound* he heard was My voice, as I told him how much I love him. We embraced and wept in each other's arms. Your dear Zion is happy and safe now, for he's free at last from a world he never felt he belonged in, and he's home at last in the true Zion—the wonderful habitation and realm wherein dwell those who are Mine.

In Zion's earth life, his sense of never feeling he was fully understood or belonged culminated in him leaving the Family, but all too soon he found that he didn't belong out in the world either. He never found what he was looking for in the world; he never found satisfaction, he never found true fulfillment. The promises the world seemed to offer quickly faded into the harsh reality of living in a world without faith, without purpose, and without My love.

But that seed of faith you nourished and tended in Zion's heart and spirit so faithfully over the years never died. He never turned his back on Me or the Family, and he never turned down the road of bitterness, denial, or betrayal. His faith and love for Me was the only thing that anchored him in this world, and it was certainly the only thing that kept his sanity while out in that wilderness.

Yes, he tried his best to be a witness, he tried to give Me to others, he tried to live a godly, Christian life, faithfully feeding his faith through reading the Bible. But all too soon his own strength failed him, for try as he might, he did not have the strength of spirit to go at it alone. And even though he had the support and fellowship of his Christian roommates, he was largely trying to fight and maintain a Christian life in the midst of a world growing increasingly

in My arms ...

(Written by Gideon [of Heidi], Pakistan:)

Our son, Zion (29), went home to be with Jesus on New Year's Eve, 2003. It seems he was stabbed several times in his residence in Dallas, Texas. Zion's body was discovered about one hour later by his two deaf roommates. He had lost a considerable amount of blood so that by the time he arrived at the hospital there was little that could be done, and he passed away while undergoing surgery. We are trusting that the Lord knows best and simply saw fit to bring him home to a higher calling.

Zion had been out of the Family for the past eight years, working in various jobs in the Dallas area. I had made a trip to visit him in November 2003, and he was so happy to see me. He had a sincere love for the Lord, and told me how he would read his Bible and pray daily, and he would often witness to others when he could. We had a special time together, and talked about his coming back to Pakistan for a visit in this coming year, and to help with our deaf school, etc. It was a sweet visit (little did I know that it would be our last), and I was able to pray with him about some things that he wanted prayer for.

We know that he's Home now, and able to see the Lord face to face and *hear* from Him, which is something that he always wanted to be able to do. We've received various messages that he's happy, and has now moved on to fulfill a greater calling, and to be a help to the deaf ministry worldwide from his new vantage point.

I was able to fly in to Dallas to attend the funeral, and about 100 people came

to the service—all his co-workers from the restaurant where he worked, as well as many deaf friends. A group of about 10 deaf senior citizens also came. Zion would visit them at their old folks' home on his free days, and sit and talk with them.

The day before I left for the U.S., we were able to make a photo biography of Zion's life, which we put on two large sheets of paper. I hung this up at the entrance to the funeral home, and it was a tremendous testimony, as the people who came didn't know much about this aspect of Zion's life—that he was a missionary and that he'd been so instrumental in touching the lives of thousands of other deaf people in different parts of the world. I was able to speak about this aspect of his life, and how he was used of the Lord to help many, and that now he will be able to continue his ministry from his new home.

Zion loved images of eagles—he had a poster in his room, and a necklace with an eagle on it—so I closed with the verse from Isaiah about how he has now “mounted up with wings as an eagle.” I shared some stats of how the Deaf ministry has grown worldwide, much of it being done by people who had lived with Zion at some point and were influenced by that experience. Overall it touched all who were there, and people were inspired and amazed to learn how much he did and/or was instrumental in being used to accomplish.

Zion left a legacy in the two deaf schools that are now running full time and caring for upwards of 100+ deaf students here in Pakistan, as well as various other deaf ministries in countries around the world.

darker. The Enemy truly is walking about the earth as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, and he takes no greater delight than in attacking one of My Own—one who is weakened, off guard, and not spiritually aware and armed.

The Enemy had his moment of victory over Zion, but I hold the keys to Heaven and Hell, and I allowed Zion to depart from this world for a much greater and wonderful purpose. Zion paid the price in the physical, but not before he had made a conscious decision in the spirit to try to come back to some form and capacity of service within the Family—where he truly belonged. Your visit, dear Gideon, was instrumental in that decision. When Zion recently saw

you again, he knew. In his heart of hearts, he knew he had made a mistake in leaving the Family. That visit was pivotal in the spirit, and because of your step of obedience, Gideon, and Zion's consequent decisions in the spirit, a great Romans 8:28 has been performed.

Because Zion made that decision in the spirit, even though the Enemy wanted to debase Me and be lauded as victor through taking his life, the Enemy's moment of victory was brief. He is not the victor in this situation, even though it would seem so to the natural eye. The Enemy gained only the lesser prize—Zion's body—but I gained the true and foremost prize of his spirit. This the Enemy can never snatch out of My hands.

Now your dear Zion is home where he belongs—within the ranks of the children of David. He has joined the ranks of My young children of David who have passed over into the realm of the spirit.

He rejoices now in My love, and in all the glorious and wonderful sounds and sights around him here in Heaven. He has entered a new world of sound—sounds that are awesomely beautiful, sounds that are perfect and harmonious, and sounds that only come forth from true love and faith. He has both seen his reward and is now experiencing it, for from his birth and life, a great ministry and fruit was borne. That fruit and reward will forever remain and will never be taken away. *(End of message.)*

in My arms ... in My arms

(Written by Jim and Steve, USA:)

Joy (of Jim, formerly Mercy [of Willing]) went on to be with the Lord on the afternoon of January 8th, 2004. She had been battling cancer for more than two years, and had gone into hospice care six weeks before her passing. She was a Philippine national, and had given more than 25 years of faithful service to the Lord in the Family, being a great wife, a faithful mother to her three sons, and a real shiner in the area of outreach and follow-up.

Most of her years of service were spent on various Latin and Asian fields, including the Philippines, India, and Mexico, as well as several years here in the U.S. We will miss her, but are thankful that she is now free from pain, and that she has gone on to the great reward Jesus has for her. Her passing was peaceful, and she remained a good witness to those taking care of her, with a loving and thankful spirit right up until her last three days or so, when she lapsed into a comatose state.

We want to thank everyone in the Family, both near and far, who kept her in their prayers. She especially had many fond memories of her fellow Filipino brothers and sisters in the Lord.

(Dad:) Hi, folks! I had a personal burden to come speak with you, to let you know how your dear Joy is doing. As you can probably imagine, she is overjoyed to finally be in the arms of her heavenly Husband.

Please don't wonder if she was in pain in her last days there on Earth; she wasn't. She had a very peaceful passing and it was as she wished it—quietly and in her sleep. She is,

of course, whole here now, and absolutely gorgeous! She is full of life and enthusiasm and chatters away a mile a minute!

Oh, I can't tell you how thrilling it is for all of us whenever one of our loved ones comes home again, especially if their body has been suffering illness and disease. We know that it is painful for you there on Earth, and we do feel for you and our hearts ache for your pain and sorrow, but on the other hand, we rejoice that they are made whole again and can start a whole new adventure here with us. Life in Heaven is so radically different than it is there on Earth that those who arrive here can hardly contain themselves. Even though I've been here going on 10 years your time now, I still am thrilled at each new discovery. Nothing here gets old or stale or boring. That's why it is such a thrill to be able to meet the newcomers here. They just flip out so much, and we delight in partaking of their joy and thrills of the spirit as they make their own discoveries about the wonderful world we live in here.

Dear Joy loves you so much. She is concerned that you will be okay. She is encouraged to know you took her death as well as could be expected, for you were prepared for it and it was not a total surprise to you. Nevertheless, she knows you miss her presence, and wants you to know that she will from time to time be contacting you and trying to get through to you. So keep your channels open, in tune with the Lord and your antennas pointed upward, and she will be communicating with you. One of her missions here



in Heaven will be to be a help to you in the spirit, for she will know you in a greater way from here than she ever could there on Earth.

Thank you, dear ones, for being such faithful, loyal, diligent servants in the Lord's service. Thank you for sticking for so many years, in spite of the setbacks, battles and discouragements. Thank you for never giving up. Keep going for Him, and keep looking to that glorious day when you all will be reunited once again in His Heavenly Kingdom, where you will be together forever. It won't be long! *(End of message.)*

TURNING AROUND TITANIC THE PART 2

—Reactions to “New Year’s Challenge for 2004” (ML #3468, GN 1054)
(Continued from GV #170)

The advantage of a communal sample

Paul (of Joy), Australia: The return of the true revolutionary sample is something that we yearn for as we read this GN, “New Year’s Challenge for 2004.” It’s worth fighting for as the Family makes a comeback to the discipleship standard.

I had an experience recently that the Lord used to remind me of the powerful witness a communal Home can be. It was Family Day, and we were with the kids at an open-air market, where we met a couple of alternative “lifestylers” who were selling bread. When we inquired about whether they were part of a community or not, they replied that they were part of a Christian community, and that there were 50 of them living together on a farm outside the city.

“We live by Acts 2:44 and 45,” the clear-eyed mature woman said confidently.

“So do we,” I replied.

She was a little taken aback by that, not knowing whether we were just having a go at her or if we were serious. It was as if this community had the corner on those verses in the present day. We were aware of their organization, but she had never heard of us.

She went on to describe the history of the community and how they’d found that 50 was the optimum number for their needs. They have a couple of cottage industries going, like a bakery and traveling restaurant that they set up at festivals, etc. She glowed as she shared about the change in her life five years ago, when she’d received Jesus and found this community. They are into the keeping the Sabbath and a lot of Jewish traditions.

They have an Endtime vision, and spoke of how it would only be those who were willing to drop out who would escape the Mark of the Beast, and indicated that they believed their community would be the focus of those who would stand up

against him. It was interesting sharing testimonies back and forth of how it works for us, and we had some good fellowship. In their group there are only members (full-time disciples) or non-members—no in between. We found lots of verses and experiences in common, though I don’t think it would be long before we found ourselves labeled as heretics for our view of physical Israel and of the Law of Love. Ha!

We scrambled for an *Activated* mag or even a tract to give them and couldn’t find one. Hmmm, flashes of “instant witnesses” hit us like lightning bolts! Whew, another one of our team had been faithful to bring some, so we gave her a sample of our “wares,” and took some of their bread.

As I walked away, it was clear that there was something special about this meeting at a time when we are looking at our CM standard and sample. Some things that stood out to me and convicted me were:

1. This group had something to show and invite people to—a sample of a community that worked, and that they were proud of. A dedicated, committed, and organized group of dropped out 100%ers.
2. Both had a testimony of a life change, battles, and victories of forsaking all, Bible names and all.
3. They had an inner glow and peace that radiated.
4. A conviction about their doctrine and beliefs that they confidently proclaimed.

This encounter made me reflect on how we appear to others. There is no doubt that our spirits shine brightly. Recently, a teen in our city who’s out of the Family was sitting in a shopping mall with a friend. He’d told his friend about the Family and, out of the blue, the friend pointed to us as we walked by and asked if we were with the Family. This blew the young former member’s mind as, although he was familiar with our spirit, obviously there is something different about us.

Our witnesses often get this response, but there is power in a united sample, and that is what we have been missing with our smaller Homes and individual families. It costs a lot to create it and live it, and it has been a price many of us have been unwilling to pay. But we’ve suffered for it, and I don’t think we have fully realized just how much in spite of all of the Lord’s counsel on the subject.

An SGA who moved to our Home of 20 from a smaller situation said that she has so much more confidence to witness to people knowing that she can not only tell them about Acts 2:44–45, but also bring them back to a sample of it. Previously, she had seen the effect of explaining about a Christian community, only to find the contacts a little unimpressed when they were invited back to what looked like little more than a large single family’s home. It’s not that they aren’t wonderful witnesses—they are—but there’s something to be said for a larger community that works.

Also we are proud of our loving sample in being very accommodating of others’ beliefs and views. It is my experience that we have become tolerant and good listeners, but when it comes to taking a stand on issues and teaching the Word on it, we have lost conviction and expertise, and need to find the balance. I know the Lord is speaking to me about this, but I believe it applies to most of us on our field. The fact that we had to scramble around for a tract or *Activated* magazine to give these people was another telling sign of the progress some of us need to make in being instant witnesses.

Of course, with larger Homes, just having the numbers to show is only the start of the sample. Making a team that is on-fire, organized, living up to the CM standard, and exuding the Lord’s love is the next challenge, as it takes a lot of fight and everyone putting our “shoulders to the boulder” daily. But with the help of the Word, the keys, and the other new weapons, the Family sample is beginning to show—and we are beginning to glow!

To paraphrase Dwight L. Moody’s famous declaration: “By the grace of God we are determined to be that sample!”

Getting beyond the mental block

Kay, Australia: Everything said in this GN is so true! Even though it is a bit scary (I must admit!), it does put into words things that I have been feeling for a while about how the Family is doing, and where we're headed if things don't change. It has made me check my own heart about where I stand. I can see now that I had subconsciously put up a mental block to doing that, unfortunately. I've been in the Family for 32½ years—my entire adult life so far—and it's so easy to let that fact stop you from facing certain things. God bless you, Peter and Mama, for your honesty and forthrightness.

Revolutionary and uncompromised

Dan (of Chris), Ukraine: I can clearly see the Lord's anointing in Mama and Peter's leadership through the Word. It is downright amazing how true everything is—what the Lord and Peter are talking about in this GN. The seriousness of the situation that we find ourselves in as a Family really dawned on me after reading this GN. It is very sobering.

There are certain things in my personal life that I need to change, in order to be what the Lord wants me to be, certain compromises that I let in my life that I need to get rid of to stay revolutionary. I don't want us to become like another church; in fact, this is something that I dread the most. That's why I joined the Family—for its revolutionary, uncompromised, unique way of serving the Lord. I'll do my best to keep it that way, in my personal life and in the Home where I reside.

It begins with the Word

FGA female, Italy: I'm so thankful for this challenge to change, and so thankful that you, our shepherds, have taken the time to once again repeat and spell out so clearly the Lord's counsel. In my self-righteousness I was getting upset sometimes that the spirit in the Family was a bit lukewarm, and was worried that we would just become like the churches. It seemed like so much of our conversations around the dinner table were about football games, computers, movies, or complaining about some

little this and that. Not that some of these things are bad, but not enough of manifesting a real love and zeal for the Lord was present.

Our prayer times together sometimes seem blah and routine and not very stirred up. Every time I would talk to the Lord about it, He would tell me to be a loving sample of praise and prayer and bringing Him into my daily life, so that this can overflow onto others too. I couldn't do that consistently, because I wasn't spending enough time with Him and His Word. But it's so good to have it all so clearly spelled out, and to know that if we don't strive a little more to lay aside compromise there will be loving but firm discipline given us.

I was compromising too, not so much with taking time for watching TV or chatting, or other relax-time recreations, but always trying to do this or that big or little thing and *then* taking my Word time and prayer time. Now I'm reading more at quiet time and at night. Before I would say that I couldn't concentrate very well on the Word at quiet time, as that is my tired time of the day. At night I would read easy things like *Heaven's Library* or *ENDs*, when I took time to read, but now I try to study the Word or review or memorize at least 15 minutes or so.

One thing I noticed about myself is that I have a tendency to be a lot more impatient and critical of others' weaknesses when I am so busy working, and don't take time to love others. Sometimes this is a dilemma for me, as I do love the Word, and want to have my Word time, but then there is so much to do in running the Home. Then at the end of the day, I just want to crawl off to bed and hide behind a GN, but someone wants or needs to talk, but I ignore their need, because my spirit is dry and needy too. I'm trying to preempt this by making sure that I talk with the Lord, and get a message from Him, and review verses and quotes before even getting out of bed, or while getting dressed instead of discussing Home business points with my husband. It's not that I didn't do these things before, it's just that I didn't do them consistently and enough.

Another big area of compromise has been not correcting others for fear of being self-righteous, or that they wouldn't receive it. I do want to work on my presentation, and be more prayerful, but it is good to have

the Word on the subject, that to lovingly bring things up is good for people so that they realize that they are making mistakes, rather than waiting for weeks and months to finally say something. I pray that others do the same for me.

Something else that the Lord is showing me is that being sacrificial by working hard for the Lord in the flesh is not making the grade, but that I need to work on my love for others, and for Him. The only way I can give His love to others is by spending more time with Him in the bed of love, praising, and hearing from Him, and making sure that I have that Word time daily no matter what. I am taking more Word time since the Word Revolution, but I need to work on making sure it is enough every day, and that I am asking Him everything.

I am so thrilled by what the Lord is going to do for the Family through all this.

Getting back to the basics

Tim Willing, USA: This was a beautiful and inspiring Letter. At first it caused my knees to knock and my heart to skip a few beats. I understood what the Lord was stating in this GN, and I wasn't sure how I was going to make all the changes when it came time to begin putting everything into practice. Later, as I read it more, my faith grew. I realized that the GN was talking about going back to that beautiful spirit of obedience and sacrifice that we had in the early days of the Family.

I am thankful for this GN, and am thankful for the changes that are ahead for us. They are only good changes, and are going to help us become more dedicated in doing more of what the Lord wants us to. Thank the Lord for the truth, and for Mama and Peter getting it out to us.

Foundation of effectiveness

Christian, USA: The Summit summary [included in this GN] was a real blessing, and makes us feel a part of the process. Yet that process bodes momentous change that demands a heart full of faith.

The idea and principle of working together with others lies close to, if not at the very foundation of, the Family's effectiveness. Nonetheless, maintaining the unity of spirit and

vision, and the cohesion needed to enable a Home to be effective, is quite a job and calls for commitment and humility.

One aspect that we here in this Home have experienced and are thankful for, has been the wonderful fruit of yieldedness, and the desire to be shepherded. Granted, we all need to pull up our socks from time to time, and the Lord is very faithful to do so for all of us. The Lord has been showing us the how-tos of building a work, and establishing a team, for however long He wants us to be together as a team.

Where true happiness is found

Darlene, Canada: This Letter reminded me of the old quote that says, “Those who love Him most follow the closest.” Paragraph 192 emphasizes that when it says: “There’s nothing more important than believing and obeying the Word, because Jesus is the Word. In loving and obeying the Word, you’re loving and obeying Him. You believe in the Word as much as you live in the Word. You believe Jesus as much as you obey what He’s told you to do. So don’t just believe and obey the minimum! Shoot for the stars, aim for the ultimate, go all the way for God!”

I know for myself, when I obey and get in the Word, pray, praise and follow what the Word says to the best of my ability, my days are filled with happiness and love. The days where I tend to slack off a little, I am either miserable or angry with myself.

Eager for the challenges

Rosie, Denmark: We welcome these changes that are going to be implemented throughout the Family with open arms, and we are praying that the Lord will help us to be moldable clay in His capable hands. We ourselves are very guilty of not implementing the changes the Lord has wanted us to make, namely that of not having a better well-rounded Family Home and living Acts 2:44–45 to the full.

We have been living mostly on our own for the last ten years, and most of that time as FMers. A couple of years ago we applied for CM membership, as we felt an urge to serve the Lord full time. I must confess that we were a bit puzzled about the little

difference it made for us to become CM, at that time (except, of course, that we were getting the full counsel of God through the mailings, and we started to get prayer requests and notices from WS and our ABM), and how not much was expected of us other than what we were already doing as FM.

For a long time we didn’t have a VS visit, and we missed the shepherding during that time. This is not by any means meant as a complaint, as we all know how busy the VSs and other leaders are, how few there are for the job and how much time and effort the setting up of the boards and restructuring of the Family has involved. The reason I mention this is to explain how we felt the need for closer shepherding at that time, and how we are now more than ready to accept new rules and a higher standard of discipleship. Some of us need more of a firm hand and support from each other to become all that the Lord wants us to be.

I’m happy for this stricter discipline, as I really want to do my Father’s will. I want to be more a part of an exciting well-rounded ministry for the Lord, and not a jack-of-all-trades, home-running mother confused with all the many tasks, because that’s life in a nutshell when you are only living with your personal family or with an insufficient team.

There are several very real reasons why we have stayed alone for so long, including disappointments, hurts, and difficulties finding someone to team up with. But as Peter said, now is not the time to point fingers and pass the blame, now is the time to fight for the survival of the Family.

We are looking forward to the new GNs promised to guide us along in this coming year.

Following the spirit of the New Wine

Abel, Japan: I’ve come to realize that compromise is still a part of my life, and it will take a lot of prayer, desperation, and obedience to change in the ways I need to. I can see where we have fallen short in the standard of revolutionary discipleship, and it’s not going to be an easy thing to regain.

For me, one of the most important precepts in this Letter is learning to follow the spirit of the New Wine, and not just be satisfied with doing the minimum to get by if we want

to be a disciple and follow the Lord wholeheartedly. The changes that are coming in the Family’s structure such as in Home size and in Family shepherding to help us with our spiritual problems are really good, and what we need in order to bring about the changes needed to become the revolutionary Family we need to be.

Living our heritage to the full

Daniel Gypsy (21), Argentina:

Ever since I joined this army in spirit (when I was 18) I believed in some way I was special, that in some way the Lord would use me to change the world, that I would help lead the new revolution. Every young person I talked to I would try to encourage in some way with a hatred for the System. I would dream of the day when the second generation would rise up and bring about the greatest disciple-winning revolution the world had ever witnessed.

When “Conviction vs. Compromise” and the Brazil GNs came out I didn’t take them to heart. *I am a child of the revolution. I keep the commandments*, I thought.

Compromise? ... Me? ... Never! Well, here I am now. I’m sitting here telling you this, because for some time now things have changed, I tried to ignore it, fix it, but after reading “New Year’s Challenge for 2004” I simply can’t live a lie any more. I’ll explain.

For some time now I haven’t had a passion for winning souls, fighting the System or getting others to do it. I haven’t felt that unexplainable joy after having a day full of deep witnessing, singing, damning the System, and seeing the slaves being set free. You might think I’ve stopped reading the Word. Actually, I get up early in the morning almost every day to have time in the Word, I use the new weapons, no TV, no System music—I keep the rules. I kind of started wondering if that’s just what happens—you get older and you simply conform to living a happy life, but without any real passion. No, that can’t be! I live with several crazy crusaders from the early days, and they’re full of that. This has been a thorn in my mind for some time now, till I read the GN mentioned above, I think I finally understand.

Maybe it’s something like Alexander dying of a broken heart because there were no more worlds to conquer. When one’s only purpose

in life is to be a soldier, when you are made to fight and you don't, you lose your purpose, your reason, your identity, you no longer have a vision, and thus you perish. I had lived my life dreaming of revolution, but never really living it. Dreams are forgotten, "but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

Not getting fully behind the Activated vision with all my heart is also one of the reasons for this feeling of spiritual death. I had myself convinced that I was a true revolutionary, when in truth I was a more like a stationary wheel with a popped tire. No motion, no life.

The last 10 years have been years of peace. But have they been times of peace? When I read, "we are fighting for our survival," it disturbed me more than I could say. Why? We are the children of the last days, we are of the house of David, born to conquer and destroy the strongholds of Satan. And now we are struggling for our survival, which in essence means we are dying. We are all responsible for this. And if we fail, are we ready to answer for it? To live in eternal shame, knowing we could have been the people that knew their God and were strong, knowing we failed our Lord, our Father, King, Queen, and all those that have gone before us, those who bled and died because they believed in this Family. I'm sure none of us are ready to carry this responsibility.

These times of "peace" have not been times of peace at all, the Enemy has entered our camp, and has deceived many of us, and we have fallen into a false sense of security. But now, as our King said, "It is time to go to war!"

It's time to come back to what makes us who we are, back to our ideals and beliefs. I don't believe it's about keeping the rules and regulations; it's fighting for our ideals, for the beliefs that made us find the joy in being separate from the blind masses. Our ideals and our beliefs are what we are, and when we betray them we are betraying Him Who saved us. I want to die with the peace of knowing that we ran the race and didn't trade in our heritage for a mess of pottage. I believe that's worth making any sacrifice for.

I'm also starting to understand that being a soldier of this army is more than fighting when you feel like it, it's about fighting when you don't feel like it. I'd rather die than live a lie.

A Special Gift from the Lord

BY PHILIP, MIDDLE EAST

I'm not one of those who has profound or vivid spiritual experiences, but on New Year's Day something very beautiful happened to me that encouraged my faith, and made the spiritual dimension more real to me. We had had a late night, so I slept in the next morning. I had been staying at a Home that I'm not a regular member of for the past few weeks, as I had been waiting on some legal work to come through.

I was sleeping in the nursery on a mattress on the floor. There is a small window with Venetian blinds in one corner of the room, and the blinds are usually drawn closed at night. The foot of my mattress faced this little window with the blinds open when I went to sleep. I usually wake up quite early no matter what time I go to sleep, but I guess I was tired on this occasion. The following morning, while lying on my back I felt warmth on my face and began to wake up.

When I woke up I realized that the sunlight was shining right through this window into my eyes. I glanced up at the bright light, and then closed my eyes again. Immediately I started hearing this voice speaking to my mind in prophecy. I lay there listening to this beautiful prophecy I was receiving. I can't quote it verbatim, but the Lord was saying that He was going to cause the light on our faces to shine this coming year like never before. This year would bring light and joy to many and be a year of miracles and thrilling testimonies. It just went on and on—so comforting and reassuring. Then a phrase kept coming in to my mind: "The key of David is being activated." I remember hearing this several times. The Lord quickened to my mind the Revelation 3 passage about the Philadelphian church, and the door opening that no man could shut, and of course the part about the key of David.

As I lay there, the sun kept rising until it reached a little over halfway up in the window's view. If my mattress had been positioned a few inches over I would have missed this completely. But it was just at the right angle so that I could watch the sunrise. The sun had risen over halfway when it reached the level of the cross frame of the window and went behind it. So then for a few moments I couldn't see the sun itself, but just the aura around it. The voice kept going on and explaining how this was like it was going to be when great darkness had spread across the world. The Lord's light would still be shining, and you would be able to see the light, but not directly—only in the aura of those reflecting it.

As I watched this amazing little light show, when the sun was right behind the frame, the light actually seemed to surround the window frame so that the window frame had no power to block it. Just like the rulers of the darkness of this world will not be able to block the Lord's light through us during the time of the End. I continued to watch the sun rise, and I had this serene feeling, almost like I was floating.

This experience stirred me up—that the Lord had created this whole little scene for me, showing how much He loves me and wants to strengthen my faith and conviction that this life we're living for Him is the real thing and we're on the threshold of the Endtime events. All the little details—the mattress pointed at just the right angle, the blinds left open, my sleeping in, lying on my back—had to be so the Lord's message could get through to me. Just the fact that it happened on New Year's Day thrilled me, and I won't forget it!

Meditating on that phrase about the key of David that kept coming to me, I decided to look up the Letter by the same name. It turns out the word "activated" is mentioned 12 times in the Letter. Wow! It's neat that you can perceive the meaning of that phrase in different ways. In one sense, since we are entering the Endtime the key of David is being "activated" like never before in the hearts of His sheep all over the world. In another way, the Lord is calling all of us in the Family to get "activated," meaning to get on board with the Activated push worldwide, so that the key of David is being activated.

I pray this is an encouragement to those you who, like me, don't "feel" very spiritual, but the Lord can and wants to speak to each of us and reveal Himself to us in very special ways.

Implementing the New Wine gets results

By Rebecca (of Abner), Taiwan

In light of the “Show Me the Money” GNs, our Home had a series of meetings and prayed about how we could have our Activated members more involved with and supporting the Lord’s work. While we prepared for our Christmas outreach and the children practiced for their singing show, the Lord showed us to prepare a sponsorship letter for our friends and contacts to sponsor Christmas CD cards to give as presents at the places where we do our show. We asked one of our friends if she would like to help present the letter to her friends and acquaintances. She was very enthusiastic about it. She sponsored 10 CD cards herself, and then called her friend in Taipei who sponsored another 25. She suggested putting her phone number on the letter, so that when people have questions she could talk to them in Chinese.

At our Activated meeting we did a study on giving from both the *Activated* mags and the Bible, and then had a workshop with them to brainstorm what they could personally do to help us with our Christmas outreach. One of them who is an artist offered to write the names and addresses of the people who sponsored the CDs in the cards in calligraphy. He then asked his 15- and 13-year-old sons who play the keyboard and flute if they would like to be part of the show, to which they both agreed. Another activated member who does our translating work for us offered to interpret for the emcee of the show, so that we could get a deeper message out.

It’s very inspiring to see our Activated members want to give more of their time to the Lord’s work.

Breaking records

By Christina, Brazil

This month our Home broke our monthly record. We

still have five days to go and we are almost at 40 subscriptions this month. We have met so many new folks and signed them up over the last four months, and now need to pray and get the Lord’s direction on the follow-up program. We started going back to some of the people who we have signed up, and after finding that they like the magazine, asking them to sponsor one or more for some that can’t afford it like students or poorer families. Many subscribers have responded positively to this request.

Joel, our Active member, made his decision to join so we agreed to a 30-day trial period. He is a real soul winner, and basically doubled our soul stats. So far he is passing the tests and is making a lot of sacrifices and seems to really want to make it.

Our Home hosted a follow-up event this month for our friends, *Activated* subscribers, and Active members. Several Homes participated and it turned out real well. There were 46 visitors in all. We held it on a Sunday. Joseph and Mike prepared a Word class called, “Dare to Be Different.” Joseph got the use of a projector, so we used that for the class. After the class ended there was a *churrasco* (Brazilian barbecue), and everyone paid something towards it. Then after a lot of fellowship we showed the movie, *The Ten Commandments*. Most everyone stayed for the whole day and had a very inspiring time.

Activated members involved in distribution

By Mary and Micah, Taiwan

We have a businessman friend who’s on his second year of subscribing to *Activated*, and he’s enthusiastic about our magazine. He invited us to go on a hike with his English class and told us to bring *Activated* mags and Christmas CD cards, because he wanted to help us to get them out to his class. In all there were 25 in the group.

After a long hike we ate lunch at a nice restaurant. Before the lunch began, our friend went around promoting the *Activated* mag and CD cards for us. He personally went around to all the tables and got many people to buy CD cards. Two people subscribed to *Activated*. It was a good experience because it was a good way to get our friends to help, and with their influence they can help us reach people we wouldn’t reach any other way.

We also had quite a few people sign up for the second year of *Activated*. There were many good reactions to the magazines from those who subscribed who told us how they’d gotten fed by the mags.

All the answers, right there!

By Marilene, Brazil

A friend, whom I had met on a faith trip in Minas Gerais, called me and told me that she had received an *Activated* mag, and wanted to subscribe. She then told me that it came like an answer from God. At the time she had just hung up the phone, and the person on the other end had told her some terrible things. She was still in tears, praying and asking the Lord for an answer, when the mail came in with the *Activated* mag on getting along with people. She read the mag from beginning to end, and she found the answers that she was looking for. She was so thankful; she called us on Monday and subscribed. This has inspired our faith to call up our other friends and get them activated, too. *Activated* rules!

Increased interest

By Tabitha, Taiwan

Our friend and supporter, Matthew, who is a company director and auditor, is usually so busy that he barely has time to see us for more than a few minutes each month. He is an *Activated* subscriber, but when asked how he likes the articles, usually replies that he hasn’t had a chance to read anything.

A few months ago that changed! Matthew has now become one of our most faithful and ardent readers! How? He became interested in improving his English (which is already quite good), and started reading all the English articles in the *Activated* magazines! Now he comments how beautifully written the English is, how simple and easy to understand and how the presentation helps him grasp the meaning of each article.

He repeats over and over how the simple truths in the magazine have touched his heart. He’s explained to us that as an auditor he is very much into facts and figures and matters of the mind. But sometimes even though there may be an article that he doesn’t totally understand or fully agree with, he doesn’t “resist” it!

At our last meeting I mentioned that his subscription was about to expire. Before I had a chance to say more, he asked for a new card to fill out, and handed me funds to renew it! I’m learning that prayer for each of our subscribers and even a few minutes of feeding and reading together from the mag, whenever possible, can do wonders! The Lord knows the key to each heart and how to turn it!

“I have called you to activate the world, and I have given you the tools for the job. With My Words in your hands and mouths, the keys of the Kingdom and their power in your hearts and minds, and My love burning within you, you will win the world!”

GRAPES OF THANKFULNESS

I'd like to take this time to thank **Michael Fogarty**, a musician in Japan. You're on the top of my list, as a teacher, musician, cook, pet-keeper. ... You name it. I may not have appreciated you or thanked you much while I was there with you at the HCS, but your teaching and shepherding were just what I needed then. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for you encouraging me not to give up, but to continue trying and giving Jesus my all. I wish I could relive those days of Heaven with you. Thank you.

—CORY, UGANDA

Dear **Jesse and Susanna**, we really love you, and wanted to thank you for all that you both have done for us during our stay with you!

Jesse, thanks for being such a wonderful sample of faith for the Lord's supply. You helped us get up on our feet again with outreach and our mail ministry!

Susanna, thank you for your daily love and patience with us and our kids. You never jump to conclusions and always have faith!

—CRIS AND SHARON, USA

Dear **Cris**, I hope this doesn't embarrass you too much—but here goes. ... Thanks, sweetie, for always being there, and always pointing me to the Lord. Thanks for being such a great sample of always wanting to launch forward, and never being satisfied with the status quo. You are an amazing pioneer.

Thanks for continually being there for every need any of the kids or I ever had. Thanks for not pulling your punches spiritually. Thanks for wanting to be just a good, faithful disciple, and being that same sample to the kids, which is a real inspiration. I love you.

—SHARON, USA

A big thank-you to **Mateo and Joy** in Spain, as with their help we were able to bring humanitarian aid to some orphan kids. They provided us with all the paper work, which required a lot of little things

and communications. God bless you. You didn't have to do it, but you did it. Not only did you help us, but you were so cheerful and wholehearted in your help.

Thank you, Mateo and Joy, you are simply a good sample of availability! We love you!

—GABRIEL AND EVA, SPAIN

My son, Philip (5) and I would like to thank **all the musicians, composers, singers, arrangers and those behind the scenes** who made the beautiful *TCD#30—Souled Out* possible. Since receiving it, we have played it often. It is truly beautiful. GBY!

Thank You, Jesus, for inspiring heavenly music! We love and thank You so much for our wonderful music.

—JESSICA AND SON, PHILIP, REUNION

We would like to send in some big and juicy grapes of thankfulness to all those who have helped us in our pioneer work in this remote part of Thailand since we started, a year and a half ago. **SGAs Paul and Michelle and Home**, thank you so much for your faithful support.—You have no idea how far your love has gone! **Gabe and Rejoice, Dan and Gin, Jonny and Liza** in the USA, you played a *huge* part in making our miracle van a reality! We wouldn't have made it without you! We thank you for your sacrifice, time, love, donations, care, concern and the list goes on and on.

A big thank-you also goes to the **Korat Home—Micah and Charity and family, and dear Faithy and daughter** for helping with personnel when we needed it, loaning us the use of a vehicle before we had our own, and your love and support in many other ways.

Robert and Martha, Jim and Lily, David and Crystal—thank you so much for your donations towards our van—we thank God upon every remembrance of you. Thanks a mil to the **TC Home** in Bangkok for your sweet giving of flour, rice, and other

provisioning on a regular basis. Thanks also to the other **Homes in Bangkok** for your help, we really appreciate it.

Jason and Meeky and the charming Edouard boys, we wouldn't have made it without you! We love you so much! There are of course many others, who have helped in other ways, and we are very, very thankful for you all, but space would fail us to write it all down. We love you all and claim the keys of blessing for you all daily.

Lots of love from the Khonkaen Home,

—SGAs JON B. AND ANGELINA AND FOUR KIDS, SGAs DAVID AND ANISA AND TWO KIDS, GABE (SGA), AND SCYTHE (YA), THAILAND

We would like to thank the **Gauteng Homes** for their support, specifically **Gareth and Caroline** in Pretoria. When we were still getting our team together and fundraising to start our own Home they lent us their vehicle for as long as we needed it, gave us as much provisioning as we needed (food and any other supplies involved in starting a Home) and have been so sweet and are still helping us in whatever way they can. They have also been so sweet in introducing us to all their contacts, such a beautiful illustration of what the Family should be, living Acts 2: 44–45. We pray that the Lord will more than repay them for what they have given us. We love you, Gareth, Caroline, and all your kids!

Also a big thanks to **David, Praise, Alf, Joy, and Home**, for continually helping us with food and other provisioned items whenever they have been able to. It's people like you who make the Family what it is today. God bless you. You're a great bunch of people!

Another thanks to **Gideon, Rachel, Chris, and Meg** for all the inspiration and counsel we've received from you. We are sincerely thankful to have people like you in our area who we can fellowship and work together with. We're also thankful for inviting us to

your sushi and wine nights and any other outing you've organized. We love you, *um grande abraço*.

Steven, Mary, Talitha, and Joseph, thank you for always coming to visit us and helping us with our visas and residency papers. You're a great bunch to be around and get together with, especially at parties, you guys know how to have fun! You're a real encouragement. And we love hearing your testimonies and Steven's jokes.

—THE TSHWANE HOME, AFRICA

We want to express our love and appreciation to our daughter, **Amy** (17). She is truly amazing—a real 110% disciple! Amy has laid down her life daily to help her younger brothers and sisters. She has tirelessly taught them school for the last three years. She has helped to faithfully give them a solid foundation in the Word and has shown initiative in every area of their lives.

Amy also loves the Word, and has taught her sisters and brothers how to hear from the Lord in prophecy, which they all love to do. We wanted to show our thankfulness to Amy by telling the whole world about her! She is moving on to a new Home now where, DV, she will get the fellowship with other young people that she has desired, but hasn't been so available to her since we live in a small city with few young people.

Amy has been a sample of sacrifice and laying down her own life in order to help others. She has also been a cheerful, wholehearted witness, and many people have said how impressed they were upon meeting her.

Amy, we love you and are so proud of you. Thanks so much for being so wholehearted and willing. You have been an integral part of the work here and we all want to say a very, very big thank-you.

With love from,
—MUM, DAD, CHANTAL, JASMINE, ELLIOT, AND DYLAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Pray!



Healing key: Praise Me for the victories of healing that I perform through the keys. Wield these two weapons together and you will see dynamic results.

Testimonies of Answered Prayer

Meekness (of Tim), Spain: I'd like to thank you all, dearest Family, for your faithful prayers for me. For a whole year I was suffering from terrible arthritis pains in my back and left hip, the infection and pain of it was almost unbearable at times! About a month ago the pains stopped, and though my back and hip are still sensitive, I no longer have the pains. I feel very well, and I'm able to move around freely, and take care of my kids and the house without having to stop and stay in bed because of the pains.

It is indeed a miracle! Though I have a physical part that I have to do in order to help the healing process, the pains have disappeared completely. It is still winter here and quite cold, which is something that used to make it hurt even more, but by the power of the keys I have no pain whatsoever! The Lord is healing me and I know it is because my Family is praying for me. Thank you!

Joan, Mimi, Paula, Stephen, Hungary: Our Home had been battling with throat infections for some time. A doctor checkup revealed it was strep throat, and some of the kids got an accompanying rash, scarlatina. We prayed and took the medicine the doctor prescribed, but the cure wasn't complete and there were relapses. The kids had sore throats again, and we were praying about what to do. The Lord showed us to unite as a Home, seek Him and do what He would show us. He gave us specific steps to take and we started implementing them—dietary guidelines, sanitation pointers, etc.

It took unity and obedience on the part of everyone, but the Lord brought about a wonderful victory. We needed to take the kids for tests to show the extent of the bacterial infections, and when the results came back the doctor was amazed that the kids were healed without having taken more medication. It was a testimony to him, and to us as well of the power of prayer, asking Him

and following His guidance, key power, and then expecting a miracle!

Gloria, Mexico: We asked for united prayer for baby Sonny Gabriel when it was determined that he had a tumor in his right testicle. The doctors originally pushed to operate immediately. After much prayer and counsel, we agreed to having further tests done, but the tests couldn't be done due to the Christmas season. In the first week of January, after prayer we all agreed to Sonny having the operation, as the tumor had grown and was quite heavy. All this time Sonny was oblivious to it all. Praise the Lord.

Sonny had the tumor removed on January 9th, and came home immediately after the operation and had no obvious pain. They made a small incision similar to a cesarean and in about the same location, and removed everything from the right testicle. We had to wait a week for the results. The first miracle in answer to prayer was that the tumor was not cancerous! The second answer to prayer is the Lord gave Sonny another testicle in place of the damaged one!

We have the ultrasound that was taken when Sonny was three months old, exposing the gross tumor and his good testicle on the left side, and now we have the ultrasound to prove that he received a new testicle within seven days of the operation! When the doctor examined him, he said, "No way! It is impossible!" Then he asked the other specialist for her opinion and she agreed that it was another testicle.

Three days after the doctor's examination, the doctor who delivered Sonny came over and checked him saying, "He has two perfect testicles!" Then she hugged me and thanked the Lord that she saw such a miracle. We are certain that calling on the keys for a miracle brought out this wonderful proof of God being much more than what the medical profession allows for in their thinking. It was also a wonderful example of His love and mercy via the keys of healing. Special thanks to everyone for your prayers!

Joy, Mike, Sylvia, and Tim, Tanzania: Thank you very much dear Family for praying for Robin (6), who had bronchitis due to malaria. She is completely healed, and she is eating and sleeping much better too. We live in a small town in central Tanzania, and when we moved here we realized that we would have to take greater steps of faith to trust the Lord completely for anything we would need medically. This past year, although we have suffered from malaria and other illnesses, we have seen the miracles with the keys of

healing not only heal our sick bodies, but also keeping us safe from the many serious illnesses that surround us.

We are very thankful for the gift of the keys, because without them living in our situation would be very difficult. We can testify that the keys are everything the Word has promised, and the more we use them, the more power we draw from Heaven to do the job we have been called to do! We are truly most richly blessed!

Ben, Robin, Simon, and Sunshine, Uganda: We have all been praying for Helen (22), an Active member, who was ill with sickle-cell anemia. Four of her brothers and sisters had already died of it, and it didn't look good for her, as she was so weak and in pain and unable to move. Since having been on the prayer list, she's completely back to normal health, and is miraculously energetic and well! It's a wonderful testimony to the power of the keys and prayer!

Jesse Youngblood, USA: I'd like to thank all those who prayed for my eye. The Lord raised up a doctor who correctly diagnosed my problem as a severe cataract. He also recommended me to some people who donated the entire cost of the operation (over US\$2,000). I am now doing fine, and see wonderfully with a renewed 20/20 vision. Thank You, Jesus!

David and Cherish, USA: Thank you so much, dear Family, for your prayers for David's hip surgery and recovery. He is doing great and is back on his feet once again, and is now free from pain! He is still walking with a cane, though the doctors say he'll soon be able to walk without it. Our God truly is a God of miracles!

Asia

Aman (baby, of Peter and Lily): Had an operation to remove the natural lens from his eye, and they were able to attach the retina back to his eye. The doctor said that Aman's eye is already recovering better than she expected. We know it's just an answer to everyone's prayer and of the power of the keys. Aman will need to have a contact lens fitted, which will replace the natural lens that was removed. Please continue to pray that the retina will be able to focus properly, and there will be no other complications.

Newborn (of Victory and Richard): The baby was born via C-section and was a few weeks premature, weighing only 1.9 kg. The baby's having a hard time feeding, and has lost weight since birth. Please pray for the baby to start nursing and gaining weight, and that

there will be no side effects from being born premature.

Europe and Africa

Andrew: Problems with a malfunctioning liver, which cause nausea and have prevented me from being able to eat or sleep much. These problems hit me like an acute indigestion attack, which causes me to lose all strength. These attacks usually take me only a few days to recover from, but the last one took me over two weeks and weakened me quite a bit. So I want to ask for prayer against these attacks, and for the strengthening of my liver.

Baruc (of Ruthie): A recent CAT scan of his brain revealed two tumors—one very large tumor, and another smaller one. Both tumors appear to be metastasis, meaning the seat of the cancer is somewhere else in the body, in another tumor. The neurosurgeon and his team said the tumor is too advanced to operate surgically. They've searched for the seat of the cancer, but didn't find anything.

We plan to get another diagnosis from a team of oncologists, who will most likely want to do chemotherapy and radiation, but we know that if the Lord wants to heal Baruc, He can do this His way and in His time, without those treatments. Please pray that Baruc starts to eat well, so he can gain back all the weight and the strength he's lost, and for complete recovery from the cancer.

Ruthie (of Baruc): Breast cancer. Physically exhausted, for strength and energy to keep fighting and to keep up with all the physical things her treatment and special diet entail throughout the day, as well as her care of Baruc.

Galina: Diabetes; thyroid and heart problems; chronic bronchitis with asthmatic component, and chronic pancreatitis.

Jessica (12): We found a lump on her leg, and after x-rays the doctor said there is a growth inside the bone just below her knee. We would like to ask the Lord to shrink it completely, that it is not cancerous, and won't require surgery. Thank you for claiming the keys, and praising the Lord for a miracle.

North America

Elena (2, of Sam and Becky): Liver problems; against liver infections, for healing.

Grace (of Gary): Cellulitis in lower legs (a severe infection that causes blood clotting).

activated responses

I really like *Activated*. When I read it, the mag is alive to me. I do not know, maybe it's because I know you—missionaries from the Family. The mag is really different from other Christian literature and I really like it.

—O.V., Ukraine

From the words that I read in *Activated* I feel such a love, and it gives me hope that there are still people that can write about love in such a way that it really makes you feel loved.

—S.N., Ukraine

I want to subscribe to *Activated*, not for my personal use but for my students. I am the acting principal of a non-profit and non-denominational Bible college. This is an institute particularly for financially underprivileged youths. We offer free food and lodging, and we charge the lowest minimum for admission and tuition fee only. We have 36 committed and dedicated young boys and girls in the college. They are capable and gifted, yet their poor financial condition hinders them in many areas. I feel that your magazine will be of great help to them. It will tell many living testimonies of the people of faith to them.

—M.S., India

Thank you, dear Keith Philips (*Activated*), for your service, with which the Lord is helping my spiritual growth and preaching the Gospel.

I wrote you a long time ago about my life and how I found the Lord. I can only add now that I have grown in the Lord since then and am stronger now, thank the Lord.

I ask you to pray for me and not me only, but also for my immediate family and relatives, as well as my brothers and sisters here, that I fellowship with. Pray for our ministry, that it would be according to the will of God. You wrote me that to find the will of God is to lose my own will. Pray that I can and that my fellowship will be of the same intent, as only then we will be pleasing God.

Please send me more materials, and I will write you about what I do with them and what I learn from them.

—K.S., Russia

I got your letter and I have no words to thank you for it. Even if it has been a long time since I wrote you, I never lost hope that you would write me, and find someone to pay for my subscription. I'm very happy to receive the *Activated* magazines and keep in touch with you. Here [in prison] life is very hard, and there are many who have a wrong idea about God, and when they see you peacefully reading the Word they try to provoke you, but the Lord always wins in the end and they turn to be extremely curious to see what is it that captivates you so much.

I know you'll help me to become strong in faith, to live my life for God and our Lord Jesus Christ Who gave His life for us.

I thank God each day that He made it possible for me to get your magazines, and I pray to Him for those people that made it possible for me to receive God's Word through you. I hope in turn I'll help as many as possible to know His love!

—C.N., Romania

"letters to the editor"

Re: What's My Purpose? (GV #164)

Some young person, some place: I read this contribution from a young person and it really made me think. Thank you, whoever wrote it. I guess there's everybody who loves to have a good time, but when some people leave the Family, and you were living together, you've got to think, ... well, you have to make a choice, and it's hard. You need to have more dedication especially if you're standing alone. Everybody has to stand alone sometimes—just you and Jesus. When all the other things fall away, and when someone leaves, I have to trust. That just happened to me. I don't really know how to put it, but isn't that what life's about? Not living for myself, but for Him!

Your article gave me hope. Thank you!

entertainment

Movies Rated for YAs and Up

DINNER WITH FRIENDS (2001)

Dennis Quaid, Andie MacDowell, Greg Kinnear, Toni Colette

A husband and wife reevaluate their marriage after their closest friends, another couple, decide to split up after twelve years.

(*Jesus:*) This is a character study with well-defined characters, whose parts are acted well by an impressive cast. It's a thought-provoking film about commitment and choices. This movie is not a handbook on how couples should react or how to do things, especially as I'm not brought into it. But it's a real "slice of life" movie, and deals with very real issues that most couples must face at one time or another. It focuses a fair bit more on the negative than on the positive, but it is a clear demonstration of where certain attitudes and decisions—both good and bad—can take a marriage, and in this sense it is worthwhile. It is interesting to watch the step-by-step interactions and conversations of these two married couples, and it gives some interesting insight—especially for those who are in a relationship.

I would not recommend that teens watch this, mainly because it portrays marriage and relationships in a pretty "fatalistic" light, and those who do not have a lot of life experience might pretty much conclude that most marriages are "doomed." It doesn't have to be taken that way, and the movie portrays a ray of light and hope, and shows that though there are obstacles in any relationship, with enough love and determination, they can be overcome. It takes a lot of love, sacrifice, and humility to share your life with another person. But if it's what I've chosen for you, if it's My will for you, then it's certainly worth the sacrifices, forsakings, and humblings. Any relationship built on selfishness and self-interest, however, is doomed to fail.

As shown in this movie, there are some situations where a relationship really is beyond repair—not that I couldn't help a couple to repair it, but they have to want to fix it, and they have to try and fight for it. And if, over years, they don't try and they don't persevere and they don't work on overcoming their weaknesses and selfishness and interpersonal problems, they can grow to a point where they're both better off without each other. That's not the ideal, of course—the ideal is to work things out and work through them together. But, if over time people ignore the warning signs

and danger signals, and don't really try to make things right, and don't put their hearts and souls into doing so, there are some cases where it is better for people to go their separate ways. It's difficult and painful, but sometimes things do get to that point.

On the overall, this movie is worth watching—for some people. It's important that people pray about whether this movie is good for them, realizing that there are some uninspiring moments, but it is a demonstration of many important and true-to-life principles that would be beneficial for some people to see. A mature viewer, one who has an understanding of the spiritual principles in the Word and the way I see relationships and marriage, will come away with the right conclusions and some worthwhile lessons.

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

CALENDAR GIRLS (2003)

Helen Mirren, Julie Walters

A British women's club, trying to raise money for charity, hit on the idea of having its members pose nude for a pin-up calendar. Comedy, based on a true story.

(*Dad:*) This is a fun film, showing ordinary people being inspired to do extraordinary things. It was not only enjoyable, with some good lessons, good laughs, and fun characters, but it makes a point I thoroughly agree with—that women who stay young in heart get even more beautiful with age. This movie should be a big encouragement to our FGAs of both sexes.

It's very cute and fun to see these older women break out of their shells of conformity and tradition. Thank the Lord that you in the Family have been set free from so many of the needless mindsets that shackle and confine and make life so boring! These dear women had nothing but boring meaningless meetings until this project began. And what made it even more beautiful and meaningful was that it was to help others, the relatives of cancer patients.

The movie also covers the pitfalls of fame—both for family and friendships—but it reaches good conclusions and has a sweet ending. It portrays the women's willingness to make changes, to fight for something they believe in, and to not fear the opinions of man. It leaves you feeling some admiration for this group of gutsy middle-aged women, willing to buck the mindset of "you can't do that!" The general spirit is uplifting, inspirational, and realistic. It should give the older generation a boost of faith that they, too, can overcome

any mindsets, any obstacles that are holding them back from following the radical moves of the spirit. If these British ladies could do it without the keys, just think how much more the Lord will help you to do *with* the power of the keys!

Movies Rated for Junior Teens and Up

ALONG CAME POLLY (2004)

Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston

A man who's afraid of risk, and who makes a living analyzing risk, ends up getting involved in a risky romance.

(*Jesus:*) Overall this is a sweet story that is for the most part easy to relate to and has some good lessons. It's got its funny moments and its serious moments. It's a movie where opposites attract and each person tries to change for the other one.

As with many movies, some of the goals and ideals portrayed aren't exactly right on, but these sorts of attitudes are pretty transparent. A downside of this movie is the man's unforgiving attitude towards his wife. This portrayal of System attitudes gives the message that even if someone is repentant of their wrongdoing, you should not forgive and take them back, no matter how sorry they are. This is not love and forgiveness; this is self-righteousness and bitterness. People make mistakes and should be forgiven if they are truly sorry and want to change.

This movie is much more realistic than some other love stories—and it's a little too realistic in parts, and some scenes are a little distasteful. But overall the message is good and uplifting.

In watching this movie, you feel for the people who don't have Me, and who don't know who to turn to when making decisions. They have friends, but no one can give the right answer every time.

You can go away from this movie reflecting on My version of love. Not love the way the System defines it—getting married with your dream person and settling down—but the white-hot power of My love and Word in your hearts always ready to make new, always doing the unexpected, and always for your good! That's the true nature of My love. I came to love, but often it was a shocking and head-turning type of love. My love moved into action to break the chains of tradition and to help people live. I wanted to set people free from the calculated, law-abiding morass that had become society. No other love can satisfy, and no other love can be that radical, that revolutionary! My love changes you, and that's the bottom line.

BIG FISH (2003)

Ewan MacGregor, Albert Finney, Billy Crudup

A young man tries to learn more about his dying father by piecing together the stories he has gathered over the years.

(Dad:) This movie takes you into a fantasy world—a world based on fact, but where things are greatly embellished. There's a lot in the movie that's good and interesting, but the good isn't just handed to you on a platter. It's more like a parable—one you have to take the time to hear out, and then afterward stop and really think about. That's not bad. In fact, I would say for the most part it's good. Unfortunately, if I get into explaining the good too much, it'll spoil the whole thing for many, and would take a lot of the fun out of it.

There are things in the movie that are pretty strange—witches and wolves, and a few other bizarre happenings. But though it's not a "must see" film, it is different and interesting, and doesn't contain much violence or bad language. Overall, I would say it's a movie with a message, and a pretty good one at that—you can't judge a book by its cover. If you want to know the truth about something or someone, you've got to be willing to open your heart and look through the eyes of love.

There are some good lessons, and it highlights enduring love. There are important lessons on passing judgment, on trying to understand others, on bitterness and learning to love, and on how to forgive. There are also good lessons to be had about the importance of communication. William, the son, wasn't willing to communicate on his father's terms. He wanted things his way or not at all. But his father, too, was unable to change and communicate in a way that would have

helped his son to understand. He loved him, but couldn't really show him. He kept him at arm's length, at a distance.

The son viewed his father as a liar, while others viewed his tall tales as harmless stories that were interesting and even inspiring. Both views were correct. The man did tell stories, but his intentions weren't necessarily bad, spiteful, or malicious. He wanted to make people happy, to bring a little cheer into their lives—though in an odd sort of way.

Movies Rated for JETTs and Up

THE BASKET (1999)

Peter Coyote, Karen Allen

Drama about intolerance and acceptance, set during World War I. A pair of German orphans are sent to a farming community in the Pacific Northwest after a stay in an internment camp. While they are welcomed by some in the town, many resent their presence.

[Note: This could also be shown to OCs, with parents' approval and previewing.]

(Jesus:) This is a well-done movie with fine acting. The story is very much a character study, but complex enough to hold one's interest. This is a movie about unity and overcoming differences. It has lots of lessons on unity, teamwork, fighting, forgiveness, honesty, and more. Other themes covered in the movie deal with bullying, cruelty, racial prejudice, poverty, bitterness, guilt, death, loss of loved ones, and sacrifice. It is a film rich in things to talk about, as human weaknesses are openly portrayed.

This film takes place during World War I, and also at the beginning of basketball as a sport. From a historical viewpoint the movie is very interesting, showing what

everyday life was like during that time. There wasn't any electricity, or indoor plumbing, much less TVs, computers, and modern-day conveniences that so many take for granted today. You might think that because it is a movie about basketball's beginning that it would be a movie for sports enthusiasts, but it is much more than that—it's about life as it was in the U.S. in 1918.

The movie has a strong anti-war message, showing that everyone loses because of war. It is aimed at teens and pre-teens and is good for this age group, but it is deep enough to be enjoyed by older viewers as well.

Non-Recommended Movies

BUTTERFLY EFFECT, THE (2004; Ashton Kutcher, Amy Smart)

(Jesus:) This movie does not have a good spirit and although the premise of the movie is interesting, the way it's presented is negative and the thoughts and feelings that it leaves you with are those of hopelessness, pain, and frustration. There are many aspects of this film that would affect people negatively.

This is another one of those movies where someone attempts to play God, trying to remedy things of the past that went awry. This man tries so hard to fix those things which went wrong, but ends up messing things up more. It's not that the concept of wanting to change the things of the past is so wrong, but the movie drags you through such horrific ordeals in order to be able to have something to rectify. It focuses on the corrupt attitudes of people, perversions, and other such ungodly things. There is so much unnecessary, senseless stuff to wade through that it dulls whatever good the movie has to offer.

happenings

Fundraising idea

Open Home, Thailand: We were putting together a newsletter for our friends and contacts with our activities and photos over the past months. We provisioned free printing, which is a blessing. Then the Lord gave us the idea to ask some of our contacts if they would like us to put their logo on our newsletter in exchange for a donation from them towards our work. This has gone over very well and several companies have already agreed to this, with others pending a final decision.

The first company that confirmed they would help in this way sent us an e-mail saying: "Our support is just a tiny token

compared to your devotion to help those who need help."

This is a great way for us to bring in some extra needed donations, and this is an avenue of support that companies can relate to, as we are advertising for them, and they always have a budget for this.

Persistent obedience pays off

Fatima, Spain: While visiting Gibraltar, the Lord showed us to keep the reach the rich vision and go straight to the top rather than the usual selling CDs shop to shop for daily fundraising. It took a lot of faith and much prayer to leave the precious hourly high income you can get in a place like

Gibraltar, and do follow up and just visit a few people.

We had a two-day stay in Gibraltar, and at the end of the second day, we had missed a lot of the people we'd wanted to visit. But the Lord kept showing us to persist with follow up and keep trying to reach the top. It was a difficult task, as it was a Friday afternoon, when most big bosses are out for the weekend. However, obedience does bear fruit and, before closing time, we met an important businessman who just asked us what we needed, gave it to us and said, "God cares for you," as he deposited what we asked him for in our hands.

Shine On—January 2004

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
SOUL SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004		
Josue/Maria Fiel, Mexico	1,563	7,814
Rosita H.H., Mexico	1,500	3,000
Rosita Sierva, Mexico	470	940
Jonathan/Marc/Theophany, ME	347	2,080
Andy/Cristina/Maria/Sara, Colombia	250	1,000
Hana/Katka/Rafael/Sarah, Mexico	250	1,500
Angelo/Fe/Filippo, Bolivia	240	1,200
Gabriel/Melody/Mercy, Philippines	227	1,586
Andrew/Mary/Michael/Simon, Kenya	225	1,350
Jonathan/Marc/Theophany, ME	217	1,300

TRACTS SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004	Per Adult	Total
Alcides/Emmanuel/Heber/Stephen, Peru	4,550	27,300
Dove/James/Mark, Ukraine	2,425	9,700
Francisco/Jessica, Venezuela	1,500	3,000
Lily/Rose/Steven, Cameroon	1,340	6,700
Eric/Ester/Josiah/Joy, USA	1,333	8,000
Isaac/Marissa, Fr. Polynesia	940	3,760
Amada/David/Nathanael/Victoria, Mexico	938	7,500
Angela/Anthony/Talitha, So. Africa	929	6,500
Charity/James/Spring, So. Africa	873	5,240
Jeremy/Jonathan/Phoebe, Japan	851	4,256

ACTIVATED DISTRIBUTION SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004	Per Adult	Total
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	1,500	6,000
Anaik/Joy/Tiago, Brazil	1,272	8,901
Bonita/Mark/Renee, India	642	5,775
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	449	2,247
Rose/Shine/Timothy, USA	387	5,033
Susanne, United Kingdom	222	886
Byron/Jenny/Maria/Marie/Simon, Philippines	162	1,943
Angie/Isaac/Ruth, SEA	157	784
Cristina/Ruth/Tabitha, United Kingdom	150	750
Charity/Christopher/Elizabeth/Gareb, Mexico	143	713

ACTIVATED SUBSCRIPTION SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004	Per Adult	Total
Andrew/Mary/Michael/Simon, Kenya	75	
Andrew/Angel/Deepa/MaryAnn/Steven, India	40	
Joan/Marie/Mark/Michael, Philippines	38	
Beth/Car/Crystal/Jon/Joy/Kari/Mamta/Sam, India	37	
Aaliyah/Christian/Eden, Romania	32	
Andrew/Faith/Heaven, Holland	27	
Elkanah/Faith/James/John, India	23	
Byron/Jenny/Maria/Marie/Simon, Philippines	19	
Elizabeth/Jonathan/Marcos/Sara, So. Africa	18	
Philip/Simon/Stephen/Sunny, India	17	

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
POSTER SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004		
Autumn/David/Etienne/Rachel, So. Africa	1,600	16,000
Dust/Nathan/Rejoice, Japan	1,287	6,433
Rosita H.H., Mexico	1,250	2,500
Emanuel/Maria, Peru	900	1,800
Isaac Laertes, Mexico	850	1,700
David/Joy/Peter, Mexico	630	2,520
Andrew/Clare/Peter/Ruth, Japan	620	2,478
Hannah/Philip, Canada	600	1,200
Joe/Samuel/Sara, Mexico	575	2,300
Joy/Kristy/Phinneas/Zeb, Mexico	526	2,630

TAPES/CDs SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004	Per Adult	Total
Jonas/Maria/Michael/Paciencia, Chile	210	1,258
Isaac/Meekness, Reunion Is.	202	403
Jonathan/Marc/Theophany, ME	176	1,056
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	175	875
Anaik/Joy/Tiago, Brazil	132	922
Crystal/Sara/Shane/Victoria, Puerto Rico	128	767
Amor, Mexico	126	378
Aaron/Angie/Joy, Brazil	113	339
Susanne, United Kingdom	113	452
Aaliyah/Christian/Eden, Romania	112	670

BOOKS SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004	Per Adult	Total
Rosita Sierva, Mexico	201	402
Marcos/Paulo/Simão/Vitória, Brazil	162	649
Luchi/Phoebe/Sharon, Mexico	130	1,303
Isaac/Meekness, Reunion Is.	123	245
Hannah/Mary/Matthew/Sara, India	111	1,658
Angeles/Joao/John, Portugal	83	415
Faithy/Lalo/Robyn/Ruth, Mexico	79	316
AMOR, Mexico	79	237
Isaac Laertes, Mexico	72	144
Hana/Katka/Rafael/Sarah, Mexico	70	417

VIDEO SHINERS FOR JANUARY 2004	Per Adult	Total
Gabe/Rejoice/Virginia, USA	141	846
Aneta/Ben/Christy, Botswana	100	400
Jonas/Maria/Michael/Paciencia, Chile	46	275
Claire/Isaac/Monica, United Kingdom	44	175
Mary/Meekness, United Kingdom	36	179
Ivan/Ivan/Virginia, Russia	35	140
Maria/Philip/Svieta, Russia	33	232
Alex/Ama/Dove/Jessica, Mexico	28	534
Anaik/Joy/Tiago, Brazil	22	157
Pavel Mountain Man, Russia	19	38

just for fun The Judge's Decision

Sent in by Sara, USA

An atheist was quite incensed over the preparation for Easter and Passover holidays and decided to contact the local ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) about the discrimination inflicted on atheists by the constant celebrations afforded to Christians and Jews with all their holidays, while the atheists had no holidays to celebrate.

The ACLU jumped on the opportunity to once again pick up the cause of the "downtrodden," and assigned their sharpest attorney to the case.

The case was brought before a learned judge, who after listening to the passionate presentation by the ACLU representative, promptly banged his gavel and said, "Case dismissed!"

The ACLU lawyer stood up and objected to the ruling and said, "Your honor, how can you dismiss this case? Surely the Christians have Christmas, Easter, and many other observances. And the Jews—why in addition to Passover they have Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, and yet my client, and all other atheists, have no such holiday!"

The judge leaned back in his chair and simply said, "Obviously your client is too confused to know about, or for that matter even celebrate, the atheists' holiday!"

The ACLU lawyer pompously replied, "We are aware of no such holiday for atheists. Just when might that be?"

The judge answered, "Well, it comes every year at the same time.—April 1st!"

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1 KJV).

Personals

Dear **Jonathan and Priscilla**, God bless you. I would very much like to re-establish contact with you. My e-mail is m.magnago@uol.com.br, m.magnago@uol.com.br ILY! Cassia (BR 211)

My snail mail address is:

Cassia Batista
Rua Ricardo Perim nº 09/apto 201
Venda Nova do Imigrante/ES
Brasil

CEP: 29.375-000
Tel.: (028) 3546-2629.

former friends —seeking contact

I used to be in the Family a long time ago. I was married to **Tom (Ezekiel)**, from Valois on the West Island of Montreal, Quebec. I had a son with him called Luke. Luke was born June 7th, 1979, in Kingston, Ontario. Luke has been asking me about his father, Tom (or Ezekiel). He would like to communicate with him, and meet him if possible.

My name was Jubilee Little Chamber, or Minstrel later on, and I have two other children. I joined in Toronto in 1972, and knew Tabitha, Uriah, Amaziah, Keziah, and so forth. I am still very much a Christian.

Please have Tom get in touch with me. If he has left the group, but is still in touch, please send him my e-mail: barbrd2003@yahoo.com. Thank you!

—Barb Raymond

Hi my name is Timothy Welsh and I am looking for my father. He has had the names **Joseph, John Albright, and Timothy**. My mom is Gloria (Abigail who was married to Sam Warner). I heard he tried to get in touch with me two years ago. I am living in Sacramento, California, and he can contact me at: timothywelsh@hotmail.com, or snail mail at: 731 Fulton Ave, Sacramento, CA 95825. Thank you.

—Timothy

QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTION STATS BY DESK

Activated Desk	November	December	January
Brazil	2,155	212	221
Chile	13	N/A	29
Colombia	89	64	34
EE and Russia	133	152	114
Europe/Africa	196	145	305
India	443	754	286
Japan	N/A	253	52
Mexico	58	46	88
N. America	35	26	27
Philippines	50	69	90
Taiwan	121	98	39
Total	3,293	1,819	1,285

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