

Word Basis for CS Board Criteria

—Compiled by the CS International Board

[Note: This Word basis has been compiled from already published GNs and/or MLs. Please note that these are just excerpts of prophecies or Letters by Mama and Peter. In most cases, in order to keep this compilation somewhat condensed, the full message has not been included. Some of the excerpts of the GNs in this Word basis have undergone minor edits or text formatting changes to make for easier reading and application.]

1. Manifest unity, the joy of the Lord, outgoing love, unselfish care and concern for others, and camaraderie as a Home.

The overall spirit of your Home should be loving, happy, and united, with members exhibiting the joy of the Lord.

(FROM “SHOOTING STRAIGHT, PART 1—JOY UNSPEAKABLE!”)

(Jesus:) Part of your sample as a disciple is to be a happy one. Isn't that the thing that Christians should be known for?—Not just discipline and being students of the Word, not just witnesses, but happy people, ones who are full of joy. And not just a little joy, but joy unspeakable. That means there's so much joy that you can't even express it; you're overflowing with happiness and contentment and excitement about Me and life itself; you have light in your eyes and on your face. That is your greatest witness.

If the Enemy succeeds in weighing you down in the spirit to the point that you're just not happy, then you won't have the strength you need to face each day. When you begin the day with enthusiasm and you look forward to your work, it's so much easier. There's no weight, it's a pleasure to do it. You love it, problems and all. You like it, even if it is hard work. The spirit of faith and positiveness and praise keeps you upbeat. It helps you rise above the Enemy's weights. It lifts your heart and keeps things in perspective.

You need to feel some pleasure in the things you do. Your life needs to be a pleasant experi-

ence, otherwise you won't enjoy your work and you won't enjoy life. It's important not only for your sake, but for the sake of those you live and work with. They need to see that you're happy serving Me, because that reflects your faith.

After all, you're in My will, My full-time service, and you have all My promises and the keys of the Kingdom and all your spirit helpers and all the power of Heaven on your side. You have new updated spiritual weapons to fight every battle with. You have prophecy to hear My step-by-step counsel. I give you My revelations of the spirit world before any of My other Christian brides on earth. You have My Word to run to for comfort. You have a wonderful Home, a worldwide Family. You have a great team to work with. I supply your needs. I pour out My love and blessings daily upon you. You're working for something eternal. You're saving souls. You're witnessing every day through your job of serving Me—whatever it might be. You're receiving prayer power daily from Mama and Peter and those in WS. The Family is moving forward. Your Activated sheep are growing.

My blessings are all around you, so do whatever it takes to stay focused on the beauty of living for Me. If you let yourself get so burdened with the work, you'll crumble, burn out, and you just won't make it. You have to take the “happy pill” of My Spirit—whatever that is for you personally—whether spending time alone with Me getting refilled, taking praise time until you're really praising, getting prayer from your teammates, memorizing a key, or simply relaxing and having fun with the kids, putting on rabbit

ears and playing with them—or all of the above. Whatever it takes, please fight off the chains of the Enemy and be happy in Me.

You can have that infusion of joy back in your life. Claim the key of joy and expect results. It will be your strength and make your work so much easier and lighter and even enjoyable.

(Jesus:) Don't forget the unbeatable weapon of praise in this battle. The Enemy will try to weigh you down with anything possible, but the weapon of praise can help you rise high above, out of his clutches. Any time you start praising, I'll be there to help you see things as I see them, to infuse you with faith, peace, and trust in Me, which makes it possible for you to relax and be truly happy and full of My joy! It's impossible to be really happy when you're weighed down with too much. So any time you feel that way, start praising Me. Activate your weapon of praise, and send the Enemy running for cover! As you praise, My Spirit will pour down, and your joy—My joy in you, My heavenly perspective on things—will return. I love you! (ML #3499/GN 1086:152, 157-162)

(FROM "HAVE FUN WITH JESUS")

(Jesus:) I've placed around you precious ones who seek to please Me, chosen ones who I've called to live with you and be your workmates, your teammates, your love mates, your Word mates. You won't be with them forever, so take time to enjoy the fellowship and company of those you live with, young and old, each and every one. For each is precious in My sight. Each one has so much love and understanding to give, and each one needs so much love and understanding. So see each one with My eyes, the way I see them.

Thank you for being part of My unique Bride and for doing your part to make your Home a happy Home, a fulfilled Home, a useful Home, a strong staff that I am able to lean on and that I can count on in days of adversity because of your love, loyalty and dedication to My Family.

(Mama:) Another key to being a tightly knit Home is found in just having fun together, enjoying one another's company and fellowship.

It's easy to neglect that aspect when everyone's very busy, which we always are in our work for the Lord. But consider it time invested in your greater marriage, which is time well spent. If you're having a hard time finding time to unwind together or enjoy each other, just schedule it! It's important! It almost qualifies as a part of work, because it helps bind you together as an effective and tight team, and it enables you to do an even better job. So take time for fun and play together! Amen?

(Dad:) Have fun! Enjoy each other! Treasure these days of Heaven that you have to live and work and play together! Tell each other how much you appreciate one another. Take time to talk, to hug, to relax together. The benefits are well worth it, and it will improve your unity as a Home, and eventually your work production, because you'll be more tightly knit, you'll have less friction, and have to take less time sorting out problems or misunderstandings. And when you stop to take a break, you'll really enjoy it and it will be that much more rejuvenating and refreshing. So all around it's worth it! Amen? (ML #3437/GN 1020:65, 68, 114, 121)

You should be caring for one another, sacrificing for the happiness of others...

(FROM "HAVE FUN WITH JESUS")

(Mama:) One area that really helps to improve unity, and consequently the overall standard and spirit of a Home, has to do with each person being willing to do just a little more, to go above and beyond the call of duty in order to lighten the loads of others and make things work.

(Jesus:) One area that many can improve in is in the area of preferring your brethren

and helping out more, seeing the need and taking the extra step to help out in the Home. This is an individual choice. I speak to each person individually and differently. I show different people different things that can be done to be a help, to lighten the load of a brother or a sister. It's up to each person whether they'll take the step, make the sacrifice, do the loving thing, and be the help that I'm showing them to be. As you walk in My Spirit and in My love, and as each person does a little extra, then there's no burden or overloading on any individual. Things become evenly distributed, and everyone becomes happier together.

I reward each act of kindness, sacrifice, and unselfishness. Each such act creates a vacuum into which I can pour My Spirit of joy, fulfillment, satisfaction and love. I love to reward you, to fill you to overflowing, to give you an hundredfold. So no matter what step or what sacrifice or what help you lend, I will more than repay. And the more you do this, the more loving your Home will be. This will strengthen and improve the spirit of the Home. You'll also raise the physical standard of the Home. There will be more cleanliness, more organization, more things that are not left undone or unattended to, because each person is doing their part, the things which I ask them to do. It will be more refreshing and inspiring in every way. (ML #3437/GN 1020:57-59)

Lovingly communicate and work in teamwork with one another; manifest camaraderie of spirit.

(FROM "COMMUNICATION KEYS! PRACTICAL TIPS FOR UNITY, PART 2")

(Mama:) **Communication is so important because it's the medium through which we connect with others.** The Lord knows our hearts; He can see what we're like, communication or no communication. But everyone else has to pretty much go by our communications with them. In essence, the way we communicate with

someone is what we are to them; it's what they know us to be like. If you don't put much effort into your communications with others, the words you speak or the way you say them or how you present things, or you don't consider it very important, chances are that you don't get along very well with some people, that you're not able to be real united, and thus you're not able to have the Lord's blessings to the extent He'd like to give them to you. That's why communication is very important—because it directly affects your unity and the way others feel toward you, and thus your fruitfulness and happiness and every area of your life! (ML #3323/GN 927:2)

(FROM "LEADERSHIP LESSONS, PART 3")

(Jesus:) **The way to avoid problems that can arise when sharing your heart in open and honest communication with others is through love, humility, and prayer**, and in hearing from Me both individually and together with those whom you communicate with. Love, humility, prayer, asking Me everything, and using the keys I've put in your hands, solve all problems. This is a sound principle of My Spirit, and it must apply to both sides. Communication is a two-way street; both sides must apply this principle. (ML #3386/GN 986:27 point 2)

(FROM "LOVING INTERACTION! PRACTICAL TIPS ON COMMUNICATION, HONESTY AND OPENNESS!")

(Jesus:) **Following is a list of key factors needed in order to have good communication with anyone**—your husband or wife, your shepherd, your peers, young people, older people, friends and co-workers:

Honesty. Unless there's honesty in communication, you're going to get your wires crossed. A good foundation to have if you want to get off on the right foot with someone is to be completely honest and open.

Tact. As soon as you realize you must be completely honest, you must also pray and ask Me to help you be prayerful and loving in the way you express things, especially things that

are of a sensitive nature. Some things would be better talked out with a shepherd first, so that you can get counsel on how to present it, or can find out if it's even necessary to do so. Above all, ask Me. I know what's best and will show you the humble, loving thing to do.

Love. Love is what motivates you to be truthful and sincere with others, as well as tactful when the occasion warrants it.

Wisdom. In order to know the difference between when you should be as open as possible and when it would be better to be more careful with your words, you need to pray for wisdom.

Sensitivity. The sensitivity I speak of here is that of being responsive and attentive to the needs of others. It's helpful to try to be sensitive to others' moods and feelings when communicating. For example, perhaps you know someone is in a more receptive mood after dinner than right after their nap, so that might be a better time to talk to them. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Courage. Having the faith that overcomes the fears and hesitations you have about communicating, and which expects a positive response.

Sense of timing. Timing is vital in communication. Of course, in the smaller matters that you discuss with others on a daily basis, it's more important that you simply communicate often. But when the subject is a little sensitive, requires privacy, or may mean unpleasant news or changes for someone, then it's wise to choose the timing of your presentation when they're not in the middle of a demanding project, or coming to the close of a hectic day.

Prayerfulness. Mental prayerfulness is good in any situation, constantly praying for wisdom, for "in the multitude of words there lacketh not sin." But verbal prayerfulness is also a good habit to acquire in communicating with others. If you have a work-related matter or some kind of delicate situation to discuss—or even when it's just fellowship but you don't know what topics are going to come up—pause for a moment and

say a prayer. Acknowledging Me helps you to go slower, to have more respect for each other and for Me, and it also empowers Me to make your time beneficial and not hurtful or frustrating.

Patience. Good communication requires patience. Everyone is different and has different ways of looking at situations and solving them, so it takes patience to see things as someone else sees them, and also come to a common ground of agreement.

Respect. You must respect the other person's opinions and feelings. The most obvious way this is manifested in communication with others is in letting them say their piece without interrupting or trying to hurry them along or finish their sentences for them.

Sense of humor. Lighten up! Often people hold things in, so that when they finally do take the plunge to communicate about a matter, they come across too strongly or defensively. It pays to lighten up together if things are getting too intense or unnecessarily "heavy."

Silence. Yes, surprisingly, the art of being silent is a quality much needed sometimes in communication, or rather the art of listening. It's no use trying to come to an agreement with someone if you are merely thinking about what you're going to say while they're voicing their opinion. Be like the wise old owl: the less he spoke the more he heard!

Openness to others. People will be much more at ease communicating with you if you make a habit of being open to what others have to say.

Humility. It doesn't pay to carry the attitude around that you're always right. Pride stalemates communication more than any other trait. Also, like the fable of the wind and the sun, you will find that as you take the lower seat of hearing people out and sincerely considering their opinions, they will be more open to yours as well.

Regular communication. Good communication should not be saved for special occasions, but should be a part of your everyday life. People who communicate frequently understand each

other the best, and are more likely to be able to work through problems when they come up.

Clarity. Explain, explain, explain. You may think others understand exactly what you mean, but it may surprise you to realize that misunderstandings arise every day in people's lives for lack of clarity. If you're not sure whether someone understands what you mean, ask them! It's a lot more efficient than guesswork.

Talking. This may seem humorous to some people, but there are many people who settle for subtle hints, signals, and cryptic messages as their sole forms of communication, whether in bed with someone, working together, or trying to iron out some problem. Unfortunately, the success rate for those forms of communication is minimal, and nothing beats talking—both to each other and, most of all, to Me. Try it!

Willingness. Communication takes just plain hard work. It takes a lot of effort, but the rewards of friendship, harmony, unity, and mature relationships are well worth the energy spent—as long as you're willing to do it! (ML #3234/GN 837:10-28)

(FROM "GET UP AND GET OVER IT, PART 1")

(Mama:) ...Whoever you work with or live with, that's your "teamwork," and you're meant to be each other's safeguards...

Chris was explaining how his Home teamwork, and other teamworks in our WS units, take time to relax and have a meal together or fellowship, and that's a good idea that will really help to strengthen your teamwork too. It helps if you're close friends, open with each other about personal things, so that you have camaraderie and support in the spirit and feel like you have someone you can talk to, and that you can encourage each other. Of course, I understand that sometimes it's not natural to get along so well, or your working relationship is more of a business relationship and not all that personal. But that's really not how it should be. In order to be an effective teamwork, it should go beyond that.

It doesn't matter if your teamworker isn't the kind of person that you naturally click with—if the Lord put you together, He must know that you can be a good balance for each other and a good team together. And you've got to work in that direction, because it's not just going to happen all by itself! The Enemy is going to fight it! That's something that many of you need to work on. (ML #3497a/GN 1082:123-125)

Those who visit your Home, whether other Family members or outsiders, should be able to recognize the Lord's Spirit manifested in your Home and members.

(FROM "MORE ON THE KEYS!—WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, PART 3")

(Jesus:) My dears, this is a new day, and one that will astonish you with its brilliance. The new day is constantly being renewed, just as is the term "latter days." This new day that you're experiencing is the constant refilling of My Spirit in you in a greater measure, as the world grows darker and darker around you.

It's not hard to perceive that the world is becoming more evil, and that wickedness is more and more acceptable and the norm. Movies are filled with violence. Young children are killing other children. Sodomy, drug abuse, oppression by violent crime and violent governments are all becoming normal and no longer cause a widening of the eyes.

Though darkness abounds, light will much more abound. The brightness of My love in the hearts and spirits, the eyes and smiles, the shining faces of My believers will shine greater and greater. So great will be the shine that people will be surprised. They will be drawn to My children as iron to a magnet, even if you don't say a word. The love in your faces, the shine, the happiness you have will draw them unto you.

And then what? My desire is that in this era of action, you will begin to experience the action of My love in your hearts and lives in a greater measure than ever before. For as men and women are drawn to you, as they desire to know you, to know the source of this joy and love and happiness, it's imperative that not just your countenance, not just your outward actions, not just your words, but that your inner life reflects the beauty of My Spirit just as much.

So I will do miracles for all of you in your personal lives. When people are drawn to you because of your smile and your countenance and your obvious happiness, I wish for them to find the same thing inside you. I wish that in getting to know you, they will get to know Me.

By this I mean that I wish for your Homes to become havens of peace, joy, and happiness. I wish for you to not only project these qualities when you're out distributing literature, tapes, posters, or videos, or when you're selling *Activated* subscriptions, or when you're doing follow-up, or when you're visiting someone, but in the day-to-day life of your Homes. I wish for there to be such an atmosphere of love, giving, understanding and unselfishness that as you take new ones into your Home, they will not be disappointed seeing your personal lacks, but instead they will grow closer to Me as they see the beautiful sample, on a day-to-day basis, of those who have given their lives to Me.

It's imperative that My Family Homes exhibit this unity, love and sharing, because I will be bringing more and more of My lost sheep to you. They will be in your Homes. They will see your sample. They will partake of your spirit. And whose spirit do you want them to see? You don't want them to partake of anything that is not of Me—any selfishness, bickering, lack of love, lack of giving, or lack of unity. You want them to experience all the positive qualities I've given you—love, sharing, sacrificial giving, peace, harmony, and unity.

So this is one of the miracles that I will perform in your Homes. As you yield to My Spirit,

with your enhanced gift of faith, your ability to rise above, and the keys to the Kingdom that I have now given you, you will have an increased ability to live in unity, love, sharing and harmony in your Homes. You will have more of My Spirit to do so! You will have more of the power of Heaven to do so! And your Homes will not just be places where you live and eat and take care of your children and take care of the things that are your own personal concerns, but they will be havens of peace, love and sweet harmony where I can bring My sheep to partake of My Spirit.

There will be such an atmosphere of love! There will be such understanding! There will be such giving! There will be such preferring of each other! There will be such a desire to see each one happy and fulfilled and having all they need.

My loves, don't expect that this will happen overnight, but I extend this promise to you, because it is so needed for My plan to continue. Your friends, sheep, contacts, relatives and acquaintances will be coming to you, as you reach out to them more and more, as you use the *Activated* materials, and as you're faithful to follow My admonitions to follow up. And your Homes—the spirit and atmosphere and qualities of the spirit that they exhibit—are another tool that I wish to use in this time.

So reach out for these promises! Claim them for your Home, so that your Home can be the haven of peace and love that I have ordained it to be. Let it be that when people enter, they feel My Spirit. They feel it because in your inner lives, in your secret thoughts, in your interactions with your brothers and sisters, your motive is love. Your motive is to fulfill My commandments to love one another.

Remember that I said, “By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, because ye have love one for another.” By this you will bear much fruit. By this you will see many added to your folds. By this you will see great expansion. By this you will see My promises of greater miracles come to pass. By this you will

be amazed at all I will do to bless you, because you have obeyed!

As you obey and let My Spirit fill you and reign in your Homes, you will see the fulfillment of My promises of supply, healing, miracles, and greater expansion. All you have to do is let My Spirit reign. When problems come up, think, “What is the most loving, the most humble, the most giving, the most Spirit-filled thing I can do?” Because you’ve practiced asking Me everything, I will lead you in each instance. I will give you the greater ability to rise above any and all everyday problems, as you rest in My Spirit and let My Spirit fill you.

This may take some practice, but as you take a step, and then another, and then another, you will see My love fulfilled in you more each day. You will see changes all around you, but specifically you will see changes inside you.

These are often little choices you must make—sometimes things that no one knows about but Me and you—but the spirit that you carry will reflect these choices. The spirit of your Home will reflect the personal choices that you have made, as a Home, regarding giving, sharing and loving. So always choose these things, and rest on My promises to fulfill in you what I have said, and I will do it.

Trust, obey, believe, and act! And I will do My part to make your Homes the havens of peace and love that will be like nests for My new baby disciples to grow in. I love you! And I look forward to raising all these new baby birds in the nests of your Homes, together with you! Love, Jesus, your Daddy Birdie.

(Mama:) In the early days of the Family, we were very aware of the power of the sample of our communal living. We knew if we could just get the sheep to “come and see,” then our unity, love and sacrificial caring for one another would often be enough to dispel any doubts they might have about the existence of a God of love. Anything that disrupted our sample of happy communal living in those early years was

looked upon as a serious breach in the spirit, a terrible and dangerous attack of the Enemy.

Unfortunately, things have changed, and many of our brethren seem to have lost the vision about how important our sample of living together in love and happiness is. This is sad, but true. I’ve heard many pitiful stories of resentment, bitterness, arguments, and lack of unity in our Homes. The CROs have reported that there’s a trend in some areas where Homes break up because the Home members can’t live together; then those same people get together with others, and with time their next Home also breaks up. This happens again and again. . . . It’s because of selfishness and lack of love that many of you find it nearly impossible to live together with others.

This is a serious problem, and we need to fix it. We can’t have hungry people who are full of hope and looking for answers visit our Homes only to go away disappointed because what they read about in the Word or the *Activated* publications is not a reality in your lives. God will hold you responsible if you stumble His little ones with your lack of love and unity, your bickering and indifference. People want to see if you live what you preach. Do you!?

The power you need to “get back to our roots” of happy Heavenly Homes is found in the keys! As the Lord explained in the message you just read, you can rise above with an increased ability to live in love and harmony in your Homes. He reinforced that in another message He gave us on this point, saying, “I want My struggling children to know that they can have renewed hope for unity with the gifts I have given them, for many have lost faith that they can ever live in unity with some of their brethren. The rivers of disunity flow so deep that without the knowledge of this supernatural power, they will not even try to restore unity; they will simply continue business as usual. But unity is one of the greatest and most far-reaching effects of these gifts, one that will bring with it many other fruits and blessings.” (*End of message from Jesus.*)

So you can do it, dear Family. Will you try? Will you keep striving for unity? As you meditate on this message, check your heart and see where you stand and how your Home fares. Is your Home a haven of love, joy, and peace? Please make it so! (ML #3354/GN 947:84-89, 94-108)

(FROM “LIVING THE LORD’S LAW OF LOVE!—PART 2”)

(Mama:) The Lord understands that we don’t naturally have enough love to live in the loving manner that He’s asking us to, but as you’ll see in the following message, that’s no excuse. Just because we can’t do it doesn’t mean He doesn’t expect us to, because He will do it for us and through us! He’s promised that He can give us the love we need, that He will pour His love through us and make us new creatures!

(Jesus:) What I ask of My children is a miracle—I ask for outgoing, sacrificial love. It’s the nature of man to be self-preserving, self-seeking, self-satisfying. It’s the nature of man to put his own needs and survival above others. But that is the way of the men of this world who know Me not. My children have a great advantage because I’ve broken those natural circuits. I’ve cut those wires and I’ve rewired their minds and hearts to do My bidding, which is to love others. What a marvelous testimony this is!

When I was with My disciples I said, “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another.” In that day, this love was a great testimony; it drew much attention and caused a mighty widening of the eyes. But how much more so is this love a miracle in this day and age when people are completely consumed with themselves, their own wants, needs and desires. People have closed themselves off from loving sacrificially. Even marriages no longer have their foundation in unselfish love. There is such darkness, such misery!

But this lack of love only serves to make the love of My children shine more brightly! It’s

as a beacon of love, direction, miracles, power, strength! People cannot deny that such love is out of this world. They ask, “Where do you get such love? How can you live together? How do you do it?” Ah, such satisfaction it brings Me when My children are such a testimony of My love!

In this day and age there is an even greater need for love, because the hearts of men have grown terribly cold and hard. They are no longer sensitive to the gentle reflection of My Spirit—they need strong blasts of the red-hot, fiery, blazing power of My love in action! Only then, when it’s as a huge, brilliant bonfire in their midst, will they notice, see and believe. For this reason I have set a challenge before the children of David to love more deeply, more sacrificially, more impartially.

I know this is far above your natural ability. It’s out of your reach to find such love on your own. If you try to do this in your own strength, the arm of the flesh, you’ll be disappointed, frustrated, and tire of such labor. But if you call out to Me, simply asking Me for the love you need, and are then willing to put that love into action by faith, I will give you My love in such tremendous volume and power that you will know you have witnessed a miracle!

It takes desperate prayer, a believing spirit, and a willing mind and heart. Then follow this with many small steps of unselfish love, and you will become a new creature. You will think of others, have more concern, and feel for others’ needs more readily. You’ll be willing to give up your own plans and ideas to care for the weak.

Love is action, love is doing, love is outgoing concern. But all of this must come from My hand if it is to last. I have such love for you! I’m waiting with a flood of love to pour out upon the children of David, if you will but ask, seek Me with desperate hearts, believe that this is possible, and then be willing to be made willing, available, sensitive lovers of others.

I am the God of miracles, and I will give you this miracle of love. I want to give you this new anointing of love, which is synonymous with

My power, My face, My person. I am Love, and you can have more of Me than you've ever had before. Ask and you will receive!

(Mama:) Remember, the Lord will give you the strength, the grace, and the power to give of yourself to others, to put the needs of others before your own, if you ask Him, if you let Him fill you with His Spirit, if you give your life to Him. You can't do it, but Jesus can! And He will, if you let Him! (ML #3202/Vol 25:43-52)

Live in unity with those in your Home and other Homes.

(FROM "DANGERS OF DIVISION—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 2")

(Jesus:) My prayer is that you will be one as My Father and I are one. When I say My Family needs to come together in unity, I mean they are to come together in love and oneness. In My Word I have given you example after example of the kind of unity you must have; if you have heard these things, it behooves you to do them.

In order to be one, to unite and live in unity, many will need to change their selfish lifestyles; they will need to adapt, to take on a give-and-take policy in their day-to-day lives. In practical terms, according to My Love Charter, this means things such as going with the majority vote rather than sticking to your own way; it means being willing to counsel with others, to pray for and with others, to hear from Me together; it means being doers of these words, and not hearers only.

I have said how good and how blessed are those who dwell together in unity, for in unity you are made strong. You are to have true unity in spirit and in flesh, not unity that is merely for outward show only.

Unity is synonymous with love. Unity is having love among yourselves. Unity is being of one mind, of one heart, of one spirit. Unity is

doing all things in love. It is resisting the Enemy and rejecting all strife among you; it is not letting the sun go down upon your wrath. Unity is preferring others before yourself; it is stooping to help someone in need, even when you don't feel like it. Unity is upholding one another in prayer; it is interceding in prayer for a mate, for a brother or a sister in need. Unity is walking in lowliness of mind and in meekness; it's putting off pride, and instead, choosing to do the humble thing.

Unity is forbearance; it's holding your tongue when necessary. Unity keeps the bond of peace. Unity is having compassion on one another; it's walking a mile in another's shoes. Unity is kind. It is not haughty; it does not seek for vainglory. Unity sows love instead of hatred; it sows forgiveness instead of bitterness. Unity is not contrary, but it walks hand in hand with others, agreeing together.

Unity is the bond of love. Unity has drawing power; it never rejects. Unity continually reaches out to others; it draws a circle to bring others in. There is no selfishness in unity, for unity gives and gives and gives. Unity is praise and thanksgiving; it knows no murmuring. Unity is sticking together, being together, doing things together, working together, winning together.

Unity is believing in one another, trusting in one another, confiding in one another. Unity is communication. Unity is helping, sharing, caring, understanding. Unity is sacrifice; it's giving your time for others. Unity chooses the happiness of others first; it puts the needs of others before your own. Unity builds up; it never tears down. Unity is humility. Unity is thoughtfulness. Unity is love put into action. Unity is loving the one beside you as yourself. Unity never hurts or separates; it always brings together. Unity is strength. Unity is supreme.

This is the kind of unity My children must have. This is the kind of unity that will ford rivers, scale mountains, work miracles, and defy all impossibilities.

Unity is for all to be fully committed to doing My highest will, obeying the Word and having Me in first place. Unity is My blessing upon My disciples who all want the same thing, seeking to put My Kingdom first. Unity is all walking the same direction, allowing your personal goals to be the goals put forth in the Word. Unity is not synonymous with compromise; it is reaching for My highest will together. Unity is found by taking the first step to forgive, and then following Me step by step as you iron out differences, resolve problems, seek to keep the standard of My Word, and raise your children in My nurture and admonition.

(Jesus:) My fervent prayer today is the same as when I left Earth—that you will unite as one. You must choose to be one as My Father and I are one, or choose your own desires and move on. You must choose to unite, or to follow your own willful hearts. It's as simple as that. For the only way you will be able to fulfill your destiny, the only way you will be able to access the keys, the only way you will have the power to rise above all impossibilities is in the strength of unity. The only way you will win this war in the era of action is by uniting.

What I require in these Last Days of those who will follow Me closely, of those who will use the keys to the Kingdom, of those who will have the power to rise above, is that you join as one. There is no other way. Only in the strength of unity will all these things I have spoken of your glorious future come to pass. Only those who unite will be able to fulfill what I have spoken....

Those who continue on in the army of David must strive for unity at all costs. You must endeavor to live My Law of Love, to live together in unity, to unite in vision and goals, in oneness of heart, mind, and spirit.

I require that you demonstrate your faith in Me through endeavoring to keep the unity among you by taking action on such things as:

- working together to resolve your differences through love, humility, communication and prayer;
- taking the humble seat and apologizing, even if you feel it's the other person who is in the wrong;
- asking Me what your part is in the problem and then being willing to rectify it;
- being willing to confess your sins and wrong attitudes and get united prayer;
- praying a “whatever it takes” prayer and allowing Me to work in your life;
- working to overcome your strong personality traits that stand in the way of unity;
- asking your brethren to safeguard you;
- seeking correction when needed;
- being flexible and learning to give and take;
- giving others the benefit of the doubt;
- persevering in loving communication even when you feel misunderstood or rejected;
- going to others in love and humility to communicate and seeking Me together for solutions;
- forsaking all criticism and gossip;
- fighting to overcome familiarity;
- forgiving and forgetting—forsaking the past;
- yielding to Me in all things;
- calling on the power of the keys to help you rise above all that would stand in the way of your unity.

(ML #3362/GN 958:190-198, 136, 137, 139, 141)

(FROM “KEEP FIGHTING!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 6”)

(Jesus:) The method that has been used in the past of splitting a Home or moving to another Home because of differences is not a solution to disunity. If disunity is a matter of personal differences, or people needing some correction to help them live up to the standard, this should be sorted out within the Home. If disunity is a matter of people lacking overall

commitment and not belonging in the CM Family, then shepherding should be given, by the Home and/or area officers, so that the people involved can either be given the help to change or to move to the level of membership that better fits their lifestyle. The day of escapism, of trying to solve problems by running away from them—which is compromise in a big way—is over. That is not the solution to internal discord and division. The problems must be fixed and attended to—not run away from or swept under the carpet.

This is part of the call to greater conviction: that when you see something that is amiss, that is not in line with My Word, that you go on the attack to remedy the problem and change things. Moving to another Home or sending others in your Home off to some other Home is NOT, and I repeat, NOT the key to solving disunity.

(Mama:) The whole point is that we will all unite around obedience to the standard of the Word. That's where our unity comes from—living the Word. It's not a matter of figuring out in your own minds what you think is right and deciding what you'll tolerate according to what seems good to each individual. The Word is what sets the standard—the “Conviction versus Compromise” series, the other GNs, and the Charter, which are all based on the Lord's call to discipleship. (ML #3366/GN 969:55, 56, 60)

Refrain from gossip, criticism, sowing division and harboring bitterness...

(FROM “STOP THE GOSSIP NOW”)

(Dad:) I want to address right here and now what I consider one of the most serious problems the Homes ... are having, and that's the problem of gossip that's running wild! And the bottom line is this: If this rumor mill and gossip ring doesn't stop, I'm going to put a stop to those who are guilty!

Do you know what Jesus had to say about those who offend even the littlest ones of His children? He said it would be better for a millstone to be put around their neck and that they be cast into the depths of the sea! Do you know what Jesus Himself said about offences? If your hand or foot offend, it's better to cut it off! If your eye offend, pluck it out! Those are some pretty drastic measures, aren't they?

Well, I've got news for you! I'm going to take some pretty drastic measures if this doesn't stop! If all this gossiping and badmouthing doesn't stop, we're going to cut you off!

If I hear or see anybody from now on spreading gossip, and thereby sowing disension, disunity and discord amongst your brethren—we're going to take some drastic action to cut you off from the Family! Beloved, these are abominations to God, they're abominations to me, and I will not tolerate it in this Family!

If I hear or see any more of this corrupt communication, we're going to cut you off, and that's it! And I'm not only talking about those of you who are voicing it—who are spreading the gossip—but I'm also talking about those of you who listen to it! It takes two to tango. You're lord over your own tongue, but the other guy is also master of his ears!

No one who is going around spreading corrupt communication [gossip] belongs in this outfit, and that's that! And if you're listening to these dirty dirges, you're just as guilty! We've addressed the subject of love and unity plenty in the Letters, and you all have had ample warning. Maybe what you didn't see was the extent that this gossip is tearing down the very foundation of what we're trying to build as a Family—love, respect, trust, unity and harmony! So we're not going to tolerate willful and unloving gossip in this Family anymore!

Any of you who are gossips and talebearers are outright rebelling against the greatest of all commandments—to love one another! If you're guilty of this ugly gossip, you're rebelling

against the law of God! You're disobeying His greatest commandment to live in love!

Anyone who is guilty and who does not repent and show fruits of repentance, I'm going to say good riddance to bad rubbish—we don't need you here! Anybody who continues on in this kind of behavior does not belong to this missionary work! Anybody who insists on ignoring the Letters, and does not at least strive to follow all the loving advice and counsel that the Lord and I and Mama and Peter have given on this subject, has no place in this outfit!

If you're among the guilty, you'd better watch out! You'd better get out your Love Charter and seriously review your responsibilities as a member of this Family of Love! Are you striving to love your brethren? Are you resisting the Devil when he tempts you with his evil devices, and when he tempts you with being a busybody and a gossip? Are you exhibiting the fruits of the Holy Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance? Are you striving to be a sample of the love of Jesus to others? Are you trying your best to constantly practice walking in love?

Are you striving to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and to let Him make you into the kind of loving, Christlike person He wants you to be? Beloved, you don't practice love by spreading ugly gossip about your brethren. You don't practice love and strive to be a Christlike person by getting on the phone and badmouthing others and letting your tongue run wild! You don't practice love by keeping up corrupt communication amongst yourselves!

Love does no harm to your brethren, folks! Love doesn't gossip or spread the intimate matters of others around. Love doesn't badmouth and spread rumors! This is not according to the Law of Love! If you'll just read your Love Charter, you might find that if you're a guilty party to this ongoing, malicious gossip going around, you're breaking the Charter rules on interacting lovingly and harmoniously with other Family members, and by causing physical, spiritual or

emotional harm to others, your Charter membership could be in question for failing to live up to your responsibilities as a Charter member! (ML #3187/GN 792:41, 51-53, 60, 62-63, 66, 68-69, 71)

(FROM "PUTTING 'SKIN' ON SIN")

(Jesus:) There are many sides to gossip, but of this you can be sure, all sides of gossip are bad. There is never a justification for gossip. There is nothing good about gossip; not one side of gossip is of Me.

There is not one speck of gossip that I will tolerate, and those who begin down this treacherous road will only find emptiness, pain, and eventual destruction. For this is its purpose; the reason gossip is perpetrated by the Evil One and all of his hellish demons is to bring you, the babbler, to your end, and likewise others along with you.

Let Me spell out to you what gossip is, that you may know the gravity of the matter.

Gossip is ugly.

Gossip is kindred to criticism.

Gossip is slander, libel, defamation.

Gossip is spreading Satan's propaganda.

Gossip is filthy.

Gossip is perfidy.

Gossip is vicious and malicious.

Gossip is hurtful, it promotes pain.

Gossip is meant to destroy.

Gossip is more than a lack of love, it is the voice of hatred.

Gossip is a stumbling block; it is one of the Enemy's favorite tools.

Gossip is designed to promote disunity.

Gossip is a springboard to destruction.

Gossip is a direct attack on My Law of Love.

Gossip is allowing Satan to control your tongue.

Gossip is an unruly evil.

Gossip is a deadly poison.

Gossip is a killer.

Gossip is straight from the pits of Hell.

If you want to be sure that you are not gossiping, if you want to safeguard yourself against it, follow this cardinal rule of thumb: Whatever you have to say about another, if you wouldn't say it in the presence of that person, face to face, then don't say it at all. Then you will know that you are not spreading gossip. (ML #3453/GN 1038:31-35)

(FROM “THE DANGERS OF DIVISION!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 2”)

(Mama:) To live in division, backbiting, gossip and hatred is wrong! It's against the Word, it's against the Law of Love, and it's against the Charter.

Division still exists in the Family. We have regularly called the problem disunity, but let's call it what it is. It's division. The Family in many places is divided!

Our work for the Lord will be destroyed if we don't root out this problem and restore unity. It's so sad—really pitiful—that whole cities or even whole countries are torn apart by bitterness and hatred. Division is so rampant worldwide that we hear about it constantly—from every single continent! You can't work together and resolve your differences in matters such as provisioning contacts, sharing witnessing and road trip areas, the disciplinary standards of your young people and children, how to minimize ungodly influences in your lives, rampant gossiping and criticism, rivalry over how to shepherd other sheep and Active members, resolving personality conflicts and clashes; working toward having respect and communication between the generations; receiving shepherding and correction at the Home level; living as communal Charter Homes, rather than those who opened the Home controlling matters themselves, and sharing the decision-making power with incoming members, rather than forcing those who don't agree or submit to leave; and differing standards and levels of obedience to the Charter and Word, which can lead to divisions between Homes, within the Homes, and between the generations.

You all probably think that you're justified in your feelings, that you're right. And maybe you are right in that you aren't the one who did the wrong thing! Maybe someone did the wrong thing to you and you were hurt. But you are wrong to hang on to your bitterness and lack of forgiveness. You are wrong, all of you who are involved in any kind of disunity or division. Anyone who has anything to do with division and who is harboring that negativity, bitterness, and lack of love is wrong—regardless of the details!

Yes, there are many sides to each situation and there are actual reasons why you're divided. Maybe you were wronged; maybe someone disobeyed the Word or the spirit of the Law of Love and you were hurt. But if you're not willing to forgive, you're wrong too. The Lord and Peter and I hold all of you who are disunited responsible, and you will all reap the judgments of the Lord for your sins if you don't change—now! “If you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins” (Mat.6:14-15).

We can't go on like this! It's unacceptable that after all the Lord has said, how He's begged and pleaded and explained from every possible angle how important unity is, that you who are guilty still can't humble yourselves to forgive one another and to ask forgiveness for your part of the problem, whether it be your hardness of heart, your bitterness, your pride, holding on to your hurt feelings, etc. What is wrong with you that you can't see how your disobedience to the Word is hurting you, your Home, your family, your sheep and your work!?

How can you be so dull in the spirit and blinded by resentment and bitterness that you have lost the fear of the Lord to the point where you can be divided with your brethren for literally years and think you won't suffer the consequences?! The truth is, you're suffering the consequences now! Can't you see that? If

you wonder why your Home isn't the heavenly sanctuary that it should be, if you wonder why the Lord isn't blessing your provisioning and fund-raising, if you wonder why your young people gossip and backbite and are disrespectful, if you wonder why you don't have the regular support from Active members that you'd like to have, if you wonder why young people in your Home or area are leaving the Family in disillusionment, let me tell you, part of the reason is the division that exists in your Homes and areas!

The Lord is angry about it and He won't stand for it much longer. You need to get your act together or you don't deserve to be in the Family. If you can't get united, you need to go to the churches where, almost without exception, they tolerate and even specialize in backbiting, gossip, and division! If that's what you're doing, then that's where you belong. If you don't have any more fear of the Lord than to let disunity go on and on in your Homes and areas, then God help you!

I'm sick and tired of hearing about so much division. What happened to "My Family, my Family, I know it's right, my Family"!? What happened to "And by this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another"?! Are you His disciples? Then for God's sake, act like it!

If you can't see that your disunity is a terrible attack of the Enemy and that you're allowing it due to pride, selfishness, self-righteousness and bitterness, then you're doomed to defeat! The Evil One will devour you, and I'm not exaggerating. When you read the warning vision the Lord gave, I hope it shocks you into repentance. If not, there's no hope for you and you might as well get out before I throw you out!

I don't care if you get offended by this and threaten to leave. If you can't see the truth and if you're not willing to get right with God and get rid of your horrible pride that keeps feeding the division in your Home or area, then you need to leave! Get out! Good riddance!—Not

to you as a person, but to the horrible pride and bitterness that have allowed the Enemy of our souls and work to take hold in your lives!

Unity is a scriptural principle, and Peter and I will no longer stand by and watch the work of God be torn apart by division. The extreme importance of unity has been documented in the Bible and MO Letters from the beginning! You are without excuse!

From now on, where there is disunity, regardless of who did what, you're all guilty until you forsake your sins and get united. Where there is disunity, there is pride and lack of love. And if you're really serious about being right with the Lord, even if you're "innocent," you'll get right with the Lord, hear from Him, humble yourself, pray desperately, and find a way to restore unity. (ML #3362/GN 958:39, 24-30, 32, 35-37, 182)

(FROM "HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND GET RID OF BITTERNESS!")

(Peter:) The Lord said earlier in this Letter, "Those who truly long for a new day, a new start and a new life, will latch on to this vision [of letting the past go]. They'll readily forsake those things and go on. But those who love to hold on to the past, who cherish those feelings of hurt and self-pity, will fall by the wayside." That's how dangerous it is! There are people who don't want to let go of those things. They love to hold on to them. They don't want to forgive. They want to hold on to the hurts, and they bring them up on a regular basis. Whenever something happens in the present, their memories bring up the past...

You have to forgive and forget. The hurt, resentment and bitterness must be overcome; you must leave them behind. Because if you don't, if you cherish those feelings of hurt and self-pity, the Lord says you'll fall by the wayside. The Lord is making it quite clear that holding on to those hurts is dangerous, and it can lead you right out of the Lord's service. (ML #3170/Vol 24:21, 22)

(FROM “PUTTING ‘SKIN’ ON SIN”)

- * So many of you haven’t been willing to let go of your bitterness, and now it’s bringing about your defeat—personally, as a Home, as a country.
- * You continue to bring up situations from years and years ago, still blaming those same people, not willing to forgive. You bury the hatchet but leave the handle sticking out.
- * You constantly refer to the past and the supposed wrongs done against you, which shows you haven’t really forgiven and forgotten. You haven’t fought to be rid of it.
- * You put the blame on others because you’re seeing things in the flesh and not in the spirit. You’re not asking the Lord how He wants to use those things in your life, why He allowed those things to happen. You’re always blaming others; it’s like a broken record.
- * You feel so free to share your bitterness about others with anybody, not only the shepherds. It’s one thing to share your bitterness with your shepherds, but sitting down with just anyone and dumping out the sewer system of your bitterness is wrong. You’re one-sided in your story. You burn others through your gossip and bitterness.
- * Those who are on the receiving end of your tales of bitterness often take your bitterness and make it their own. Then they begin speaking against that leader or that person, judging them. Your bitterness spreads to others—your kids too.

(Jesus:) The unity of the overall Family has been sliced to pieces by negativity, resentment, and bitterness. Negativity that has not been replaced by My Word and rebuked has turned into resentment, and resentment that has not been rooted out has turned into deep and long-standing bitterness. You have nurtured and fed

your bitteresses, nursed your grievances. You replay them in your minds and you’re feeling so justified. And now your manifold bitteresses have put you in grave danger. For bitterness turns into hatred, and hatred lies at the very heart of the Devil’s kingdom.

(Peter:) The Lord called it a root of bitterness. It’s deep. The roots go out all over, and it affects every part of your spiritual life. You’ve got to get prayer. You’ve got to ask the Lord about it. You’ve got to fight it. You’re destroying yourself. You’re destroying your usefulness for God. You’re destroying others’ usefulness for God. You’re tearing apart the Family. It’s got to end!

(Jesus:) I cannot and will not bless My children who are out of unity with one another. Those who speak ill of one another, who purposely tear down and cut others to the heart with their tongues, and those who hold grudges, gripes, and bitterness toward others are walking away from Me in heart and spirit.

How can you be close to Me and drawing ever closer if you are pulling away from My true Law of Love through harboring bitterness and resentment toward your fellow laborers and brothers and sisters? You must forsake all bitterness, forgiving those whom you feel have wronged you, and asking forgiveness of those whom you have wronged. It’s time for a clean sweep. It’s time to put all the past behind you and to begin afresh, with great humility and repentance. If you are willing to humble yourselves greatly, I can melt your hearts together and restore your unity and rid you of the bitterness that has plagued your field.

(Peter:) Ask the Lord if you have any hidden roots of bitterness. Get cleansed, please. Bitterness is destroying you. It’s destroying your spirit. It’s causing your heart and your spirit to walk away from the Lord. Think how sad that is for Him. Here you are, His bride who He loves,

but you have things in your life that are causing you to walk away from Him in your heart and spirit. It's so sad. (ML #3453/GN 1038:27-30)

Refrain from sowing doubts or speaking negatively against Dad, Maria, Peter, the Word, leadership, or the Family.

(FROM "CHARTER AMENDMENTS 2003")

Charter members will be excommunicated for:

G. The continual voicing of doubts, criticisms, or skepticism, in a destructive manner designed to foster strife and schism, of Dad, Maria, Peter, the Word or the Family. Criticism or inquiries of a legitimate nature for the purpose of seeking clarification or counsel, or voicing an objection, may be made, either in person or in writing, to the appropriate over-shepherds, Home officer, or higher officers. Such criticisms are acceptable only if made for the purpose of seeking clarification or counsel, or voicing an objection.

It is understandable that from time to time we have questions or even doubts that we may need to have resolved by discussing them with someone. When such an occasion arises, you should feel free to openly and honestly share your heart with your shepherds so you can get the needed answers and prayer. Such matters are legitimate and need to be expressed, so it's perfectly acceptable to talk about your doubts or your criticisms with an appropriate shepherd when trying to get clarification or counsel, or express an objection to something that you're having a difficult time understanding or following. If you're doing it with the right attitude, and with the right people, whose job it is to try to answer and help you resolve your questions, as well as shepherd you through these things and help you overcome any misconceptions, then there's nothing wrong with it.

However, if you are speaking to members who are not the appropriate shepherds, and if after having been warned against it, you continue airing matters which result in the spreading of doubts or bringing about contention or division, this is unacceptable behavior and will warrant excommunication. (GN1033: OFFENSES WARRANTING EXCOMMUNICATION, POINT G, PAGE 120)

(FROM "CRISIS OF FAITH!—MORE ON DOUBTS!—PART 1")

(Mama:) You may have some questions on your heart, or maybe there are some things about the past, your Home, Family policies, WS leadership, the New Wine, or the failures or problems of the Family that bother you or that you wonder about. Not wanting to be disloyal nor to succumb to the lies and doubts of the Enemy, you may feel puzzled about how to handle such thoughts—whether it's best to talk about them with someone, or pray and search the Word about them privately, or just try to ignore them or forget them. Let's talk about this, and see if we can clarify what to do if you have questions or if you think you're being hit with doubts.

As you may recall, there is counsel on questions and doubts in the beginning paragraphs of the Letter "Prophecies on Doubts!" (See ML #3041:1-23, GN 670.) That Letter explains that questions are legitimate if you are undecided or uncertain about an issue, and you truly want to know the answer. If handled in the right manner, and the motive of your heart is to sincerely find the answer through the right channels, there is nothing wrong with expressing your questions. Handling such questions "in the right manner" means talking to the right people—those who are strong in faith and who would likely have the answers or be able to find them. It's not right to talk about your questions or doubts with people who are weak in faith or the Word, who might be stumbled.

As explained in the above-mentioned Letter, there is a difference between legitimate questions that are asked out of sincere, pure

motives, and skeptical, distrustful questions that are generated by the Enemy for the purpose of trying to weaken the questioner and stir up division. The Lord gave us good counsel about how to know the difference in the prophecy entitled, “The Difference Between Questions and Doubts—Try the Spirits!” (See ML #3041:18-23.) That prophecy explains that a person who has legitimate questions will be open and will seek to understand. They’ll want to receive and believe the answers; they want the doubts dispelled. But the person whose questions are not legitimate is the one who already has his mind made up, who doesn’t seek answers, but who seeks to use his questioning as an avenue to preach a message of defiance or doubt, and pour forth the voice of Satan.

The Lord is not against your asking questions. He wants you to have the answers you need. And the way He’ll most likely give you those answers is through the Word—either His written Word or His Word of prophecy. He instructs you to take your questions to Him—to search the Word, and if you can’t find what you need there, then ask Him to give you His wonderful, Heavenly, personalized answers in prophecy. If you want to seek the counsel of others, then go to those who are strong in faith, and together you can search the Word or come before the Lord in prayer.

So far we’ve established that no question is inherently wrong. Even if some question seems really awful to you, even if you feel terribly condemned, like you’re really out of it, it’s not wrong to ask your questions, as long as you ask the right people. But you need to also understand that sometimes what starts out as a legitimate question can become a doubt if not handled right. If you want to judge whether you have a legitimate question or whether it has become a doubt, or you want to judge someone else’s question, you need to look to the circumstances surrounding the question and the person asking the question; those are the measurements by which you can judge. To judge the validity of questions from

others and the spirit from which they come, ask yourself the following questions—which you can also apply to your own questions:

Point 1: Who is being asked the question?

If someone has a question, are they asking someone they honestly feel will have the answer? Are they asking someone who can realistically help them find the truth—a shepherd, an older brother, a mature disciple, a parent? Or are they asking someone who is weak or perhaps as full of questions as they are?

Point 2: Why are they asking?

Some people ask questions because they sincerely want and need the answer, which is fine. But other people ask questions because it is a way for them to vent their frustrations, to spread their criticisms, and to look bold in front of their friends or peers. Some ask questions not because they sincerely want the answers, but because they feel it’s the “in thing” to do. They don’t want to simply follow and take things by faith and receive and obey, because they think it’s “cool” to question, balk and resist, to discuss or debate the pros and cons and why something should be this way or shouldn’t be this way.

Point 3: What do they do with the answers when they get them?

You can also judge whether questions are legitimate questions by seeing what the person who is asking the question does with the answer. If they receive the answer with an open mind, with faith and gratitude, if they let the truth answer their question, and then they put it behind them and put it in the past, this is the sign of a legitimate question and a sincere questioner. But those people who refuse to accept the truth, who don’t believe the truth when their questions are answered, but instead continue on in their contrary ways, voicing their questions again and again, are not sincerely looking for the answers.

When the same questions are asked again and again and again, and the answers are repeatedly rejected, then these are no longer legitimate questions, but they have become doubts. The difference between legitimate

questions and doubts depends largely on who is being asked the question, why the question is being asked, and what the questioner does with the answer. Here's what the Lord said:

(Jesus:) **No question is too great or too small. No question is wrong. I am willing to answer any and all questions.** The key is to ask the right person, and to be willing to receive the answer when you get it. Be willing to believe the answer; that is the key. That is the primary sign and difference between a legitimate question and a doubt. Any question can be a legitimate question, as long as you are hungry, eager, and open to the answer, and when you receive that answer, you let the answer replace the question. That's what makes your question legitimate—when you have a sincere hunger for the answer, and you receive it with open-mindedness and faith.

But when you ask a question over and over and over, and you refuse to receive and believe the answer given in My written Word, or My living Word, or the word of counsel and wisdom from your shepherds, then your question is no longer legitimate. It has lost its legitimacy, because you have not shown yourself open and hungry and full of faith to receive the answer.

Even if the Enemy puts doubts in your mind, they can become legitimate questions if they cause you to go to My Word, to search My Word for the truth and for the answers; or if they cause you to look to Me, to pray and ask Me to speak to you with My living Words, to give you the answers; or if they cause you to go to your shepherds, to seek counsel and prayer, and ask your questions, so that you might receive the answers. So fear not to ask your questions, but be wise and prayerful, be sure that you are asking the right people, and be desperate to make sure you are open to the answers.

(Mama:) **So it's important that you ask your questions!** If your motivation is to find the truth, and you are open to that truth, the Lord will bless you. But remember, if your motivation is to

weaken others or stumble others or sow division, and if your questioning is not a sincere quest for the truth, but you already have your mind made up, and your questioning is only an excuse or a way to voice your negative, contrary, damaging thoughts, then the Lord will not bless that! (ML #3088/Vol 23:24-26, 39-48)

(FROM “PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS!—PART 3”)

(Mama:) **If you're battling with some doubts or questions, you don't need to feel condemned, and you don't have to try to hold in all your thoughts, questions and concerns.** Please seek counsel. Talk about how you're feeling, what you've seen and experienced, and what you believe needs to be done to change things for the better! But please talk to the right people! Don't just dump your battles or doubts on some poor brother or sister who may also be battling. By doing that, you won't find the answers you need, and you may end up burdening someone else with more than they can bear. Please talk with your shepherds, your VSs, or your CROs, or write to Peter and me! We need to have an open dialogue about the problems we as a Family are facing, so we can work together to find the possible solutions and make things better, so please do communicate! We need you!

I would like to comment, however, that we have heard that there are some folks—who seem to feel that they are the only ones who really understand what's going on in the field Homes, or who have the burden to do anything about the problems you're facing. Some of these people are going from Home to Home, or person to person, sharing their ideas on how the Family needs to reform in order to rid ourselves of our ongoing problems, such as our financial difficulties, all the while implying that WS isn't doing anything to address or rectify the problems.

Unfortunately, while these folks are sometimes able to accurately define the problems, their ideas and solutions are not always

Word-based. Often they're leaning on their own strength, the ways of the world, the ways of Saul, and they're trying to pull as many people their direction as possible.

The people that I'm talking about now generally don't like the New Wine, don't like the direction the Family is going, don't agree with Peter and me, don't agree with WS, think we're basically doing everything wrong and nothing right, but somehow conclude that they have all the answers! They're going around spreading their negative message to others, talking against Peter and me and WS, talking against the New Wine, and talking against what the Lord is doing in the Family.

Remember, there's a big difference between recognizing problems and the need to change and offering helpful criticism and ideas, versus listening to and actively spreading the lies and doubts of the Enemy! As I've mentioned various times in this series, the Devil is trying to get you to doubt either the Word or the Word-givers, Peter and me. So if you or others are looking at the problems or failures of the Family, and you feel you have something to say, that's fine. We want to hear from you! But please be careful and prayerful to make sure you stay in a constructive, positive, full-of-faith attitude. Check your heart and your motives, and whether your spirit is one of unity and closely following the Lord and the direction He has given in the Letters. Otherwise, without realizing it, you may be listening to and even inadvertently broadcasting the lies of the Enemy, which is just what he wants you to do! (ML #3071/Vol 23:14-18)



2. Practice Jesus' teachings of forsaking all, living communally and by faith, and the principles of Acts 2:44-45 concerning finances and material possessions. Manifest faith in the Lord's ability to supply, be good stewards of what the Lord gives you, be generous.

Live the "Conviction vs. Compromise" series in spirit and practice. Live communally in a large enough Home that it's obvious that you're different—you live like Jesus' disciples.

(FROM "THE DANGERS OF DIVISION!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 2")

(Mama:) **Today families don't want to live together.** There are more and more single-family Homes, which are not only ineffective as missionary bases, but they're not the testimony the Lord wants of communal living. Family Homes used to be a phenomenon—happy faces and loving cooperation, people from all walks of life living together communally in love, sharing all things. That sample put us in the news! It was a miracle—communal living that actually worked! It was the proof of the Word—"all that believed were together and had all things common." We used our communal living as one of our strongest samples of modern-day discipleship and the existence of a God of Love.

But what is so interesting about a single family living alone, sending your kids to System school, doing a little witnessing, and spending all the rest of your time trying to survive? I'll tell you what's so interesting about that—nothing! It's hardly different at all from many of the other millions of Christians of the world. Do you actually think that living alone because you can't stand to live with anyone else or they can't stand to live with you because of your attitudes, you can't agree on how to raise your children, you can't agree on finances, you can't agree on the standard of minimizing ungodly influences, isn't hurting you? Come on! Get real! It's destroying your testimony! It's causing the Lord to lift His hand of blessing, provision, and protection. And after this warning, if you continue in your division, it will cause even greater loss to you personally and to your work! (ML #3362/GN 958:43-44)

(FROM “BE YE SEPARATE!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 3”)

(Mama:) **The Lord’s financial plan for the Family has always been Acts 2:44 and 45.** If you’re not living that, I strongly suggest you pray about what changes you need in your lives and Home. And certainly if you’re a single-family Home you can’t possibly be living Acts 2:44 and 45, and you will undoubtedly run into more financial pressure. It’s only logical that if you live communally and share your expenses and possessions such as your cars, appliances, computers, etc., not only is it more economical but it’s obedience to the Lord’s plan, so He can bless you more. But it all boils down to how much you want to share, how much you want to live unselfishly. (ML #3363/GN 959:175)

(FROM “SHOW ME THE MONEY, PART 3”)

(Jesus:) **The drastic departure from living communally and Acts 2:44 and 45 is one of the greatest signs of compromise and a cooling down of the children of David.** This is a picture of the increased selfishness and worldliness that have crept into your midst—and not just crept in, but moved in and staked out the territory. This is a fruit of being closer to the System, not closer to Me. You have forsaken one of the original beauties of the Children of God, the Family of Love. Something that was once one of the greatest testimonies, if not the greatest, of your devotion to Me and your true discipleship, has now faded into the background, a victim of selfishness, division, and a severe lack of love.

It takes the pure supernatural love of God to live communally, to have all things in common, and to give to others in need. That’s why I will bring this lifestyle back to the Family, as that illustration in living flesh will be more and more necessary to your witness as the days get darker and the hearts of men grow colder.

As you go into the Last Days, you will be surrounded with those who hate love, who fight God, and who will do anything in their power to stop My message. But as you’re strong in unity,

love, and communal happiness, they will never be able to destroy that testimony. It’s the “come and see” testimony, it’s the “not a sermon but a sample” testimony, it’s the “we are the living proof that it works” testimony.

More and more people will have to see it with their own eyes; they will have to behold some kind of “proof” before they will believe. So it’s not just for your own convenience and financial stability that I’m asking you to return to your roots, but for the sake of those whose minds are clouded, who want to believe, but who say, “I believe, help my unbelief.” You will help them past their unbelief by your sample, by your love and unity.

Communal living and sharing all things, forsaking all to live together, is the foundation of the economic system of My Early Church, and it will work for you. I will use that lifestyle to lighten your financial burdens considerably. It makes sense, and it’s a wise endeavor, certainly worth the sacrifices. As you return to your happy communes where you have all things common, where no one has too little or too much, you will find that your finances are miraculously multiplied and your coins will turn to God’s good gold that never tarnishes. You will not lack for anything.

But that’s not the only side of the story. I not only want to use your communal living to help My children have their needs supplied in every way, but I want to restore this illustration of the way that I and My early disciples lived. I want the world to be reminded of how I lived with those I loved and of the brotherly love that we shared. I want you to again be able to say, “We live like Jesus and His disciples,” because that is one of the most interesting and miraculous testimonies to those who are slow to believe. When you are able to say that, they think of those who travel constantly, preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, helping the downtrodden, sharing all things, living by faith, being samples of love, and dedicating themselves fully to God. This is the way I showed your David the Family should live in the very beginning, the way you did live, and

the way many of you still live—and the way I wish all of you would live. With this testimony I become more than a name, more than a prophet, and My disciples become more than characters in a well-read book.

With your living illustration of My truth in this miraculous way, I will draw all men unto Me. And because of this, I promise you that I will more than bless your sacrifices; I will make your living communally even more blessed, more prosperous and happier than it was before in your earlier days.

Yes, there are many obstacles to living communally, but I can and will supply if you put Me on the spot and hold Me to My promises. I have told you that it is My highest will for you to live communally, so you can have full faith and trust that I will supply the accommodations that you need. In some countries large housing is expensive or nearly impossible to find—or both—but I am not limited by circumstances or physical limitations. Where I guide, I provide. When I ask you to do something, I always supply what you need—whether it’s a large enough house for a cheap price, or the money for an expensive one. No matter what obstacle you face that hinders you from living communally—financial or otherwise—know that I will open doors as you take the steps of obedience to do My will.

Even if you were just to move toward communal living on the strength of the logical argument that it’s more economical, that you can co-op your talents and supplies, I will still bless you beyond your expectations, because I’m desperate for this sample to be brought back to the world. It is absolutely necessary to your future and the success of your missionary work. It is crucial to your survival, so I will stop at nothing in My blessings to you as you return to these beautiful ways of “the land of not too much,” where everyone has enough, and you are My face to the world. (ML #3464c/GN 1049:386-394)

(FROM “FORWARD, ALWAYS FORWARD”)

(Peter to Summit attendees:) Besides the

sample of living communal Christianity, there are other reasons the Home plays such an important role within the Family. The Home is where discipleship is lived, it’s where it grows, where it’s tested, where it’s honed. Living together with other disciples provides an atmosphere where discipleship is nurtured and grows. Family Homes provide fellowship, a common purpose, and a spiritual retreat from the world. They are places where those who are committed to serving the Lord can live and work with others who are like-minded. Living together in a Home makes it possible for individuals to band together, and therefore to accomplish the goals set by the Lord in a much more effective way than an individual could do on his or her own.

Without living in a Family Home, an individual’s discipleship would in most cases weaken; the spiritual strength garnered from living together with other disciples provides an essential element to one’s discipleship. The communal Family Home is what sets us apart from the majority of Christians in the world; it is what makes the Family unique; it is where Family discipleship thrives, and it is a vital part of living the discipleship life.

The Home provides both a supportive environment and fellowship with others to help you live discipleship as defined by the Lord. Full-time 100% discipleship means to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature (Mk.16:15); to be together with those that believe, to have all things common (Acts 2:44,45); to deny yourself and take up your cross daily, and follow the Lord (Luk.9:23,24); to forsake all that you have (Luk.14:33); to come out from among them, and be separate and touch not the unclean thing (2Cor.6:17); to refrain from serving two masters, God and mammon (Mat.6:24); to lay down your life for the brethren (1Jn.3:16); to trust that God will supply all your needs (Phil.4:19); to continue in the Word (Jn.8:31,32); to glorify the Father in bearing much fruit (Jn.15:8); to show that you

are a disciple through the love you have one to another (Jn.13:35).

It's very difficult for individuals to live true discipleship on their own, which is probably one reason the Lord promoted communal living right from the days of the Early Church. He knew how difficult it would be to live up to the standard of discipleship, and in His wisdom knew that we would need the help of one another. He told His first disciples to leave their nets, their tax tables, their jobs and families, and to follow Him. How successful would those first disciples have been if they would have continued fishing every night or collecting taxes every day? Would they have been able to be disciples? Would they have followed all the way? Would they have spread Christianity throughout the world? Probably not.

They needed to be together with Jesus night and day; they needed one another's encouragement and help to keep going when the going got rough. They needed to be together in one room after Jesus was crucified and buried, so they could bolster one another's faith. And from the Day of Pentecost forward, "All that believed were together and had all things common, and sold their possessions and goods and parted them to all men, as every man had need" (Acts 2:44,45). They needed to live and work and share together so that they could live the discipleship life.

Why would the Lord set up His Early Church so that His disciples lived together? Probably because He understood the nature of man—that without help, encouragement, and a little prodding from others, it would be all too easy to let one's discipleship slowly slip. "Two are better than one, for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow" (Ecc.4:9,10). While our communal Homes show a sample to the world of living Christianity, they also provide a strength and safeguard to each individual's discipleship. We are living together, we see each other's sample, we sense when someone is slipping, doubting, or losing faith, and we can help them. We are a safeguard to one another.

The Home is, in actuality, a team made up of all the members of the Home. When the members of the Home live together, work together, obey together, and watch out for one another, they will form a winning team. A team that truly becomes one unit, with all members working toward the same goal of victory, will become strong; they'll be winners. The Lord put us in Homes because He knows that while it is extremely difficult to fully live up to His standard of discipleship as individuals, when we are together, united as a team and upholding one another, it is much easier. Thus the role of the Home becomes vital to living the discipleship life. *(End of material written by Peter to Summit attendees.)*

(Peter:) In order to be a winning team, the Home has to be large enough to do the job. When you consider all that the Lord has said in regards to faithfully witnessing, winning souls, getting out *Activated*, doing follow-up, teaching and training new believers, caring for and educating our children, meeting the needs of our young people, building a lasting work, and being a sample of full-time discipleship, it becomes clear that you have to have a well-rounded team of people on hand to do the job. Generally, the most successful Homes today are those who have sufficient personnel on hand to do all that is required to be a fruitful Home, which means having somewhere between eight and 12 or even more adults. This gives them sufficient manpower to accomplish all the tasks that a successful Home must undertake on a regular basis. (ML #3479/GN 1067:70-76, 111)

Live by faith and the Lord's supply; depend on the "God factor." Manifest faith in the Lord's ability to provide your needs abundantly.

(FROM "BE YE SEPARATE!"—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 3")

(Mama:) God has made it clear that if you're a disciple living by faith, investing your time in His work, you can expect Him and those to whom you minister to support you!

If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel (1Cor.9:11,14).

My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil.4:19).

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Mat.6:33).

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself (Pro.11:24,25).

There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches (Pro.13:7).

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again (Luke 6:38).

He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He pay him again (Pro.19:17).

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days (Ecc.11:1).

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully (2Cor.9:6).

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the Gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life (Mark 10:29,30).

Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat (Mat.10:9,10).

And He said unto them, When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing (Luke 22:35).

(Mama:) These are the Lord's promises and instructions from the Bible. Dad taught us from the beginning that if we're faithful to the Lord and His work, He will supply! Here are a few of the many quotes available in Dad's Letters:

Praise God for His faithfulness! All He needs is laborers, and He will do all the rest! As Luther used to say when his wife complained that he had too many people living at their house (about 25, not many compared to us, but a tidy little Colony!)—"Don't worry, Dear! For every additional mouth, God will provide!" And of course, He always does, praise His Name! He will supply all our need according to His riches in glory, no matter what we need, or how many of us there are, or where we are, or who we are, as long as we're serving Him faithfully! Praise the Lord! (ML #112:1).

Why should we fiddle around with slaving for material things when the System's got plenty of it, and to spare! Let them be our slaves—not us theirs! Why should we let the seed be choked out by the cares of earning a living, when we can let the System do it for us? God

always makes the System serve His servants, whenever it suits His purpose—if they have what He needs. “As using this world (or System), but not abusing it” (1Cor.7:31). (ML #27:19,20).

He has promised that, if you’ll prove Him by trusting and obeying Him, He’ll pour out such a blessing that there will not be room enough to hold it! He says, “Give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down, shaken together and running over!” “Seek ye first the Kingdom, and all these things shall be added!” If He has to drop the money out of Heaven to feed you, He’ll do it, if you’ll obey Him and get out the message, the Word!

Where God guides, He provides! With every need, God will supply! God will feed you, protect you, clothe you, and take care of you no matter what happens! God cannot only do it, He wants to do it! He’s more willing to give than we are to receive! There’s no limit to what God can supply. It’s better than a salary, and God knows exactly what you need! (ML #692:28).

(Mama:) We understand that some of you feel, even subconsciously, that times have changed since the early days of the Family when we fully applied these verses and lived completely by faith. We acknowledge the strong anti-sect propaganda in some countries and recognize that in many countries the general population has become increasingly hard of heart, which in the natural would seem to make living by faith more difficult. So I asked our Husband if the Family can be expected to fully live by faith today. Here is what He had to say about this:

(Jesus:) My Word held true yesterday, it holds true today, and it will hold true forever—they that preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel. Satan is always on the job, trying to persuade My children that it can’t be done today, that surely in these times when men’s hearts grow cold, and evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, living by faith is not to

be expected; that surely in this new age, there is another way. I tell you, My children, it is even more imperative to live by faith in these times than in years past.

I have given you this plan—the plan of trusting totally in Me, the plan of living by faith in Me and Me alone—for I know that this is the only way you will survive in these troublous times when men’s hearts become hardened. The dynamics of My supply work the opposite of what you perceive with natural and carnal thinking. Just as I supplied for the children of Israel as they wandered in the desert, so I am able to supply for you in today’s modern world, and in great abundance!

Yes, the hearts of men grow cold and callous, yet I ask you to not be afraid, nor to look to circumstances. Did not the heart of Pharaoh also grow callous toward My children? Yet I did not fail to supply their every need, both their needs for food and clothing, as well as their need for protection and deliverance from the hand of Pharaoh.

My promises hold true! They that preach the Gospel shall live of the Gospel. Living by faith is just as possible today as ever, and if you will step out and obey, if you will put Me to the test, you will reap the fruit of abundant supply. I am not limited by many or by few.

You must remember that while men’s hearts grow cold, the hearts of those who hunger and thirst after righteousness grow more desperate. As evil men grow more evil, the need to preach My Words is ever greater. My sheep will hear My voice and a stranger they will not follow, and these I will use to supply your needs, My brides.

This is the day of miracles, and so will My miraculous supply be known. If you will obey, you will reap the good of the land. If you will seek Me, if you will apply the “ask Me everything” mode of operation in your lives, if you will live by faith and look to Me alone, I will lead you in each case and show you a plan to follow that is tailor-made for your unique situation. I will

show you what will work in your particular set of circumstances, in your location and country. Some of you I may be leading to move on to more receptive fields; others I will show new methods of outreach, new approaches you can take, new areas you can branch out into. Some I will lead to key men and women of standing who will be your sponsors, your protectors—kings and queens, men and women who have the means to provide for you, both supply and protection.

My promises are just as true today as they ever were. If you will seek Me for your particular situation, if you will unite and do the things I tell you to do, if you will ask Me everything each step of the way, I will give you the key to every situation, the solution to every problem. Living by faith in Me is the only thing that will keep you in the times to come. Dependence on the System will only be the beginning of sorrows. I will never fail to supply all your needs if you preach the Gospel, do My work, and place your trust and faith in Me.

All My riches are at your disposal. All that is Mine is yours for the asking, yours for the taking, yours for the reaching out to receive. Reach out your hands in faith, believing, and I will never fail!

(Jesus:) The God factor means standing on My promises. It means trusting in Me, believing that nothing is impossible with Me. It means that I am able to supply all your needs. It means that faith in Me overrides all impossibilities.

The God factor means that I have opened to you the riches of the universe, I have put before you a great reservoir of supply, and it's yours for the asking, yours for the taking. The God factor means that if you will put your trust fully in Me, you will lack nothing. It means that if you preach the Gospel, you will live of the Gospel. It means that all things are possible to you. It means if you are trusting Me and doing what I tell you to do, I will never fail to support you, even if I have to drop the support out of the sky. It means good witnessing always pays. It means if you are obey-

ing Me, I will take care of your needs. It means if I promise bread, I will not give you a stone.

Practically speaking, it means if the Family will put their trust in Me, if they will claim My promises, if they will obey what I tell them to do, I will supply all their needs according to My riches in glory. It means if they will get out and do the "venting," I will supply.

The God factor means trusting Me more than trusting in the arm of the flesh, more than trusting in the worldly system of man. The God factor is standing on My Word and My promises.

My ways are not your ways. I do things contrary to man. I can and will supply for My Family in the interim period [when pioneering *Activated* and follow-up]. I am only limited by lack of faith. My supply is only blocked by disobedience, by lack of faith, by lack of appropriating the promises I give you.

It is a gross misunderstanding to think that I cannot supply for My children while they are doing My will. To think that pushing *Activated* is not going to bring in the funds initially is not true. Do you think that I am not able to supply each step of the way for My Family? I have told you there are no impossibilities. It is not true that I cannot or will not supply for My children in the interim. Am I not able?

I promise to supply for My Own. Do you not think I am able to supply every need while My brides are working for Me? To think that I cannot supply in the interim is absurd! Am I God or not? Do not the winds and the waves obey My command? Do I not give the command and whole kingdoms are subdued in My Name?

O children of little faith, how long will you doubt? How long will you fail to take the leap? Who will try? Who will go? Who is willing to take the plunge? Who is willing to launch out into the deep of where I am leading you? Who is willing to put their hand in Mine, trusting that I will be more than a light and better than a known way? Who is willing to command Me? Who is willing to prove Me? Who is willing to

receive My promise? Who is willing to call on the keys of the Kingdom to open the Heavenly windows of miracles of supply?

It takes faith, yes. It takes courage; it takes daring to trust Me. It takes the “God factor”—putting your trust wholly and completely in Me, claiming My Word, and expecting Me to do miracles, to do what you cannot do. It takes ignoring possible consequences when the doubters say, “No, no, no, it can’t be done.” It takes taking a stand.

Am I not able to supply all along the way? Are My Own to be wanting and begging for bread? Do I forsake My Own?

If it couldn’t be done, I would not have asked it of you. I am not limited. Do you think I cannot supply in the interim? That is as ridiculous as saying I cannot stop the rain. Why, why, why, O brides, do you limit Me? How long will you doubt? How long will you delay in putting Me on the spot, in claiming My promises, in reaping the harvest that lies waiting before you?

It takes faith, I know, yet I have likewise given you this faith. It takes keeping your eyes focused on Me and Me alone. It takes coming out from among them and touching not the unclean thing. And it takes doing what I have told you to do. It takes following where I am leading. It takes childlike faith. It takes quiet trust. It takes the simple assurance of knowing that what I have promised, I will do. It takes trusting Me to see you through, because you know you are obeying and doing My will, and because of your obedience, I will not let you down.

The “God factor” will make all the difference in the world. It means the difference between your success or your failure, your premature end or your hope of survival. It means the difference between life and death for the souls waiting to hear My message. It means the difference between you receiving the blessings and promises I have reserved for you, or going through life as beggars, destitute of your needs. (ML #3363/GN 959:54-57, 59-69, 152-164)

(FROM “POVERTY TO PLENTY”)

(Mama:) The Lord is not willing that you live in poverty, brethren! You have a big job to do for Him, & He wants you to have what you need to do it. He wants you to have accommodations that are ample enough for you all to be comfortably housed, spacious grounds on your property or nearby where your children can have the get-out they need, & located close enough to major population centers so you & your teens can have access to good witnessing opportunities. He wants you to have good, safe, reliable cars, vans & buses to provide the needed transportation for your ministries.

He wants you to be well cared for physically & to have the medical attention you need, including proper eyeglasses & dental work, vitamins & healthful foods, so that you will be strong & healthy to do your work for Him. He wants each of you to have the means to be well-groomed & well-dressed to be a good sample & testimony to the World. He wants your Homes to be well heated & well lit so you can remain healthy to do His Work, & to be good witnesses to His Love & care. He wants your children to have the computers, textbooks & reference books, walkmans & guitars & other equipment they need, so that they can have top quality training as the future leaders of His Kingdom. He wants you to have money to buy what you cannot provision. (ML #2929/Vol 21:8, 9)

(FROM “SHOW ME THE MONEY!—PART 4”)

(Jesus:) I am your Husband, your Lover, your Savior. I am eager to give you the things you need—even more than you need. Ask Me, My darlings, and I will pour forth abundantly, more than you could hope or desire!

Your lack of faith has limited My giving because it has limited your asking. When you lack faith, when you doubt My ability to supply—not that you think I don’t have it to give or I’m a poor God—but you feel unworthy or you’re so accustomed to just barely getting by, with time you lose the faith to ask. You feel you’re

being presumptuous or extravagant. But I want to make it clear that your asking has not come close to My willingness and desire to give.

The rules of the game are that as you ask, I give. I can't change those rules, for they've been set since the beginning of time. You show yourself humble, needy, and obedient to ask, and then I have the great pleasure of giving you everything I've been wanting to give.

Do you want to make Me happy? Do you want to give Me satisfaction and joy? Then ask Me for what you need! Only as you ask can I perform miracles of supply.

There are keys of supply, miracles, open doors, windfalls, inheritances, gifts, dimes from the sky, and hundreds more that you can command for your specific needs.

There really is no excuse for you to live in need and want. That is not the testimony I wish for the children of David to display to the world and to each other. It's My reputation that is at stake, and I promise you I'll make good My promises. I'm a diligent, trustworthy Boss Who is happy to pay your bills, give you bonuses, up your pay, and provide insurance of all kinds. I want things to change from this day forth! Take heed to these words of counsel and direction. Live them, obey them fully, and be blessed.

Please, My darlings, I long to spoil you with good things. Let Me give as I wish to give! (ML #3462d/GN 1050:483-486,492, 493, 495)

Share your finances and possessions according to Acts 2:44,45. Take good care of your Home members; as much as possible, ensure that their needs are met.

(FROM "CS HOME REVIEW CRITERIA")
Revised Charter Clause: "Responsibilities of Individual Family Disciples"

J. Share their material belongings with the Family in general, and with the Home where

they reside in particular, "common potting" their income according to Acts 2:44-45, and be good stewards of all Family materials.

Our Family believes in Acts 2:44-45, which says, "All that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need." This is an essential verse in our Family way of life, as it governs the use and ownership of our material possessions. The goal of these verses, and of their companion verses, Acts 4:34-35, which say that, "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need," is that everyone should have what he or she needs and that those who have more than they need or more than others should lovingly share with those who lack.

"We are doing what the Lord wanted the Church to do in the first place, and which the Church did in the first place, in the days of the Early Church where they lived communally and 'no man called anything his own' (Acts 4:32) and 'owed no man anything save to love him' (Romans 13:8) and shared all things, just as it says in Acts 2.—They really lived communally and it worked, like it's working with us, because of the Lord and our love and sacrificial service and wanting to help others and help each other" (ML #2342:25).

As disciples, we share our material belongings with one another so that we will all have the things that we need and that no one will be in want. In some cases the word "share" would mean to "give"; in other cases it would mean to "make available for others to use."

If you are truly sharing all things, the management of the gifts, donations, and income individuals receive should not result in "have's" and "have not's." According to Acts 4:34-35, when a member of the Home receives additional income it doesn't mean that they should keep

it solely toward their own needs. The Home member should make the full amount of their income known to the Home to consider first the needs of the overall Home and his or her fellow disciples, rather than just his or her own needs or wants.

When truly living Acts 2:44–45, rather than by the “split finances” or “personal quota” modes of operation—which result in certain Home members having personal funds which other Home members are not aware of—while the money may not all be physically handed over to the Home’s business person, the finances have been declared in full and have been given to the Home in spirit, and the recipient of the funds is willing to counsel about their use and is yielded to considering the collective needs of the Home over his or her own wants. So in essence, the Home, as a body, knows the income these individuals have received, and the Home, as a body, decides together how to allocate this income. (Please see “Financial Rules,” D.1–2., regarding both solicited or unsolicited designated gifts.)

The area of material possessions can be a real test of our love, unselfishness, and faithfulness. Do we have enough love to supply the needs of others by the giving of those things we have to fill their need? Are we unselfish enough to give even though it hurts, or conversely to refuse to receive an item because we know the giver needs it more than ourselves? Are we faithful stewards of the things we use?

Whatever material possessions you or the Home have ultimately belong to the Lord, and it is your responsibility to take good care of them, to be a faithful steward of them. When you have need of something and someone shares it with you, whether by allowing you to use it, or by giving it to you, it is your responsibility to take good care of it.

At times, questions will arise concerning to whom some item actually belongs. This will most often occur when someone is moving from a Home and wishes to take an item with them. In

such cases the Home should decide the matter by a simple majority vote, unless, as in “Right of Mobility,” D.7., the items were previously agreed upon when the member joined the Home. Generally, with major items, the Home should consider what is best for the overall work.

New Charter Clause: “Responsibilities of the Family Discipleship Home”

X. Manages its finances according to Acts 2:44–45 and Acts 4:34–35, shares its material belongings with the Family in general and with those in the Home, and operates financially in such a manner that each Home member contributes his or her income to the Home to be managed by the Home Council.

As explained in the “Responsibilities of Family Disciples,” J., the Family believes in and practices Acts 2:44–45 and Acts 4:34–35, helping to ensure that everyone in the Home has what he or she needs and that those who have more than they need lovingly share it with those who lack.

A Family discipleship Home should be making united decisions as to how all income to the Home and to its individual members should be used. When a Home accurately knows the state of its collective income and expenses, it can take better care of all its members. Operating in this manner is a good testimony of a Home whose members are looking to take care of the varied and specific needs of everyone in the Home, including those who do not have access to donations or income from other sources. For this to work, Home members must put the needs of others before their own. That would include both the recipient of finances and the other Home members who are part of the decision-making process. Everyone in the Home must be truly thinking more of others than of themselves when deciding what to do with the Home’s income.

There will be individuals within every Home who have particular needs, whether medical, legal, scholastic, or other, and these needs should be considered, prayed about, and filled as well as

possible through the Home's collective living of the Acts 2:44–45 vision. A Home that is not able to care for the legitimate personal needs of all its members, because some are keeping aside personal monies which the Home either is not aware of or is given no authority over or say in how they are spent, will become ripe for division. A lack of a sense of community and sharing within a Home encourages dishonesty, selfishness, comparing, and discontent.

In summary, a Home in which its members make known all their income to the Home and then in Home Council agree together on its use is truly living according to Acts 2:44–45, and that Home will reap the blessings of “continuing daily with one accord with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord [will] add to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:46–47).

Criterion clause: Share your finances and material possessions according to Acts 2:44–45. Each person contributes his/her income to the Home's financial “pot” to be managed by the Home Council as per the Charter, instead of what's commonly known as “split finances.”

Common potting the income of all Home members is one of the primary qualities that make the Family different. There are people in the System who co-op, meaning several individuals or even families living in one house and sharing some common expenses, but in the Family, living communally means actually living as Jesus' disciples did, having “all things in common,” including finances. (Regarding designated gifts, solicited or unsolicited, please see the counsel in the Charter “Financial Rules,” D.1–2.)

True “common potting” of the income Home members receive can be handled in a number of different ways. It's not a must that all finances are physically placed in the hands of the finance deacon, and then reapportioned to various needs,

as per the Home's financial decisions. A Home that truly common pots declares all of its income and places that income in the jurisdiction of the Home Council, but such a Home may also have arrangements such as the following example, and still fall within the spirit of common potting:

Example: A Home may decide via discussion, prayer, and voting that individuals or parents within the Home may keep all or a certain percentage of income that they receive from various sources for their particular medical, legal, scholastic, or other specific needs. In such a case, the Home would need to be aware of the original amount of income, as well as the funds used for the voted upon purposes. And if the funds received exceed the needs, then the extra funds would be given to the Home's common pot.

If there were two families in the Home and one family received a financial donation, which the Home members voted that that family could use toward purchasing their children's school books, but the other family had received no such donation, in the true spirit of living Acts 2:44–45, the Home would ensure that the second family would also have sufficient finances to purchase their children's school books, so that all the children have their needs supplied equally. The Home would do whatever is necessary to provide the needs of the second family, whether through a special fundraising day for that purpose, from the Home budget, or through other means.

If you are truly common potting and sharing all things, your Home's financial decisions and the management of the donations individuals receive should not result in “have's” and “have not's.” If some members of your Home have their needs met more fully than others, due to personal sources of income, then the spiritual balance of your Home is not right. Also, just because a Home member receives income via an outside source, that doesn't necessarily mean that they should request to keep all or a percentage of it toward

their needs. That individual should consider the needs of the overall Home and his/her fellow disciples, and not only his or her own needs or wants.

The difference between truly living Acts 2:44–45 as explained above and the “split finances” mode of operation (or any other methods whereby Homes agree on quota systems, or that result in certain Home members having personal funds which other Home members are not aware of) is that in the above scenario, while the money may not be physically handed over to the finance deacon and literally placed in the common pot envelope, so to speak, the finances have been fully declared and given to the common pot in spirit, because the recipient of the funds is willing to counsel about the use of the funds and is yielded to considering the needs of the Home overall, and is willing to go with the decision of the Home regarding how the money is used.

In essence, the Home, as a body, knows the exact income that these individuals have received from these different sources, and has decided together that these individuals can keep all or a portion of such income for specific needs. That does not fall within the category of split finances; rather, the Home is making united decisions on how its common pot money should be spent, and it’s a good testimony of the Home taking care of the varied and specific needs of its members, providing the Home is also aware of and providing the needs for its members who do not have access to such finances from other sources.

When we refer to “split finances” we’re talking about when several people, couples or families live under one roof and they each pay a certain percentage of the bills, and the rest of the money they earn is personal funds, which the Home has no authority over or say about how it’s spent, and often the Home is not even aware of how much income has been generated outside of the percentage that each member is required to contribute to the Home budget. This financial arrangement is not uncommon in the

System, where families or individuals co-op, living under one roof, in order to save money on the rent, utilities, etc., but they are not living communally. Such an arrangement also does not guarantee that this Home would be giving a full tithe, since the funds received by the Home members are not fully declared.

Within every Home, there will be individuals who have particular needs (whether medical, legal, scholastic, etc.), and these needs should be filled through your living of the Acts 2:44–45 vision. If as a Home, you do not take care of the legitimate personal needs of your Home members, you could unwittingly be encouraging dishonesty and lack of true common potting, as well as discontent and disunity. If your Home members do not have their urgent personal needs met, they will be reluctant to declare their personal income, as they will feel tempted to use such income to meet their personal needs.

Aside from medical, scholastic, legal, and other important needs which various individuals have, it’s also well worth adding into your budget an allotment of “personal funds” for each Home member. These funds would not be for medical expenses or buying next year’s school books for the children, etc.; rather, these finances would provide Home members with some money to spend when they go out, to have a meal, to buy something “extra” for themselves, a gift for someone else, or to do something special on their days off. It’s ideal to also give parents a certain amount of personal money per child, for excursions, special snacks, a specific need their child has, etc.

Your Home may not be able to allot a large amount of money toward such personal funds, but you should strive to allot some, as this ups the inspiration level of your Home. The Lord will abundantly bless your Home if you’re taking steps to ensure that the needs of all your Home members are being met, even if that requires a stretching of your faith and increasing your Home’s budget a bit. The Lord can and wants to supply!

In summary, a Home that truly lives Acts 2:44–45 declares all income, and counsels and agrees together, by all voting members of the Home (18 and over), on its use. This is true common potting. When all income is declared, it also guarantees an accurate tithe, which will result in the Lord’s full blessing. Also, by declaring all income, you’ll be able to see if you have any that could be given as an offering to WS or another needy Home or work. (GN1107 Charter Amendment: Common Potting)

(FROM “ACTS 1 – 10”)

(Dad:) “And all that believed were together, & had all things common”—they shared all things! That sounds like Communism! The only time when true communism can ever exist is under the influence of the Holy Spirit, in love & patience with each other—where you’re willing to give the food out of your mouth so that they can eat too!” And sold their possessions & goods, & parted them to all men, as every man had need.”

Do you think God has a financial plan for the Church? He sure has! We’ve already mentioned it in the 2nd chapter, 44th & 45th verses, “all that believed were together, & had all things common” or shared! They lived together, they shared together; & those that had possessions sold them & shared them with the others, as every man had need.

“From each according to his ability”—whatever he had—”unto each according to his need”—whatever he needed! That was God’s financial plan for the Church! “Oh”, you say, “that just happened then!” Well, He goes over it again in the 4th chapter, “they spoke the Word of God with boldness. And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart & one soul”. There’s perfect unity of Spirit!

“Neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own!” You’ve got to have one heart & one soul to share like that! “But they had all things common. (v.31 & 32.) They shared all things! And what was

the result? “With great power gave the Apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: & great grace was upon them all.” (v.33.) They had power & they had grace!

If you can share with others, you’ve got a lot of grace & God will give you a lot of power! Amen? If you don’t care about your possessions, as long as they’re used by the Lord! What was the result, economically, for the Church? “Neither was there any among them that lacked!” (v.34.) They may not have had all they wanted, but none of them lacked anything he needed! (ML #1383:41, 71-74)

(FROM “SHOOTING STRAIGHT, PART 1 – SHARING ALL THINGS?”)

(Mama:) An attitude that has crept into the Family is couples wanting/working to acquire goods, possessions, and things for their personal family—wanting their own car, furniture, belongings, etc.—and putting lots of time and energy and even money into owning everything they need and then being very possessive of their material things, rather than sharing what they have with others and letting others share in return. There are all kinds of problems with stewardship and people not taking care of other people’s things, and that has no doubt contributed toward this trend of people wanting to have their own things and being hesitant to share. But the end result is selfish, possessive attitudes, which are very far from the standard of Acts 2:44-45.

God’s mind on the matter:

(Jesus:) It’s human nature to be selfish, to put yourself and your own needs and wants and comforts first, and even to put a lot of time and effort into getting things you want. It’s something that the Devil has played up since the beginning of time, and it has intensified more and more as time goes on, because there are more nice things to acquire all the time.

This selfishness and desire for personal comfort is really the root of most of the worldli-

ness that exists, in both the world at large and in the Family. It's a very prevalent spirit among humanity. The people who have nice things want more, and the people who don't have nice things lust after them. It's not surprising that this attitude has taken root in the Family as well, and that people have become focused—some minimally and some to an extreme—on acquiring goods and benefits for themselves and their family, and wanting to keep these as private possessions, to be used only by them and no others. Well, it is human nature and it is the spirit of the world, but that doesn't mean that it's acceptable to Me. It's not My way.

There is much in the nature of man that is selfish and evil and that is meant to be overcome. I have let these things be part of your nature to test you and to cause you to fight, but I do not mean for you to give in to and yield to such weaknesses. I do not mean for you to go the way of the world, the way of all flesh, in this matter of personal possessions and private property and selfish living.

I don't think I could make things any clearer than they are already in the Word—the Bible and the Letters—that My way, especially for you, My Endtime disciples, is the way of communal living, of sharing all things, of using the blessings that I provide for you and giving to your brother in need, and likewise letting him give to you and share with you when you have a need.

I don't need to get into a big discourse here about why it's important, about what the benefits are, but I will remind you that this is one of the essential attributes of the Family that makes you different from the crazy, rat-racing Systemite world around you. I could give you lists and lists of Letters that talk all about it. I could also remind you of how My Church started in the first place, back in the book of Acts. The specifics and details of how My Church operates have changed a lot since those days, but the basic foundation principles haven't.

Unity is still of the essence, and sharing all things, living Acts 2:44-45, is still an essential part of unity. There's no changing that. There's no denying that. There's no explaining that away or trying to modify it or make it more "modern." I still mean for the Family to be a community of sharing, giving, interdependent individuals who share ALL THINGS!

Someone does have to sometimes "own" certain things. Someone has to have their name on the car title and fulfill the insurance and registration and repair requirements, for example. Your attitude then should be that of a steward. You should feel responsible and do your part to ensure its care and upkeep. But you shouldn't feel that because you legally "own" it you are more entitled to use it than others, or worse yet, that others aren't entitled to use it at all, and should get their own instead.

Then there are tools that are used for the work, whether it be a piece of equipment or a musical instrument, which it's only logical that the person who uses it would assume the care and responsibility of. But you can still lend it to someone in need when you're not using it! The same with small personal possessions. No matter how little you have, you nearly always have something you can give or share, and that should be the prevailing way of life.

The details, the "law," the science and how-to that accompany the issues of ownership and stewardship, are in the Charter, and within it these "sticky points" relating to property and ownership are addressed. However, a problem arises when people go by that law and forget the heart of that law, the purpose and spirit behind the matter.

The laws have to be there to handle more complex situations that come up—and they will come up, because although you are not of the world, you live in the world, and therefore you have to go by some of its rules when it comes to practical, technical matters. But the laws in themselves are not the core issue—they're just a means for implementing My plan, for finding a

way to cause the worldly way of operation that you have to be involved with to some degree to match up with the spirit of communal living, which is My way for you and where your focus should be.

The root, the heart, the soul, the essence of the matter when it comes to personal property and ownership of things, whether large or small or somewhere in between, is this: You are not your own; you are bought with a price. The things that you have are also not your own, but they are Mine, as you are, and meant to be used in My service and used for the good of others and shared with your brethren. That is Acts 2:44-45 in “modern lingo” for you, and that is the spirit by which I want My Family to live.

You can debate it. You can discuss the cons, the impracticalities, the fine points, the details, the exceptions, all you want—but that doesn’t change the foundation principle, the truth of the matter, whatsoever. I know there are problems with communal living and with sharing all things. I know there are issues of stewardship and lack of proper care of things, lack of taking responsibility, lack of trust in one another, and so forth. These things need to be worked out, and it can be difficult to work them out. But the solution is not capitalism, private ownership, fending for yourself, and each one acquiring your own possessions.

There are problems with sharing and living communally, but the problems that come about as a result of not sharing and not living communally are far worse. The problems that come about as a result of sharing are more on a logistical or practical level, and are things that, while touchy or complex, can be worked out through love and prayer and communication and training. Whereas the problems that come about as a result of selfish living and acquiring personal property and possessions lead to the spiritual decay and eventual death of unity, which is one of the primary elements of the Family discipleship lifestyle.

So take your choice: Live according to the giving and sharing principles of My Word, and deal with the difficulties and problems that arise along with it. Or, live according to the principles of the world and its selfishness and materialism—but go and do it elsewhere, because it is no longer an acceptable way of life within Family discipleship. (ML #3499/GN 1086:54-68)

(FROM “PUTTING SKIN ON SIN”)

(Jesus:) Many of you think that living Acts 2:44-45 in this day and age is not possible. You’re wrong. You feel the world has changed so much, the System is different now, and that even the makeup of the Family and the way it’s operating and its traditions are different now, so you feel justified in having your own private families, homes, and belongings. You are departing from the spirit of discipleship and communal living, which is an integral part of My plan for revolutionary Endtime discipleship.

You’re not meant to be straying further from ultimate discipleship and radical living; you’re meant to be coming closer, being more dropped out, more pure. It’s time for all your selfishness and cozy, independent living to change. It’s time to get back to the basics of the Word—sacrifice, giving, sharing, having all things in common. Only through such giving of self to each other will you be united and the true testimony of My Endtime New Church. (ML #3453/GN 1038:39, 40)

(FROM “LIVING THE LORD’S LAW OF LOVE!—PART 2”)

[Dad wrote:] If we have real love, we can’t face a needy situation without doing something about it. We can’t just pass by the poor man on the road to Jericho! We must take action like the Samaritan did! (See Luk.10:25-37.) The Church System today says, “Oh, I’m so sorry, how sad!” But compassion must be put into action! That’s the difference between pity and compassion: Pity just feels sorry; compassion does something about it!

We must demonstrate our faith by our works, and love can seldom be proven without tangible manifestation in action. To say you love someone and yet not try to help them physically in whatever way they may need—food, clothing, shelter, and so on—this is not love! True, the need for real love is a spiritual need, but it must be manifested physically in works—“faith which worketh by love!” (Gal.5:6).

For “whoso hath this world’s goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth!” (1Jn.3:17,18).

However, we feel that the greatest manifestation of our love is not the mere sharing of our material things and personal possessions, but the sharing of ourselves and our personal services for others, which is our faith, and which results in our works and the sharing of our material possessions. Jesus Himself had nothing material to share with His disciples, only His love and His life, which He gave for them and for us, that we too might have life and love forever!

For “greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends!” (Jn.15:13). So we consider that the sharing of ourselves, our love, and our life with others, is the greatest of all sharing and our ultimate goal (ML #607:9-13).

“Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends.” “Therefore we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

Are you willing to give till it hurts, even until it hurts you? Jesus did: He gave His life! God did: He gave His Son! David did: He said, “I will not give unto the Lord of that which hath cost me nothing!” He gave until it hurt! God gives His Wife, the Church, continually in loving service to others! She is constantly engaged in trying to woo and win the world! (ML #302C:18-19).

“From him that hath, according to his ability, unto him that hath not, according to his need.”—That’s the sharing principle of love—and the loving principle of sharing! (ML #833:41).

As the Apostle Saint James so clearly states in that passage in his second chapter, the 15th through the 17th verses: “If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food (a necessary physical need like sex), and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead!” (Jam.2:15-17).

In other words, if in the faith of God you really love them, they cannot understand it or believe it unless you really show them by some visible, tangible work or action that puts your words into action and puts your faith into effect and makes it fact and not fiction, a sample not just a sermon! As even Jesus Himself said, “How can you say that you love Me and do not the things that I ask?” (Luk.6:46). (ML #502:21-23).

The first law is the law of love—unselfish love—love for Him and others. If you will obey that one and give that love which is His and their due, so shall you also receive. “For with what measure ye mete unto other men’s bosoms, so shall they also mete unto your bosom” (Luk.6:38). (ML #250:44). (ML #3202/Vol 25:9-15, 18-21)

New disciples “forsaking all” in full...

(FROM “ACTS 1 – 10”)

(Dad:) “For as many as were possessors”—the “haves”—“of lands or houses, sold them”—they got rid of their possessions. “And brought the prices of the things that were sold, & laid them at the Apostles’ feet: & distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.” (v.35.)

The second crisis of the Church happened as a result, in some ways, of this very principle (of sharing)! Chapter 5, a couple of people wanted to get the glory & the credit that everybody else was getting for forsaking everything they had. They wanted to make it look like they were giving up everything too. No doubt there was a certain amount of glory in it. There must have been, or Ananias & Sapphira wouldn't have dared to try to deceive the people & the Lord into thinking that they were giving up everything too.

It looks as if it might have been one of the conditions of joining the Church in that day—that they had to give up everything! Maybe they were just trying to join without paying their dues! What do people usually have to do in order to really come out & serve the Lord? Forsake all!

If you haven't forsaken all yet, you haven't passed one of the most important tests! God will probably jerk the rug out from under you one of these days—where you don't have anything, or where you've got to make that choice!

Ananias & Sapphira thought they were going to get away with pretending to forsake all, when they really hadn't! And God slapped them down real quick! He didn't want any deceivers, any liars, any people pretending to forsake all—like the Church people today!

He slapped them (Ananias & Sapphira) down in a hurry then, & they dropped dead—because they were trying to lie to the Holy Ghost! Now we don't know whether they dropped dead out of plain fear or they were scared to death or God killed them. But, "fear came upon all the Church, & upon as many as heard these things!" Chapter 5:11. (ML #1383:75, 88-91, 93)

(FROM "GO TO THE HIGH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES!")

(Dad:) Let's face it, what has supported our missionaries & our people everywhere? One of the first things that supported them was their own money, forsake-alls when they joined—not

only supported them, but us—& then winning others that also could do the same. That was the way it was mostly supported in those days.—By kids joining that had something to contribute! (ML #1418:3)

(FROM "GO TO WORK!—OR GO HOME!")

(Dad:) Many of them [new disciples] had fairly substantial material means & brought those things with them—from their personal possessions to their actual funds. Very few people in this World, except in the very poorest of all countries, have absolutely nothing personal that they cannot bring with them, & in the richer home countries in particular they had plenty & they brought plenty with them & we were plentifully supplied constantly with all kinds of needed materials & funds, thank the Lord! (ML #1677:54)

(FROM "ARE YOU ROBBING GOD? – CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 8")

(Peter:) At the very beginning the Family survived almost totally on forsake-alls, with a minimum of provisioning. At TSC and in Los Angeles (and many other early colonies) many people were joining with lots of forsake-all—cars, stereo sets, bank accounts, musical equipment, and the new disciples simply gave everything they had and laid it down at the apostles' feet, and distribution was made to every man according as he had need. And it worked! (ML #3461/GN 1046:7)

(FROM "PUTTING "SKIN" ON SIN")

(Peter:) Some of you new disciples that have joined in recent years often have apartments or cars that you leave with your System relatives. You don't forsake all and give to the community—the Family Home. You're keeping something to fall back on "just in case."

(Jesus:) Many of you think that living Acts 2:44-45 in this day and age is not possible. You're wrong. You feel the world has changed

so much, the System is different now, and that even the makeup of the Family and the way it's operating and its traditions are different now, so you feel justified in having your own private families, homes, and belongings. You are departing from the spirit of discipleship and communal living, which is an integral part of My plan for revolutionary Endtime discipleship.

You're not meant to be straying further from ultimate discipleship and radical living; you're meant to be coming closer, being more dropped out, more pure. It's time for all your selfishness and cozy, independent living to change. It's time to get back to the basics of the Word—sacrifice, giving, sharing, having all things in common. Only through such giving of self to each other will you be united and the true testimony of My Endtime New Church. (ML #3453/GN 1038:39, 40)

Practice good stewardship of the material blessings the Lord has given your Home.

(FROM "SHOW ME THE MONEY!—PART 1")

(Mama:) The Lord is a wise Investor! He gives the most to those who are thankful for the blessings He's already given them, and who show their appreciation by praising Him regularly, being good stewards of His material blessings, practicing austerity with the funds He gives, and not becoming familiar with His generosity. No benefactor would continue giving aid to someone who isn't faithful, who doesn't take care of what he already has, and who lets things deteriorate or go to waste. So what makes you think the Lord is going to give you His blessings of supply and provisions if you're an unwise steward and/or aren't thankful for what you have? He won't bless unfaithfulness, wastefulness, murmuring, or familiarity.

This is a real problem in many Family Homes around the world. You aren't thankful for what our Provider has given you, and you

aren't praising Him for His bountiful supply. You aren't taking care of your Homes, your vehicles, and your equipment like you should, so of course the Lord doesn't feel like giving you upgrades if He knows you're just going to let them go to pot like the rest of your possessions. You aren't thankful for the provisioning you do get, and you even murmur and complain and become familiar and wasteful, so of course the Lord isn't going to increase the supply lines.

When our Husband sees that you're taking good care of what He supplies, that you're being good stewards, and are thankful and praiseful for His blessings, that moves Him to want to supply even more—over and above even your basic needs. He wants to spoil you. He wants to give you His financial and material blessings in abundance. But He's not going to let His riches and blessings go down the drain or land in ungrateful laps. His Word says, "It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (1Cor.4:2)—faithful to appreciate and care for all the Lord's blessings, and to invest them in His service wisely. As the parable of the talents and the wise and unwise stewards in Matthew 25 shows, you who care for what He gives wisely, prayerfully and faithfully, will receive more and be blessed.

While we're on the subject of being good stewards of the things the Lord blesses us with, let's also remember to be good stewards of our brethren's belongings and the Home's goods. This is something that's often sadly lacking in our Homes, and it's not only a sad reflection on our faithfulness and diligence, our love and consideration for others, and our sample to outsiders, but it tears down Home unity and tends to encourage selfishness. One CO who read an advance copy of this Letter commented:

One reason for people not wanting to share things is bad stewardship. People tend to be careless with communal items. And some people are careless with personal belongings as well, so it's difficult to trust them with

expensive equipment such as computers, cameras, etc. It's not a distrust of their motives, but of their ability to handle the equipment with care. I'm sure many people have this concern, having seen many communal items or loaned items damaged by mishandling, or even totally misplaced and lost. So then you wonder why you should let them use the equipment when the Lord doesn't bless bad stewards.

(Mama:) Please, dear Family, be good stewards of each other's belongings and treat them as you would your own! That's part of loving others as yourself, the Law of Love. "Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful" (1Cor.4:2). (ML #3462a/GN 1047:126-130, 133)

(FROM "SHOW ME THE MONEY!—PART 4")

(Jesus:) Many of you, My brides, have become so familiar with My blessings. For many, many years now you've been used to Me supplying finances, provisions, equipment, housing, and so much more, but you forget to thank Me. You overlook many of My little blessings and gifts that I bestow upon you every day. You take My miracles for granted and don't praise and thank Me nearly enough. How do you think this makes Me feel? Unappreciated, unnoticed, and like you just don't care! It doesn't make Me want to give you more when you're not even grateful for what you have.

You brush aside My blessings, always wanting more, demanding bigger and better blessings and more money for your needs. But what you're forgetting is that praising Me pleases Me—even when you're abasing. Praising Me for every blessing, no matter how small, compels Me to give more to you. When I know you're thankful and giving Me the glory and honor for everything, I want to give you more, I delight to give you more, and I can't help but pamper you with My care, for I love to give of My wealth to you.

I also look to see how you care for the material blessings I've given you. Do you trash your vehicles and overlook their upkeep and maintenance? Are they a reproach to your Home and My Name? Are your Homes dirty and unkempt? When things are broken and a bad sample, do you fix them or let things deteriorate to total ruin?

What about the provisions I supply for you? Do you murmur and complain because it's not your favorite food, or because you have an abundance of one thing and not as much variety as you'd like? Or do you waste what I give you—whether food, money, or time? Are you extravagant with the money I supply, thinking that because I own the cattle on a thousand hills and the wealth in every mine that I will always have more to give you? Have you forgotten what it means to be thrifty?

Yes, it's true that I am a rich and blessing-laden Husband, but I don't give into purses or pockets full of holes. I give the most where I know it will be used and invested in My work to the maximum—where I know every cent will count and be used wisely. I give to those who I know will be good stewards and caretakers of the things you need in your service to Me.

How are you taking care of what I've given you? How much are you praising Me and thanking Me for My miracles of supply? Have you become familiar with receiving from Me, to where you no longer appreciate or acknowledge My generosity? Have you become like a spoiled child who wants to take, hoard, and receive, and hardly ever says, "Thank You"? Take a good look at your life and your Home. Are you going to appreciate and care for what I give you, or will it waste away, rot, deteriorate, be destroyed, and end up in ruin?

I'm not in the business of pouring money down the drain, or dropping gifts of supply into a bottomless pit. I'm interested in building works that will last, investing in Homes that are really doing the job of winning the world, and raining blessings down upon those who appreciate every drop. (ML #3462d/GN 1050:422-428)

Give to those in need.

(FROM “WITNESSING AND FOLLOW-UP PITFALLS!”)

(Jesus:) I would supply richly and abundantly for My whole Family, but it’s hard to find a man or woman of faith who will receive My blessings, and trusting in Me, pass them on. It’s such a temptation of Satan to cling to the things I give you, to seek to preserve and protect yourself. This is a lack of faith and a lack of trust in Me.

Every good and perfect gift comes down to you from the Father of Lights through Me, and I give abundantly to My children. Though some do give what I have blessed them with to others, many more do not. They are thankful for the gifts, but they do not allow Me the chance to multiply them through their sharing them with others. I’m happy to give to My children, but it saddens Me to see the gifts that I’ve given—when they are more than enough for you—not shared or passed along or used to further My work. It makes Me sad when what I’ve given for all stops at the one I first give it to; when the streams of My blessings upon all are stopped by selfishness and lack of faith.

Where is your faith? You must build up your faith in My most holy Word, for I would supply your every need, all your needs, through My riches in glory. Daily I knock, bringing kings before you and riches to your door, but often the blessings that I give through these ones stop with you. Too often even their gifts and blessings do not increase because you do not let them flow to others also. Gifts do not increase or grow when they do not enrich the giver, and the giver is not enriched when you take the gift to yourself and not as unto Me and My work.

There is great wealth that I would bring into the house of David. But how can I bless all with great wealth if what I bring to your doors stops at you? It must not stop with you but must be passed along. Let it flow through you and not just to you.

Do I not feed you? Do I not clothe you? Do I not care for you? So do not be overly covetous when I send or give extra provisions and extra blessings to you. Rather, share them cheerfully and happily with others, knowing that you are pleasing Me and are being faithful in that which is least and little. And know that through your giving and your sacrifice I will be able to bring many more blessings into My house.

94. Be faithful and not covetous, not selfish, not seeking to save yourself, but lay your life upon the altar of sacrifice in service to Me. This is pleasing in My sight. For if you seek to save your own life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life in My service and the service of others, you will save it. Freely you have received, so freely give. He that withholds tends to poverty, but he that gives will increase his riches.

Prove Me herewith, and see if I will not pour out such a blessing that your house will not hold it. As you pour out, I will pour in, and you cannot outpour Me. As you give it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down and shaken together shall it be given unto you. He that is faithful in that which is least shall be made steward over much.

Prove Me by trusting Me and giving, and see if I will not bless you with more than you can hold. As fast as you give, I will supply. Simply believe. He that gives to his own hurt performs a great act of faith in My sight, for it shows that he has not spared his own life, but has poured it out as a living sacrifice before Me. This is pleasing and brings on My Spirit and My blessing.

So why will you be in poverty? Why will you be fearful for the provisions of the day, when I would have you rich and giving, flowing and pouring forth to others? I would have you free from fear of lacking, free from being bound, free from seeking to save your own life. I would have My servants rich in giving. (ML #3245/GN 847:85-87, 90, 93-97)



3. Live the Law of Love and the One Wife Vision.

Treat the members of your Home and those outside your Home according to the principles of the Law of Love.

(FROM “*LIVING THE LORD’S LAW OF LOVE!—PART 1*”)

(*Mama:*) Generally speaking, the Law of Love is the Godly principle by which our entire lives, as Christians, should be governed. Jesus summed it up very simply in the famous “Golden Rule,” giving us the key to our relationships with others: “As you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets” (meaning that loving your neighbor as yourself fulfills God’s laws.—Such love is the “law and the prophets” [Mat.7:12]). Ideally, this loving principle should guide all of our actions with others (ML #2858:2, Lifelines 21).

The Love Charter states that one of the responsibilities of Charter members is as follows: “Endeavor to live by the principles of the Law of Love: To love and care for, and interact lovingly and harmoniously with all members of the Home in which they reside, and with Family members at large.” It goes on to say: “Dad succinctly explained the Law of Love in the following quote. ‘Love doeth thy neighbor no harm,’ for ‘thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself’: This is God’s Law of Love! ‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ ‘Against such love there is no law.’ This is the Lord’s Law of Love. Obey it, and you can have total love, life and liberty in the Lord. These are God’s conditions.” (The Charter, Responsibilities of Individual Members, E.)

Living the Law of Love is simply living what Jesus said is the law, the great commandment—to love. “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets” (Mat.7:12). “Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto

him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Mat.22:36-40). “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Gal.5:14).

This Law of Love that Jesus proclaimed—loving God first, and loving others as yourself—fulfills all the other Biblical law. It means that we are free from all the old Biblical law. For example, if you love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind, then you won’t put other gods before Him, nor take His Name in vain. If you love your neighbor as yourself, you won’t kill him, steal from him, lie to him, or covet what he has. And the reason you won’t do these things is because of love. You don’t need the Biblical law to keep you from doing these things; you simply refrain from doing them because to do them would be unloving. This freedom from the Biblical law, based on the Lord’s instruction to govern ourselves by loving God above all and our neighbors as ourselves, is the whole concept of the Law of Love in a nutshell.

The reason I’m going into this in such detail is to help to clear up the confusion that the Law of Love only has to do with sex, as some seem to think. Yes, it does have to do with sex, ...but it’s not only about sex. I want to make sure you understand the point that when we talk about living the Law of Love, we’re not only talking about the sexual aspect of it, but about all of it—about loving your brothers and sisters and putting that love into tangible, everyday action. It’s about sacrificial living, giving of yourself to others, helping those in need, living in unity, and bearing one another’s burdens.

When speaking about the Law of Love, the Lord said the following:

(*Jesus:*) The Law of Love is simply loving others unselfishly, without regard for self.

It's not only sexual, but it pervades every area of your lives. For in this unselfishness and in this life of sacrificial giving and loving, you not only allow yourselves to help many others, but you allow Me to pour out My blessings upon you. For I bless the unselfish and the sacrificial. I bless those who are humble, and I withdraw some of My blessings from those who insist on their own way.

Therefore, by your choosing this unselfish and sacrificial mode of living, which is called the Law of Love, you have opened yourselves up to great happiness from Me, and My blessing upon your lives.

My Law of Love is first of all that you love Me with all your heart and soul and mind, and second that you love your neighbor as yourself. The greatest way My love is manifested is in the laying down of your life for another. It's in giving your life totally to Me so that I can use it to show My love to others. (End of message from Jesus.)

(Jesus:) The Law of Love is the guiding principle of our lives; it's what everything we do should be based on. The Lord says, "You must learn the gift of encouragement. That's a very major part of My Law of Love." And what about comfort, simplicity, preferring one another, doing a little extra for your brother or sister, sympathy, compassion, and feeling the pain which others suffer? These are all important parts of the Law of Love as well.

So when the Lord said the Family needed to live the Law of Love more, He wasn't only talking about the sexual aspect of it. He was talking about the totality of it—living in love and harmony with one another, doing no harm to your neighbor, loving your neighbor as yourself—the full application of the Law of Love!

(Jesus:) It is through living the Law of Love fully that the living of the "One Wife" vision is possible. Without strong belief in the Law of Love and understanding of it, how can you

believe and understand the "One Wife" vision, the truth of your greater marriage?

So much of what hinders the unity of the Family today is because of a lack of living the Law of Love and the "One Wife" vision fully. If there were greater love, concern, and faith in these areas, then there would also be greater care for the single mothers and their children, greater sexual freedom, less ostracizing of some, and fewer cliques. There would be a much greater willingness to love without partiality, to help each person to feel a part of the Family, the Home, the love, the unity, the oneness.

(Mama:) Living the Law of Love more fully is crucial to having the unity that the Lord wants us to have in our personal lives, our Homes, and the Family at large. This is an area that we definitely need to grow in. It's an area that has been weakened over the years. It's something we haven't put as much emphasis on, at least not directly, in recent years. But the Lord has made it clear that now is the time that we do need to gain a greater understanding of what the Law of Love means, and how we're to put it into practice in all areas of our lives...

I can't emphasize enough how vital it is to understand that the Law of Love is what should motivate us in all that we do, and what should be the foundation principle in all of our decisions and interactions with each other. (ML #3201/Vol 25:11-18, 20, 24, 25, 35-38)

(FROM "LIVING THE LORD'S LAW OF LOVE!—PART 2")

(Mama:) In order to truly live the totality of Jesus' only law and live together in loving harmony and partake of the freedom of sexual sharing, it's imperative that we all grasp the essence of it, that we understand the heart and spirit of the Law of Love. I want to share more from Dad's Letters, so you can hear what he originally had to say about these things, in the hopes that you will be reminded of the loving spirit in which Dad presented the Law of Love...

As you read these quotes, remember that Dad wasn't only talking about sex and a sexual need, he was also talking about the other needs that people have, such as the need for friendship, understanding, support, respect, and the need to be listened to and to feel needed and important. Please apply the following counsel to all aspects of your service to the Lord and others...

[Dad wrote:] Let me emphasize here that the preeminent requisite for anyone in the Revolution must be the same driving passion which motivated the Apostle Paul and all the Apostles and all the martyrs and every great man or woman of God!—In fact, that irresistible compassion which should motivate every child of God in everything you do, everything you say, everywhere you go, with everybody, and which that great fanatical Apostle summed up in these few famous and ringing words which have cried out from the heart of every true Christian in every true good deed he has ever done, and for which indeed he is willing to die: “The love of Christ constraineth us!” (2Cor.5:14).

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” “This commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.” “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments.” “This is My commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you” (1Jn.4:11,21; 1Jn.5:2; Jn.15:12).

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” “Hereby perceive we the love of God: because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.” “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” “Love one another as I have loved you. ... By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples” (Jn.3:16; 1Jn.3:16; Jn.15:13; Jn.13:34,35). (ML #151:46-49).

(Mama:) We should walk in love in all that we do, that love should be the main motivating

factor in our every action, and that our love should be manifested in tangible loving deeds which help to supply the needs of others. Dad [has repeatedly said] that when we see someone with a need, it is our duty, in love, to help supply that need. If we don't, how can God's love dwell in us? (See 1Jn.3:17,18.)

When we see children in our Homes who need a father figure, or a single parent who needs help, or a troubled teen in need of a friend, or a large family who could use a hand with the kids, or someone who is overworked and needs rest, or a sick person who needs care, a lonely person who needs friendship, and, yes, someone who needs some sexual fellowship, we are bound by the law—the Law of Love—to do something about it. As Dad said, “The greatest manifestation of our love is not the mere sharing of our material things and personal possessions, but the sharing of ourselves and our personal services for others” (ML #607:12).

When you help that needy child or parent or overworked, sick, lonely or needy person, you are giving yourself to them in love; you are fulfilling Jesus' Law of Love. If you were sick or overworked, if you needed help with your children, if you needed some friendship or loving sex, wouldn't you want someone to give you the help you needed? “All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Mat.7:12).

The essence of the Law of Love, dear ones, is having enough love to do to others what you would want them to do to you; to have enough love to help those in need, whatever the need, just as you would want them to help you in your need; to put the needs of others above your own, even when it's a sacrifice for you to do so. That's love.

Try to remember this important principle of the Law of Love as you go about your day. If you see someone who needs help preparing lunch because they got a late start, pitch in to help for a few minutes. That's love. When you're

getting ready to go witnessing and you see that your partner isn't ready because an unexpected phone call came that delayed him, instead of getting uptight, help him fold his lit and prepare his sandwiches for lunch. That's love.

When you know that someone is really battling, why not offer to help out with some of their home chores or duties so they can get some extra Word time? That's love. If you know someone is feeling left out, having battles because someone they were particularly close to moved on to another field, why not go out of your way to ask that person to go for a walk or listen to some music together or read some Word? That's love.

If one of the guys is a crummy basketball player, but he really likes to play—instead of making him feel embarrassed, or like a weight or a handicap on your team, try to encourage him, teach him, and praise him when he does well. That's love! When you're super-tired and looking forward to going to bed, but you see someone that you know is just as tired as you putting away a big pile of dinner dishes, why not lend a helping hand? That's love.

If you're planning to spend some time with your girlfriend, but your sister is really lonely and heartbroken because she just broke up with her boyfriend, why not invite her to join you for some fellowship, a snack, some ministry training time, etc. That's love. If your little brother just loves the new FTT but he doesn't have a Walkman, offer to lend him yours for the weekend. That's love.

If you as a married couple plan to take your kids on an outing on family day—for example, on a picnic at the park—why not invite a single mom and her kids in your Home or city to join you? She will greatly appreciate the help and fellowship, and will see the "One Wife" vision in action. That's love.

As Dad said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." If you love your neighbor as yourself, you'll put yourself in his place, and wonder how you would feel if you were there, and wonder

what you would want and need to have fulfilled, amen?" (ML #648:53,54). This is what the Law of Love is all about—giving love, in deed and in truth, to those in need. That is why the Law of Love is the cornerstone of our Family, the basis of our whole way of life. And that is why when we get away from living the Law of Love, we have problems!

It's no easy task to live Jesus' commandments of love. To love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind, to love others as ourselves, and to lay down our lives for the brethren, all require living a life of self-sacrifice. It means putting Jesus first, others next, and ourselves last. Doing so goes against the natural man, against human nature. To have this kind of love, the love that causes you to lay down your life for your brethren, which causes you to die daily through dying to yourself and living for others, requires the supernatural love of God. Dad made this point clear when he said:

Jesus' law is much stricter [than the Mosaic law], much more difficult to keep—in fact, impossible! If the old Law was impossible, Jesus' Law is even more impossible! That's why He says, "Without Me, ye can do nothing!" (Jn.15:5). But He also says that we "can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us" (Phil.4:13). For "His grace is sufficient for us, His strength is made perfect in our weakness!" (2Cor.12:9).

You can't possibly keep His Law of Love unless you're saved and you have Jesus in your heart, the Spirit of God's love within you, to give you the power and the strength to love others more than you love yourself (ML #1968:35,36).

(Mama:) Living the Law of Love means consistently, sacrificially thinking of others and serving them. That's a tall order! It's so easy to be lazy, selfish, and self-centered; most of us are that way naturally. Our first reactions are usually about ourselves, what we want, what will make us happy. But if we ask the Lord to

help us and we put forth a genuine effort, we can develop new habits and reactions, which, with time, will help us to become more loving, caring, sacrificial individuals. (ML #3202/Vol 25:3, 4, 6-8, 22-31, 39-42)

(FROM “CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES”)

(Peter:) This is a responsibility that should govern your everyday life and interactions with others. You are supposed to endeavor—which means to make an earnest attempt—to be loving to others, to care for them, to work in harmony together with them. When you “put skin” on this, it means that you are to act lovingly and harmoniously with those you live with in your Home, whether you like them or not, whether you agree with them or not, whether they’re young or old, whether your personalities conflict or not.

As a Charter member you’re expected to love those within your Homes as you love yourself, to do your very best to act in love toward one another. This means you don’t criticize them, you don’t gossip about them, you don’t yell at them, but rather you go out of your way to love them. Take a look at yourself and the way you interact with others in your Home and other Family members. Are you treating them in love? Are you being kind to them? Are you trying to lift them up or tear them down? As Dad said, you may not always like everyone that you live with, but you’re expected to love them with God’s love. You’re expected to treat them decently, with courtesy, respect and kindness. (ML #3197/GN 803:89, 90)

(FROM “GOALS FOR 1998”)

(Peter:) The two greatest commandments are to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. (See Mark 12:30,31.) He said, “By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another” (Jn.13:35).

Love is the lifeblood of the Family. Love is the foundation, the cornerstone. Love is what the Family should be known for. Our love for

one another should be like a soft, warm, cozy blanket that wraps gently around each one of us, in which we find comfort and security, peace and understanding.

Unfortunately, and I’m sorry to have to say this, one of the areas that the Family generally has fallen sadly short in is that simple, unconditional, brotherly love that “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things,” the type that “never fails” and that “puts away any childish things” that divide you from others (1Cor.13). I’m talking about the kind of love that understands, forgives, and reaches out a helping hand to love without partiality. The kind of love that loves the unlovely, looks past one another’s faults and shortcomings, sees the Lord in others, and sees each individual as someone who’s given their heart and life to Jesus and the Family, someone who deserves to be accepted, nurtured, cared for, and loved.

As the Lord has told us before, we can be Jesus for one another. We can be the manifestation of His love. The concern, sympathy, affection, patience, faith, understanding and love that we show for another may be the very thing that will give that person the faith, courage and strength to keep going, to fight on, and to win the victory.

Jesus said, “Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me” (Mat.25:40). So Mama and I ask each of you—have you been Jesus for your brethren? Have you treated the least of these as you would treat Jesus? Have you been the example of the Lord’s love that He wants you to be?

Let’s give of our time, be a listening ear, and open our hearts, our beds and our lives to others. Let’s be swift to forgive and forget. Let’s do our best to share our worldly possessions, love others’ children as if they were our own, and be our brother’s keeper. Let’s not hold back the simple affection that so wonderfully communicates the Lord’s love. Let’s try with all our hearts to set a good example, be a strong

shoulder to lean on or cry on, and be a sample of the Lord's unconditional love. Let's not jump to conclusions or judge unfairly, but instead give the benefit of the doubt to those who are struggling. Let's bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Love! (ML #3160/Vol 24:77-81, 83)

(FROM "KEEP FIGHTING!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 6")

(Jesus:) Living the sexual side of the Law of Love is still optional. It is not a requirement to being in the Family, nor will you lose your Family membership if you do not share sexually. However, living the totality of the Law of Love is a key to My Family being all that I am calling you to be.

You who say to Me, "Work in my heart as You will," are those who don't have such a difficult time living the Law of Love fully. You are the ones who will be prepared and ready in the days to come. (ML #3366/GN 969:169, 171)

(FROM "SHOOTING STRAIGHT, PART 1—ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO LIVE THE LAW OF LOVE?")

(Mama:) Some people promote the idea that it's frowned upon or uncool to live the sexual aspect of the Law of Love and have dates with others if you're married, especially if the dates aren't "sacrificial"—that you're either being disloyal or that it could even be a sign that your marriage is in trouble or that you're not "satisfied" with your mate.

An SGA recently wrote the following:

Many YA/SGAs (not just the married ones) who I know in the Family are quite proud of the fact that they don't practice the sexual side of the Law of Love. I'm not saying that everyone thinks like this; I'm not saying that I know the majority of YAs or SGAs in the Family. I'm sure that there are young couples who are living the Law of Love to the full, it's just that I don't personally

know of any. The attitude that many people seem to have is this: It's fine to sleep around if you're single, but if you're married or in a relationship with someone, then it's like a point of honor or pride that they don't sleep with anyone else apart from their boyfriend/husband, girlfriend/wife.

God's mind on the matter:

(Jesus:) It's just plain ridiculous to be proud of not living some aspect of the Law of Love. In My eyes, a couple that shares sexually outside their marriage with the agreement of all parties, in accordance with the Law of Love, is showing a great deal of maturity. It's a sign of strength—not weakness—when a couple is able to reach out sexually, giving to others and receiving from others.

I want you couples to be proud of your obedience to the Law of Love. I want you to make it a challenge to build the type of relationship where your lives are open to others while remaining committed to your partner and continuing to grow in love. Living the sexual aspect of the Law of Love doesn't have to take anything away from your marriage. Let this sexual openness bring you closer together and give you the opportunity to show your mate that you love and appreciate him or her more than ever for their obedience and sacrifices to practice the Law of Love.

The attitude of exclusiveness, of sexual fidelity to only one's spouse being a sign of a good relationship is a perfect example of how worldly input can influence and hinder My children. Some of you might think that just because you don't have nightmares after watching a questionable movie or reading a questionable novel, that you're unaffected by System input. However, if you agree with this exclusive and closed attitude being the ideal, or even agree with it slightly, there's a good chance you are being very negatively affected by worldly input. Even movies, books, etc., that might be recommended or seem harmless, can still be filled with insidious

lies and attitudes that are contrary to the life of a revolutionary Christian. So be aware!

And even if you haven't gained this attitude through input of System media, the attitude itself has seeped through the ranks and spread through many of you passing it on by your actions, attitudes or conversations. You haven't intended to tear down My Word and My truth, but in reality, when you're proud of your lack of obedience, when you push something aside as "not for me," that's what you're doing.

The selfish way is the easy way. The worldly concept of "fidelity" might be a great excuse for some of you to disregard this part of the Law of Love, but it's still disobedience, it's still displeasing to Me, and you're still missing an important and wonderful way to grow in your marriage or relationship. The degree that you live the Law of Love is according to your own faith, but to actually be proud of your failure to live the Law of Love is both laughable and also very sad. So stop being a coward, hiding behind these lazy, pointless System attitudes of pride, and start reaching out.

Use the Law of Love to enhance your relationship. The secret is to give; not to use the Law of Love solely to satisfy your personal lusts for more sex; not to spend time with others to the point that you are neglecting your significant other; not to go about having sex unprayerfully or secretively, but to love, love, love, and give, give, give! If you have the strength and courage to eliminate these stupid System attitudes and to practice the Law of Love the way it was meant to be practiced, you'll reap massive benefits and bring a whole new level of happiness to your relationship. (ML #3499/GN 1086:89-96)

Treat the members and children of your Home and other Homes according to the principles of the One Wife vision.

(FROM "GOALS FOR 1998")

(Jesus:) It is through living the Law of Love

fully that the living of the "One Wife" vision is possible. Without strong belief in the Law of Love and understanding of it, how can you believe and understand the "One Wife" vision, the truth of your greater marriage?

So much of what hinders the unity of the Family today is because of a lack of living the Law of Love and the "One Wife" vision fully. If there were greater love, concern, and faith in these areas, then there would also be greater care for the single mothers and their children, greater sexual freedom, less ostracizing of some, and fewer cliques. There would be a much greater willingness to love without partiality, to help each person to feel a part of the Family, the Home, the love, the unity, the oneness. (ML #3160/Vol 24:171, 172)

(FROM "LIVING THE LORD'S LAW OF LOVE!—PART 11")

(Dad:) **Putting the greater marriage first doesn't mean you need to minimize your ties to your personal family,** but it means giving the greater marriage the proper importance. It does not mean you must forsake the marital unit, but you are to embrace the far greater concept of marriage. It means that instead of drawing a circle around your own little family that will shut others out, you are to draw a circle that brings others in. For example, it doesn't mean loving your own children less, but it means taking the children of others into your arms, your heart, your lives, and trying to love them as much as you love your own. It means bringing others up to the level of your personal marriage relationship and your personal individual family—bringing them up to the level of love, understanding, sympathy, concern, and all the things you naturally feel for your personal family.

This is a complicated concept, because the Lord wants us to love others as we love ourselves. He wants us to be considerate of their needs, to give of our time, strength, love, and prayer, to do what we can to make sure all our mates are well cared for, happy and complete,

as much as possible. On the other hand, He purposely, distinctly, and within His will gives you greater natural feelings for your personal family, for your one wife or mate, and also for your own children. He does that because He knows we all need some personal touch in our lives. Children need personal attention and personal love, to feel like they belong to somebody, that they have a place. They need to feel the security, comfort and warmth of the family unit.

So there's a place for both—the personal, individual family and the greater family. Each has its purpose, and you can love one without neglecting the other.

I would say the tendency of most people, of course, is to have a deeper love for their personal family, their immediate mate and their own children. Our priorities usually center around our own mates and our own children—not only because of our natural selfishness and independence, but also because of God-given desires and burdens that He's put in our hearts to care for and protect our individual family units.

It's very natural and understandable to be more concerned about your own mate and your own children—that they have their needs supplied, that they are happy, that they feel loved and content and challenged. It's good to love your mate and children in this way, and it's part of your duty as a husband or wife or father or mother.

People of the world are also concerned for their immediate family. But it takes the supernatural love of Jesus, the miraculous grace of God, to try to love others as much as you love your personal family, and to care as much about their personal needs and their feelings of happiness, security, contentment and challenge.

It takes the supernatural love of the Lord to care as much for a single mother and the needs of her children as you do for your own wife and your own children. It takes a supernatural vision in the spirit to see that single mother and her children as being your wife and your children in the spirit. It takes the supernatural love

of God to be moved with compassion for that single brother or sister, and to reach out and give them what they need—whether it's a shoulder to cry on, a prayer, some time of communication, or lovemaking.

All of this requires the work of the Spirit. You can't do it on your own. You have to be strong in the Spirit, strong in faith, strong in love, strong in sacrifice. That's why so few people in the Family fully understand the principle of "One Wife" or the concept of the greater marriage, because very few people want to make that kind of sacrifice. And the sacrifice I'm talking about is not forsaking or minimizing or mistreating your own individual family, but it's broadening the borders of your tents and giving more love and more concern, bringing others in and making them feel a part.

It's sad that the Family has gotten quite separate, quite selfish these days. The married couples are quite exclusive in their relationships and there is a lot of loneliness. Many people feel quite alone. You know, it's a natural God-given desire to want to belong to a family, a team, or some kind of body where you feel like you have a place and you make a difference, where people want you as an individual, they need you, and you make a meaningful contribution.

That's why companies that make all the employees feel important and needed and crucial to the success of the business are often very profitable. The employees are very loyal and they'll work hard and sacrifice willingly, because that feeling of oneness and belonging is a great motivation. It's a much better motivation than just money, promotion or glory, because it's a God-given desire, something that the Lord has put in the heart of man.

It's sad that even in some of our Homes people feel like they don't belong. They feel a little bit like outsiders, and like something is missing. They're there and they do their part, they fulfill their duties, but they wonder who really cares. Sure, they make a difference on the schedule of Home duties, and they take part in

the witnessing and the training of the children and the JJT and the raising of finances, but they don't really feel like an integral part of a team or a body or a marriage.

I guess that's why there's so much moving from Home to Home. People don't stick together for long or dig in to pioneer and nurture and build a strong, lasting work for the Lord. They're always flitting from here to there, from one Home to another or one field to another.

What I really think they're looking for is just to belong. They want to find their place and those they can feel close to. They want to be somewhere where they feel accepted, needed and wanted—somewhere where if they left, it would really make a difference and they'd be missed as an individual, as a person, not just as someone to fill in the schedule, or help raise funds, or clean the house, but that their particular gifts, their talents, their personality, their sense of humor, their strengths, even their weaknesses and their individual or funny ways would be missed.

To put the greater Family first means to love your brethren with as much love as you can possibly muster up! It means, by God's grace, to give your brethren, your mates, your teamworkers, your co-workers, your friends, that single mother, that single brother or sister, and all the children as much love, attention, recognition and appreciation as you possibly can.

Remember, when you feel like you're doing all you can to muster up the love, that's when you must let the love of Christ constrain you! It all has to be a miracle of the Lord's love! The supernatural love of God is love enough to love anybody—and that's what it'll take to live the Law of Love. This is what it's all about—loving others with His supernatural love. But you're going to find that if you just step out and obey, He'll give you the love you need.

This is what He wants to do; He wants to love others through you. He has no hands but your hands, no arms but your arms, no mouth but yours to speak His words of love and encouragement. Right now it might seem impossible to

you, but if you'll just give God a chance to love others through you, He'll do all the rest. He'll do what you can't do. His love will constrain you and move you to love others in a way you never thought possible before. As you put Him first and love the Family with His love, He will pour down His grace upon you—grace enough to love others, because it'll be His supernatural love working through you.

Each of you needs to ask the Lord to help you to love others as much as you love your own immediate family. That's the spirit of "One Wife" and putting the greater marriage first: When you're willing to expand your exclusive private relationship and reach out to others; when you're willing to sacrifice some of the private time you would have together to include others; when you're willing to open up your heart, mind and time to include other children when you're tutoring your own, or teaching them to read, or doing a science project with them, or reading them a story, or helping them to learn a new language, or just having fun, fellowship or get-out with them.

It's so easy to be private and exclusive; that's the natural way of man. It takes something supernatural to be giving, open, unselfish, and to love others as you love your own personal family. But it's not an impossibility! The Lord can do it! You just have to work at it and be willing to try. And above all you have to ask the Lord for His supernatural grace and love.

For example, say you're a young couple with small children and you're looking forward to spending your family day together having a picnic, a little quiet time, a little personal communication, and giving a little individual attention to your own children after a busy week. But then the Lord lays it on your heart that the single mother in your Home and her children would like to go with you to the park on your picnic. She's been lonely and her children would enjoy the fellowship.

In that case, the Lord in a way is asking you to put your personal family and even

your personal desires in second place for that time, so that you can open your lives and your time and your attention to someone who is in need. But you see, you're not really loving your immediate family less—you're loving the others more than you were previously if or when you tended to have a more exclusive outlook! You're trying your best to love the single mom and her children as much as you love your own, by drawing a circle to bring others in.

Here's another example: Maybe you as a couple had planned to go to bed early and have a time of lovemaking, but instead it turns out one of your co-workers is having a big battle with loneliness and is really missing a friend that he or she used to be very close to. So instead of having your personal time together, you invite your co-worker in for some Word time, fellowship time, and prayer time together. Or you go out for a walk together. Or you even have your mate go spend time in fellowship and lovemaking with that person who is lonely. This is another example of how you put your own personal desires and your personal family in second place. But it doesn't mean you love your mate less; it means you try to love that lonely person and give some of the time, attention and love to him or her that you would normally enjoy or that you had previously been enjoying exclusively.

It means that you open your lives together to others, that you hear the heartcries of those around you. This doesn't mean you have to love your immediate family less, and of course these times of reaching out to others need to be balanced with the genuine needs of your personal family and marriage and the investment of time you need to give them too. Of course you will still need time alone with your personal family, and you do not need to feel you always have to invite others along.

But take it from me, I can guarantee that if you'll begin to look at the needs of others, as you begin to look outward, as you become more sensitive to the needs of others around you, you're going to find that the time you spend sacrificing

to meet the needs of others is not really a sacrifice at all. You're going to find it doesn't have to harm your marriage or your own personal family to help meet the needs of others around you—someone who has less than you, someone who is needy. You're going to find that, instead of it being a sacrifice, you'll have the Lord's blessing and reward for your giving. You're going to discover the great benefits there are in living His Law of Love, and that you never lose by giving!

That's what I did. I always opened my home and my arms to others. I drew a circle to bring others in! That's why we have the Family today. There's always room for one more! There's always room to reach out to others and include them in your circle of love and fellowship. Pray and let the Lord lead. Pray and ask Him how to find the balance, and He'll make it clear.

Naturally, you won't be able to meet everyone's needs the same; the important thing is to be open to who the Lord is leading you to reach out to! That's why He gave us the Family! We're one body! And everyone's needs should be getting met, and everyone should be doing their part to make that happen in whatever way or in whatever capacity the Lord is leading you to. If the Lord is speaking to your heart to reach out to those around you, you'd be wise to listen and follow His leading. Try it, and discover the great benefits it will bring to your life and the lives of others.

So you see, putting your greater marriage first does not mean you're putting your private marriage down to a place of lesser care, or to a place where your mate or children will be harmed. It means that you bring others up to a place of greater care, and you're willing to let your own desires and personal preferences take second place to the needs of others at times.

I know this isn't easy, but that's what living "One Wife" is all about. And you can be sure that the Lord will bless your efforts and reward you. It may not happen immediately, and it may not be in the way that you expect, but some way, somehow, the Lord will make it pay. He'll show

you that you never lose by giving—by giving love, care, and attention to others, as you give to your own loved ones, your mate, your children, and those closest to you.

(Dad:) When you want to apply the “One Wife” vision in practical terms, just think of the things you would do in a private marriage—being loving, considerate, kind, supportive, comforting, caring, sharing, and so forth—and try to put that into practice as much as possible between you and all of your mates in your greater marriage. The way to put the greater marriage of the children of David into practice is all around, as much as possible, in the different areas of your lives.

Just think of all it takes to make a marriage, and work on that. Go to it! It will help to keep in mind that it does take time to grow into marriage. You can’t necessarily expect everything to be hunky-dory from day one—you have to invest in it and work on it. But you have to start somewhere, and the important thing is to be growing together, making progress, and working on your marriage day by day. It takes lots of hard work to make a marriage work, but the results are well worth it! The results are strong bonds—strong cords that cannot be broken.

With your greater marriage, the Lord wants you to live your married love. What’s a marriage but a union? It’s a uniting together. It’s becoming one. So the best way everyone can begin to apply this marriage in practical terms is by living and putting into practice real, true married love, and getting it together as one family, one wife.

Look at each other as individuals. Look at the other as that person you love, that mate that you need, that part of you that you cannot live without, because one cannot do without the other. Look at each other as someone who has something to contribute. (See 1Cor.12:12-25.)

And remember, folks, if you want this living the “One Wife” vision to work and be successful, marriage is a matter of being the

right person rather than trying to find the right person or trying to change others to be what you think they should be. That’s the key to success. If each of you will determine in your heart right now that you want to make this work, if you will stop and pray and make a commitment to the Lord that with His help and by His grace you are going to try to be the right person, then that’s the victory right there! You do all you can and God will do the rest! (ML #3211/Vol 25:49-66, 70-78, 100, 101, 103, 104, 125)

(FROM “SHOOTING STRAIGHT, PART 2—ALL OUR CHILDREN”)

(Mama:) Some people have the attitude toward couples with children—especially those who have several or many children and may need the help of those in their Home—that it’s the parents’ problem and they should be the ones to deal with it, saying things like, “You made the babies, you take care of them. I didn’t choose to have the babies, so why should I help you?”

God’s mind on the matter:

(Jesus:) This thinking is wrong, and undermines the Family! First of all, I am the One Who makes babies. You can fuck several times a day for months on end, and unless it is My will to make a baby, you won’t get pregnant. I give the babies, and every single child I send is a gift from My hand to the Family.

There are certain characteristics that separate My Family from the rest of the Christian world. I’ve given you a unique message for these Last Days—the Words of David. There are many aspects to these radical words—from belief in David as My Endtime prophet, to the sexual freedom I give you, to your link with the spirit world and hearing from beyond—not only directly from Me, but also from your many spirit helpers. You are My intimate brides, and I have given you the commission to live My Law of Love. A very integral part of living the Law of Love is operating as One Wife. All these things separate you from the rest of the world.

I've given you the meat of the Word. This meat is not to read as if it were an interesting fictional novel, but it is to live by, obey, and put into practice. The One Wife vision is at the very core of the unique doctrine that I have given you. As you are married to Me, you are married to one another. The children in the Family belong to all of you, and anyone who does not consider the children in the Family your responsibility, whether they are your own flesh-and-blood children or not, does not have My mind on the matter.

The smaller family unit is necessary and a part of the overall plan, as long as it is kept in its proper place, and as long as it doesn't interfere with your greater marriage to Me and to each other. Group marriage is what I'm for—and by this I mean putting the larger Family, the whole Family, first. This means that every child of David's attitude toward children in the Family should be, "They are all our children."

In the world, many Christians put their own private marriage union high up on a pedestal—far above Me and My work. Some of you in the Family today, who have no children of your own flesh, must check your hearts to see if you are putting your single lives and independence on a pedestal. Ask yourself if you are living in unselfish and genuine sacrificial love. Are you doing whatever I am calling you to do to help with the children in your Home or area—whether it's actually spending time with the children and helping to teach and train them, or whether it's helping out some way in the Home so others can fill this role? Are you supporting the children in prayer? Are you helping to support them and the parents in whatever way you can?

Or are you being partial to yourself, considering first your own interests and selfish desires rather than doing what you can to help with the children? If you are selfish with your own time, to the neglect of the children when there is a need, then you are striking at the very foundation of the One Wife vision I have given to the children of David. You probably believe

the One Wife vision is good in theory, but it's when everyone is busy and there's a need that it's put to the test. Are you unselfish enough to live it?

The Family's children are all your children. Of course, the natural parents have a direct responsibility, but I have made you One Wife, one Family, and you are all responsible for each other, including the children.

For a single or couple with no children, or even a small family with few children, to have the mindset of, "They are your children and your problem," is unacceptable; it doesn't fit with the One Wife vision. Picture other communal living scenarios and you'll get the picture. It would be like a wife saying, "Well, I'm sorry, I'm not going to cook dinner for the Home today. I'm only going to cook for my husband and children." Or if the husband said, "I'm not going to provision for the Home today, but just for my little family." Or, "I'm not going to drive you to your appointment; you can fend for yourself." You are all married together. It's give and take, living and loving and helping one another, and this is what I want to see among you. Caring for the children is no exception.

This attitude of, "They're your kids and your problem" must be rooted out. The solution is that you must begin by accepting that the children in the Family belong to all of you. Get down on your knees and cry out to Me for My love, which will constrain you. Call on the power of the keys of unity, harmony, unselfishness and love to help you start living Acts 2:44-45. "All that believed were together and had all things common..." and this includes your children. Call on the keys of faith, yieldedness and obedience to the Words of David. Start being your brother's keeper. Be My wife, One Wife—married to Me and to this Family. You have the blueprint in My Word and the Letters—be doers of these Words.

Get together as a Home and seek Me for practical steps you can take in your situation to institute the One Wife vision when it comes

to the care of the children in your Home. Each situation is different, needs are different, but I will give you the specifics for your particular situation. If the parents are overly particular and that makes it hard for others to get involved, that's something they need to read up on and work on in order to do their part to make it work.

But for most of you, the first fundamental hurdle you need to get over is your mindset regarding the children. Once you accept that you, as a single or as a childless couple, are also responsible for the children in your Home, then everything else will fall into place. As you ask Me what the next steps are that you personally need to take and how I want you to help fill this responsibility, now, today, I will tell you all you need to know. I'll direct you to My written Word on the subject, show you where to begin, and give you fresh inspiration and daily leading on how you can progress. Through the keys of the Kingdom your love will go beyond your human ability, your unity will grow, and your home of hearts will become a reality as you raise your children in My ways. (ML #3500/GN 1087:38-49)

Be willing to consider, be open to, and pray about receiving physically weaker members, older FGAs, large families, and single parents with children in your Home, and proceed as the Lord leads.

(FROM "FORWARD, ALWAYS FORWARD")

(Peter:) In joining a Home or inviting others to your Home, or in closing your Home or merging your Home with another Home, you should keep in mind the primary goal of this restructuring of the Family, that of building a winning team. This means that you should wisely and prayerfully choose your new Home or new Home members, because it is with these folks that you will be building your team, a team that will work together, fight side by side, and win.

While the minimum Home size is measured by the number of adults 18 and over, it is not meant to discourage taking large families or single moms into your Homes. A winning team, in many cases, will include large families and single parents. You need a well-rounded team in order to have a successful work and be a good sample discipleship Home. That includes mothers, fathers, young people, provisioners, JETT and teen shepherds, witnesses, teachers and childcare personnel, and much more. As Dad has always said, children of all ages are often our greatest testimony—the proof of the pudding, a tremendous witness, and they can be an invaluable asset to a fruitful discipleship Home.

Aside from the witnessing opportunities children provide, living the One Wife vision is a foundation principle of our sample and service for the Lord. It's one of the most important spiritual concepts that Dad taught us, and it's crucial that we don't lose the loving, unselfish motives that make us a united Family. We're One Wife, and are collectively responsible to care for, raise, and train our children—and that means providing loving Homes and supportive environments for our large families and single parents, where our precious children can be raised and nurtured in the admonition of the Lord.

The sacrificial love and care that you show in opening the doors of your Home to take in a large family or a single parent will not only bring you the Lord's blessings, but it is also an important part of your testimony. So please remember this as you build your winning team—you need families, single parents, children, and singles. We're a Family—made up of all types—and we need each one to do the job! (ML #3479/GN 1067:116-119)

(FROM "RENEWAL: A GIFT OF LOVE FOR THE CHILDREN")

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

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

Children are so incredibly important to Me. Training them is exactly as important as winning souls, gaining disciples, having a growing Activated church, giving food and clothing to the poor, etc. When's the last time you really thought about that? Some of you look at childcare as an extra burden, like doing dishes, raising the funds for the rent, or having to change the oil in your car—something that hinders your primary job as a missionary and disciple. But what you fail to realize is that training children is an extremely important ministry, and if your Home members can be a little more open-minded, you'll realize that by bringing into your Home a large family with a good “quiver” of children you're greatly enhancing the effectiveness of your Home as a missionary unit.

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

Granted, children are hard work. But that's just an excuse, because I don't think you really have a problem with hard work or you wouldn't have dedicated your life to missionary or discipleship service. Every one of you can actually augment your shepherding and witnessing skills by keeping children around and at least occasionally helping them out. Children also bring a certain joy to your Home that no other ministry can supply. It's just a matter of donning the right attitude and realizing that most Family Homes are not complete without an adequate number of children.

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

P.S.: Is your house too small to take in more kids? Well, get out there and find a new one! Nice big yards, swimming pools, and nearby playground facilities are all a big plus! (ML #3491/GN 1075:44-50)

(FROM “FORMING FRUITFUL TEAMS”)

(Mama:) This is another plug, dear Family, to examine this aspect of your Home or team, and seriously consider and pray about whether the Lord might want you to expand the borders of your tents in this way. Find those big families that can round out and complete your Home, and invite them to join you! It's an extremely important part of being a well-rounded and effective missionary team for the Lord.

Remember that families can be some of the best and most wonderful additions to your Home, and just what you need to make it a good, well-rounded, winning team! So don't go turning away families, even if they're large ones, which many of our families are, or you'll be the loser in the end! We are the Family and we're made up of many families, and we're supposed to be known for our love. It's “The Family of Love,” remember, not the Family of selfishness or of, “Sorry, no room in the inn.”

Maybe you're objecting that you don't really need another family so much as you need someone to help with your outreach. Well,

you'll find that kids can be some of the best and most effective witnesses there are, if you train them right and then let them do it! My kids were the ones who got us started, and your kids can really get you started! Teach them to witness, to sing, to perform, to help you in your work, and you'll find that they enhance your witness, touch even the hardest hearts, open doors that would otherwise have remained closed, and magnify your efforts, not burden you or hold you back.

Kids are work, yes, but maybe you're looking too much at how much work they are and not enough at how great a blessing they can be—to you, your Home life, your sample, your well-rounded work, your witness and testimony, as well as a source of joy and happiness and blessing—if you train them right and invest all you should in them and get them out helping you. They're the proof of the pudding, the demonstration that our way of life works wonderfully, the heritage of the Lord, the hope of the future! If you think your Home would have too many of them, just remember the Lord's promise: "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that has his quiver full of them!" (Psa.127:4,5). Hallelujah!

Please don't go turning the older folks away either, even if they have a few health problems. That doesn't mean they're washed up, useless, or no good. If they still have the burden and desire to serve the Lord, they'll find a way! Look at me during my last years on Earth. I was often sick and afflicted, and I almost went Home to be with the Lord a number of times, but I kept going and He kept me. Would you have turned me away from your doors, even though I was in poor health? Or what about Mama, who could hardly open her eyes without pain for years, who lived and worked in a darkened room, had to be carried up and down stairs, and was practically an invalid? Would you have turned her away from your doors because she couldn't play much of an active role in your Home?

You say, "But you and Mama are different, Dad! We'd never turn you away at the door."

Well, when you're making decisions about who you'll let join your Home, remember that those older or weaker Family members at your door are those who've devoted their entire lives to me and Mama and the Family. They've given all they have to the Family and the Lord, often for decades now, at great personal sacrifice. You might think they're lacking in some ways, but they might bring with them just what you need to complete your Home and make it a true Home of love and fulfillment.

Remember His Words that, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." And sometimes it helps to think on the rest of this admonition too, on those who weren't open and willing, who asked, "Lord, when saw we Thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or sick, and did not minister unto Thee?" And He replied, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me" (Mat.25:40,44-45). That's a principle it'd be good for us all to remember. (ML #3496/OOGN 13:6, 22-27)



4. Living the Words of David; having a spirit of obedience to the New Wine that is manifested in the Home through keeping the Word in first place, basing Home decisions on the Word, eagerly seeking the Lord's highest will, and making the sacrifices needed to stay on the cutting edge of discipleship.

Live the practical and spiritual counsel in the GNs.

(FROM "CHARTER RESPONSIBILITIES")

Charter members should:

D. Live in accordance with the Word by endeavoring to apply the spiritual and practical counsel given in the Letters to their daily lives.

E. Read the Bible, the Letters, and other Family publications, both old and new.

(Peter:) **These two clauses are extremely important**, especially when coupled with accepting Mama as Dad’s successor and as the Endtime prophetess, as well as believing in our Family’s fundamental beliefs.

Our Family is built upon the Word. Every aspect of our lives is based on the Word. Our motivation to live the lifestyle we do—to witness, to love one another, to give our lives to the Lord, to live and work together in harmony—is based on the Word. We believe that when God says something, He means it!—And we want to do it! We try to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. We take God’s Word seriously and try to live it as best we can.

Numerous times the Lord has said that one of the reasons He continues to pour out the Word to us in such great abundance is because we believe it and act on it. If the time ever came when the Family read the Word just to “tickle our ears,” looking at it just for information or interest but not implementing it in our lives, undoubtedly the Lord would begin to withdraw the blessing of His Word that He pours out to us. He would withdraw the flow of His Water of Life and we would become a dried-up, dusty, parched church. God help us never to let that happen!

The Lord entrusts us with the meat of His Word, but He expects us to believe it, receive it and act upon it, to make it a part of our lives. That’s why He gives it to us, as He says in the following prophecy excerpt:

(Jesus:) **Hold on to your heritage, the heritage of the meat of God.** Don’t be ashamed of it. For I consistently pour it forth unto you, and continue to pour it forth in new measure, in new strength. For you are they who have accepted My strong Words, who have grown with them, who have obeyed them, who have applied them, who have suffered for them, and

who have grown strong because of them. And so do I continue to pour them forth unto you. For there are no others that have this heritage, and no others have proved their willingness to pour them forth, to live them, to stand up for them, to be persecuted and mocked for them, who have been willing to say, “I believe them because God has said them!”

Great is your reward in Heaven for your faith to receive, to believe, and to live the Words of God. I am well pleased in you, My children, for your willingness to love Me with all of your heart; that you are willing to love not just with tongue, with words, but in deeds and sacrifice and in willingness to go with Me wherever I go, believing and trusting in My love for you.

So receive the Words that I give you through your queen, as you received the Words that I gave you through your David; so shall you prosper, so shall you be strengthened, and so shall you remain in the forefront, alive, controversial, radical, as a torch of light for all to see!

(Peter:) **As Charter members who believe God’s Word, we are expected to read it faithfully on a daily basis and to apply what we read to our lives.** If we truly believe that the Lord is speaking to us, then why would we not want to apply what He says? The Word that the Lord pours out to us should have an effect in our lives. We should read it and follow the counsel therein.

Of course, we understand that there’s a great deal of Word that has been poured forth, and that it’s impossible for everyone to apply every jot and tittle of the Lord’s Word to every aspect of their lives. Also, some Letters are written for a specific field or certain circumstances, and can’t be applied exactly the same way elsewhere; you have to be Spirit-led. We do not expect a total “letter of the law” adherence to every word that is published.

However, as Charter members we are expected to apply God’s Word in our lives. We are expected to follow where He is leading

and to receive and believe the Word, both old and new. We should let it guide and direct us. We should use it in our decision-making. It should help us set the right standards in our lives, give us the vision of where the Lord is expecting us to go, and motivate us to follow Him wherever He directs.

When the Lord pours forth His Word on a subject and makes His will on the matter very clear, then we as followers of the Lord should desire to do what the Word says, to implement it in our lives the best we can. For example, if the Lord makes it clear that we should do our best to live unselfishly, to think of others more highly than ourselves, to be more loving and affectionate to others, and to act with love, courtesy and kindness, then we should attempt to do so, because the Lord has said that it's His will. If He says that certain types of activity are detrimental to our spiritual lives and are a hindrance of the Enemy, then we should avoid those things in obedience to Him.

If you disregard the Word, if you don't believe it or accept it, if you don't make an effort to apply it in your life, if you avoid reading it or implementing it, and even worse, if you blatantly disobey it and speak out against it, then why are you in the Family? You are supposed to be a disciple, which means "a follower of the teaching." As Family members you are responsible to follow the teachings, the Lord's Words. You're responsible to live them to the best of your ability. (ML #3197/GN 803:77-88)

(FROM "COMING PERSECUTION?—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 1")

(Dad:) Don't just be hearers of the Word, but doers also! That's the key. Some of you have slid back into your ruts and gotten comfortable and aren't interested in stirring yourselves up. You're hearers of the Word, but not doers. You've ceased being revolutionaries and have started to become like the churches. You're tired of the fight; you've stopped fighting.

(Mama:) Note that Dad said that some of you are in danger of becoming like the churches. You've fallen asleep. You're lethargic. Maybe it's because you want to be in the churches. Maybe you like their religion better than ours. If that's the case, there are millions of churches to choose from where you'll probably be happier than here, because I can guarantee you that as we move into the future, we'll definitely look less and less like the church system. (ML #3361/GN 957:88, 94)

(FROM "THE DANGERS OF DIVISION!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 2")

(Mama:) ...Many sincere sheep will be won through the Activated program and follow-up. They'll want to serve the Lord and help us win the world, and we can't allow them to be stumbled when they see things in the CM or FM Homes that are wrong, or by having CM Homes that aren't even close to the CM standard, Homes which should be FM or even out of the Family altogether. What a disappointment that would be to the sheep!

It's our responsibility to get ready for these many additional laborers by making sure we're really living the Word, so that when they visit our Homes, they see people who believe the Word, have a desire to win the world, and show that desire by actually sinking their time into witnessing, Bible classes, and follow-up. We want them to see missionaries, disciples, people who love each other and live together in unity—not single families that are hardly different at all from all the other people of the world!

It's one thing if you want to be a "friend" of the Family. That's fine, and you can fellowship with and support the Family and receive some of the pubs, etc. But if you expect to be a Charter member, then you have to live like one, and that means believing the Word, witnessing, living together with others, etc.

Our policy from the beginning has been to be doers of the Word, to be samples, not just sermons. Can you honestly say you're still

living that? Or are you content to just witness a little, do some fundraising, and then spend the rest of your life just like everyone else in the System? Hey, if that's what you want, fine. You can have that—but not in the CM Family! (ML #3362/GN 958:16-18, 20)

(FROM “ARE YOU ROBBING GOD?—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 8”)

(Jesus:) ... When people become lethargic, dull in spirit, compromised, and distanced from Me, it usually isn't just in one part of their lives or limited to just a certain aspect of their walk with Me, but it's usually across the board in a sweeping effect.

The reason for this is that disobedience is usually the result of a lack of fear of Me. When you're walking strongly in fear of Me, you are motivated to obey, your conscience is easily pricked, and you make many, many good decisions each day, the right decisions—decisions of sacrifice, of bringing your flesh into subjection, of being the right sample, of denying yourself and putting Me and others first.

But when you become dull in the spirit through repeated disobedience, you begin to think that you can get away with it indefinitely. You take on the attitude that all things will continue as they are, that your actions don't really matter or make a difference to the way things go. You lose sight of the big secret of life—that everything good in your life depends on having My blessing, and having My blessing depends on your obedience to Me and the Word.

When you lose sight of that truth, you lose true wisdom. Then there is only the carnal mind and the blindness and overconfidence that enter your life when you feel that there will never be consequences, that you can do as you please and it will never come back to you in the form of loss, punishment, hardship, problems, sickness, accidents, and the many other ways your life can go downhill.

Often people don't make the connection between their problems and their wrong de-

isions, compromises, or disobedience. They think it's somehow just a fluke, or there's no cause-and-effect process in motion. They feel they're in a whirlwind of random events that are not connected or attached to anything they did or brought about. That is ridiculous, but that's the epitome of not feeling accountable, of not taking responsibility for your life and actions.

The longer someone is disobedient, the further this problem spreads in their life. The more someone feels they can “get away with” little sins and wrongdoings, the more their heart is set to do evil, because they feel there are no consequences. And pretty soon they sink deeper and deeper into compromise, until they're eventually compromising on things that were previously “untouchables”.... (ML #3461/GN 1046:123-128)

(FROM “ISSUES, PART 10”)

(Jesus:) **The prime time for you to implement the Word and instruction that I have given in the GNs is at the time you read it.** When I say to “implement My instruction now,” or to “get on board now,” or “start using this new weapon now,” I'm speaking to you while you're reading it, directly to your heart....

The spiritual principle is that I bless obedience. I bless you when you obey and implement what I show you—either personally or through the GNs—without delay. Those who obey and start moving in the direction that I'm leading right away receive a greater portion of My blessings. That's not to say that if you're a little slow on the draw you won't receive My blessings at all. You will—and abundantly—but perhaps not quite as many blessings as the one who obeyed without delay.

Part of the benefit of obeying right away is that I make the implementation of My Word easier for you. Also, you receive the benefits of whatever it is that you've implemented right away. Whatever it is—learning to use a new weapon, making spiritual progress in your life, overcoming an NWO—it will be easier for you if

you start right away. With many of My spiritual principles, the longer you wait to implement them, the harder it will be. (ML #3397/GN 990:67, 69, 70)

(FROM “FULL POSSESSION”)

(Jesus:) It is a principle of My Spirit that those who obey instantly receive the greater blessing. ... Those who obey later will receive a measure of this gift, this reward, but the greatest rewards, the greatest measure, will go to those who follow Me without hesitation. ... It’s a principle of My Spirit. I bless and reward instant obedience, and you never know what you could be missing when you don’t obey when I call the first time. (ML #3376/GN 973:56)

(FROM “THE WEAKNESS REVOLUTION—PART 3”)

(Jesus:) The key to success is not only to hear My commands, but to follow through on My instructions, to take action, to obey orders instantly and explicitly. The only way to do this is to stay tuned in to My Heavenly hotline, the walkie-talkie of prayer and prophecy, and get My on-the-spot direction and orders on how to blast the Devil. (ML #3219/GN 821:104)

Do not be a “minimizer,” trying to get by with just the minimum of the Charter. Don’t grade yourself on the curve, but go the distance, following the New Wine as closely as possible.

(FROM “NEW YEAR’S CHALLENGE FOR 2004!”)

(Peter:) While seeking the Lord about the state of the Family, He showed us that a subtle attitude has crept into our mindsets that has become detrimental to our living the New Wine fully. Mama and I realize that this has not been anyone’s deliberate intention, but an acceptance of doing the Charter “minimum” has caused the overall level of obedience to the Word to drop. This has resulted in an outcropping of

other sins and weaknesses such as independence, selfishness, worldliness, resistance to counsel, unwillingness to be shepherded, etc. There is a widespread attitude that the Family leadership, whether at the CO, VS, or Home shepherd level, has no right to get into your personal life, and this, coupled with the fact that Family leadership has been reluctant to discipline and give the shepherding needed, has caused the standard on most fields to be much lower than the Lord intends. Things have slipped to the point that a very low “minimum” of obedience has become the norm, and thus the interpretation of the Charter and the application of the New Wine are skewed. We need to correct that.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the discipleship level of many of our Homes, we have tended to grade on the curve. Because the overall discipleship level of the Homes has sunk so low, the tendency has been to grade on the curve, so that some of the so-called “best” Homes in an area are really not running at the true 100%. But because some of these are considered the best Homes in the area, they are looked at as being 100%, and the other Homes are judged accordingly. This means that some of our Homes that are operating at a 50% discipleship level are accepted as CM Homes. Why?—Because we are grading on the curve and are judging not according to the standard of the Word and Charter, but rather by comparison to the other Homes in the area. We are “comparing ourselves among ourselves, which is not wise” (2Cor.10:12).

This perpetuates the misunderstanding amongst Homes that they are doing just fine, even though some are grossly under par when compared with the Word. After all, they must be fine, because leadership accepts them at this level. Eventually they no longer even understand that they are substandard disciples and they’re living in disobedience to the Word. They no longer feel that the Word needs to be obeyed, at least not to the 100% level. This leads to the mistaken thinking that the Lord must just be exaggerating when He states things in the Letters, or that He

doesn't really mean for the Word to be obeyed, or that this compromised level of obeying the Word is not only acceptable, but is, in fact, full compliance and obedience to the Word.

We must eliminate the causes of compromise.... We must stop grading on the curve, comparing ourselves among ourselves. We must determine that the CM Family is going to live full discipleship.

You're going to be held to the standard of the printed Word. You will be held to the Charter—and not the minimum interpretation of the Charter, but what the Charter really says and what it really is. So it behooves you to read the Charter explanations, and also the GN “Charter Responsibilities,” and to read the “Conviction vs. Compromise” series, which clarifies some common misinterpretations of the Charter. You will also be held to the New Wine. The Charter will no longer be the only basis of judging your discipleship. That's why it's important for you to understand what was said earlier about the so-called “minimum,” which is not enough.

(Jesus:) Things are changing, My loves, and My shepherds will now judge between the fat and the lean. When the New Wine comes out, it is expected to be lived, and the Charter will reflect this even more now, for I am upgrading the system that it runs by, its modus operandi, its method of operating. I'm not necessarily upgrading the standard. The depths of the standard were always there—the spiritual standard, that which the physical rules were built around. But now the implementation of the spiritual standard and the system by which its adherents will be judged will be upgraded to the spiritual standard of:

Are you living the New Wine or not? Is your spiritual state on target with the spiritual standard of discipleship as presented in the New Wine? Are you a disciple in spirit, or are you only keeping the minimum? Where does your spirit dwell? Where is your spirit at? Does it dwell with Me in your praises, or does it sink to

the level of the Devil in complaints, murmuring, bitterness, jealousy, gossip, envy, hatred, anger, and disunity? That's what will be judged.

You have for the most part fulfilled the minimum practical requirements according to the Charter, but you have not fulfilled the spirit of the Charter, which is the spirit of love, obedience, and dedication to Me—the spirit of discipleship. I'm heading to the spiritual. I am a spirit. I operate in the spirit world and I'm trying to help your spirits grow and mature and unite with Mine as spiritually mature adults, doing what is right in My sight, and not only the things that you have to do in order to abide by the minimum standard.

I want to teach you how to live the spirit of the law rather than only the letter of the law. I want to teach you to obey and to do the right things because you love Me and fear Me, your Good Shepherd, rather than because you fear your earthly shepherds and the consequences that will come from them if you disobey the rules and don't uphold the standard.

I'm clearing away the rubble and getting back to the core, which is your spiritual standard, and all of you, My children, for your own sakes, and for Mine, will be judged thereby. The Charter is no longer a set of physical minimums, but it is a spiritual standard that will be upheld first and foremost, and all those that wish to stay afloat must now upgrade to this standard. It's been there all along and it hasn't changed. It's the same standard; it's just that now My children have reached the stage to make the step, the growth. And now the Enemy has stirred his camp and prepared his weapons, making your growth into the spiritual standard imminently paramount.

(Jesus:) Discipleship is a lifestyle. It's what you do with your life. It's not a bunch of rules. It's not about “the minimum.” Discipleship as I taught is giving all, it's forsaking all, it's holding back nothing from Me and those you serve. I didn't say, “Do this minimum and you'll squeak

by.” Those who wish to do that can be Family members and friends, but they’re not disciples, even if they’re keeping the letter of the law of “the minimum as per the Charter.” What they don’t understand is the intent of the law, the reason for the minimum. If they did, they would realize that it’s not to allow the sample of discipleship to drop and drop and drop.

I’m going to now hold people to the true requirements of discipleship, which have been laid out plainly and clearly in the Bible for thousands of years. People just haven’t wanted to apply certain portions of either the Bible or the Letters to their lives, because it costs too much. Well, discipleship costs, and now the whole Family is going to have to start paying the price or move to a different level of membership.

(Dad:) Being a disciple is living the Word, the full Word, not just trying to meet the minimum of the rules and regulations laid down in the Charter.

The Charter is a wonderful guidebook; don’t get me wrong. And if people lived the full Charter, if they took obedience to the max, then they’d certainly be full disciples! But what I’m talking about here is the tendency of some people to live the minimum of the Charter, the minimum standard of the specific rules that they know they have to keep to retain their Charter membership, rather than going all the way with the rules and responsibilities which are required, and which are actually more important, but which they think they won’t be penalized for not keeping.

For example, I’m sure most people are pretty careful and diligent to follow the guidelines for sexual activity so they won’t be excommunicated. That’s good! But how many people are just as careful and diligent to follow the responsibilities of Charter members? Do you regard the “Thou shalt” as seriously as the “Thou shalt not” and try to live it every day?

The Charter has a lot of “thou shalt nots,” a great number of rules and regulations, and

it’s good that you keep them. But you need to remember that the “thou shalt” are just as important—to live in accordance with the Word by applying its spiritual and practical principles to your daily lives. Being a disciple is more than abiding by the rules and regulations—it’s living the Word in every way, loving the Lord with all of your heart and soul and mind, and your neighbor as yourself, as the Law of Love commands.

A disciple lives the full Word, not just the minimum requirements laid down in the Charter. He doesn’t love the Lord and his neighbor only by living communally and keeping the Home size rules, and the election rules, and the financial rules, and obeying the sex guidelines, and trying not to get excommunicated. It’s good that you do these things, yes, but it’s just as important that you do not leave the others undone, as Jesus said!

What did He tell the scribes and Pharisees? He said that in the keeping of the law, the Charter of their day, they had omitted the “weightier matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faith.” In other words, they’d left out faith and love, and their service for the Lord had instead become a blind following of the rules and ceremonies, to the point that if they picked some mint in their back yard, they’d put aside ten percent to tithe it.

Jesus came along to remind them of the greatest commandment and rule of all—love! To love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself! It’s the rule by which He lived, and when you live that rule, you not only keep all the other rules and regulations, but you go far beyond them.

So, Family, that’s what I’m here to remind you of today—of the fact that discipleship is living all the Word, not just the minimum of the rules of the Charter. You need to live the full Word!

That’s one reason I started the Family—I got fed up with people who weren’t living the Word, with church people who just kept the minimum of the rules, the Ten Commandments, and

ignored the rest of the Word. Oh, maybe if they were one of those more dedicated church folks they'd try to keep more of the Old Testament rules and regulations, avoiding certain foods, or they'd try to keep some of Paul's admonitions about being separate from the world in some way, but they didn't keep the full Word. They didn't obey the full Word. They didn't live the Word! Most of them weren't even Old Testament Christians—they were just Ten Commandments Christians!

I started the Family with a bunch of radicals who believed that they could be disciples—followers of the Word in every way! The Family was built on the Word. We lived the Word, all of the Word, and that made news, because so few people had done it during the last 2,000 years, since the time of the Early Church. And as we've lived the Word, the Lord has given us more and more of it, because He's known that we would obey it, that we would be doers of His Word. When we stop doing the Word, the Lord will start cutting back His supply of the Word, and of a great many other things as well.

So don't be simply a Ten Commandments Christian or a Charter Christian; be a full-time disciple! Don't just read the Word and set it aside; live it every day! It's good that you get fed by the Word, and the Lord is thankful for that, but you also need to put His Word into action.

Look through “What Is Jesus Worth to You?” and count how many times it talks about living in the Word and living the Word. Look through “Obliterate Obstacon” and you'll see that Obstacon's purpose was to prevent you from living the Word. Look through “Focus on the Power” and you'll see that to focus and use that power, you must live the Word. Look through the “Conviction vs. Compromise” series and you'll see that it's all about living the Word—all the Word! Look through many other recent Letters, and hundreds of past Letters, and you'll see that they're all about living the Word in some way! Living in the Word and living the Word will not only make you a Charter member, but a disciple, a “follower of the teachings!”

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 the Word as much as you live 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, and go all the way for God!

Study to show yourself approved unto God—a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed because he works to obey the Word, not just read it! He's more than a scholar, he's a workman!

(Peter:) **The CM Family of the near future will be a Family of full-time, 110%, dedicated, obedient, completely sold-out disciples; no others will hold the title of CM.** It will be a Family of maximizers, not minimizers. It will be a Family of doers and not just hearers. It will be a Family we can all be proud of. It will be a Family that not only does the job of witnessing, winning, and preaching the Word, but also of living the Word to the utmost. These changes are beginning now. We will not allow our ship to sink; we will not allow it to go down into the sea of oblivion and compromise. We'll fight with all that is in us to make the Family what God Himself wants it to be or we will die trying. Are you with us? Are you willing?

(ML #3468/GN 1054:20, 88, 89, 110, 141, 146, 147, 150, 151, 156, 170, 172, 180-193, 206)

Progress as a Home in the use of the new weapons...

(FROM “THE WEAKNESS REVOLUTION—PART 1”)

(Jesus:) **The battle is intensifying, and you can no longer survive with only the primitive weapons of the past.** It's no longer sufficient to just resist the Enemy and have him flee from you by only using the old weapons of warfare. Although the older weapons have their place

in the warfare, in today's warfare he will not be made to flee completely with only their use. But the battle is not lost, for I have upgraded the arsenal of weapons for My children for this very purpose.

The Enemy will pursue more persistently than ever. He will continue his attempt to get you to quit, to despise your birthright, to forsake your crown, and to defeat My plan and purpose in your life, and unless you master the use of today's weaponry, you will not have the firepower to defeat him. That's why it's vital to learn to use and become proficient in using these new weapons of the Spirit. For without them you will not be able to defeat the new and vicious onslaughts of the Enemy.

As the Family moves closer to the front lines every day, more and more will find themselves in the heat of battle, and only those who are equipped with the new weapons will be able to survive—and not only survive, but carry on victoriously, defeating the Enemy at every turn.

These weapons are not the weapons of your own strength, your own smartness, your own gifts or talents, but they are My weapons and you wield them through your yieldedness to Me. Because only through your yieldedness to Me can My Spirit and My power overshadow you, possess you, and provide you with the defenses you need to withstand the attacks of the Enemy, and give you the power, courage, initiative and insight to challenge, attack, and overcome the Enemy.

Those who think they can do without the new weapons, but who seek to preserve the traditions of the old, will find that they will no longer have the strength to hang on and stand strong against the mighty wave of evil that is washing over the world.

Those who look to Me, who remain faithful to My Word, who accept My new weapons by faith—even if they can't understand them—know that My Word and new weapons will work and that through them the Enemy can be defeated.

These are the ones who will overcome. This is the victory that will overcome the world, even your faith—your faith in My Words, your faith in My promises, your belief that all that I have said will come to pass, your faith to accept the new weapons of the Spirit and to practice and become proficient in using them. (ML #3218_1/GN 819:63-66, 68, 69)

(FROM “THE WEAKNESS REVOLUTION—PART 2”)

(Jesus:) I want you to learn foremost and above all that if you don't use the new weapons of praise, prophecy, and loving Me intimately, continually, then you're not going to make it.

You can't just passively use these new weapons when you feel like it. For example, hear from Me in prophecy when you feel like it or when you're in a desperate situation, or praise Me when you remember, and put off loving Me intimately. I know you try to do all these things, but you aren't desperate enough in your use of them.

I promise that if you do these things, your life will be fuller, richer, more blessed. You'll have much more strength to fight the Enemy and his attacks because you'll always have a new weapon ready to fire at him to blast him away. (ML #3218_2/GN 820:212, 213, 217)

(FROM “YOU CAN MAKE IT!—PART 1”)

(Jesus:) **The new weapons are not only for you to fight battles with, they are also to help you grow spiritually,** to keep you in touch with Me, to spiritually prepare and strengthen you for what lies ahead. And yes, when you are hit with a battle, the new weapons will fight for you, if you use them. But pride keeps you from using them. If you're praising Me, loving Me intimately, living My Law of Love, hearing from Me in prophecy, and asking Me about everything, you'll grow spiritually. It's one of My laws of the spirit. If you're doing what you can, I do what you can't. If you're asking Me about everything, and doing your best to obey what I tell you, then I'll tell

you to do things which will help you to grow and make progress. But if you're holding back from using these new weapons through pride, then you won't grow.

(Jesus:) I have many great things in store for you. I hold out to you gifts, high-end, high-tech tools. Those who are more mature in the spirit, wiser and more experienced, can see that they're top of the line, the best there is, and they reach out and grab them instantly. But those who are children cannot see the value and the quality of these tools, and they pass over them, content to play with their current toys and their little games. I give you a parallel that is relatable to you. These gifts—the gifts of prophecy, of loving Me, of praise, of living My Law of Love—these are the high-tech, top of the line gifts that I would give you, but you must trade in your toys and reach out and receive the gifts. Then you must put forth the effort to learn how to use them. Just as you take the time to learn a new program or operating system, you must take the time and put forth the effort to learn to use these gifts. For the more time that you spend, the better practiced you will be.

But this requires a yielding, a forsaking of the toys, the trinkets, the attitudes that are not of Me, and the desires of the flesh. You must ask Me to change your mind, to change your thinking, so that you don't look at these things of the spirit as strange or as something too high for you. You must look at them as something that you desperately need. It's a choice you make, an attitude of heart and mind. (ML #3277/GN 880:24, 36, 37)

Follow through on assignments in the GNs within a reasonable period of time.

(FROM "MORE ON THE KEYS, PART 4")

(Mama:) Please, dear ones, don't neglect to follow through.... We have heard that it is a general weak area in Homes, and probably with most individuals as well, that when there

is a portion of a GN—either in direct prophecy or a request from Peter or me—suggesting that you hear from the Lord about something, either privately or as a Home, many fail to do so. I can understand why you might not feel you have time, but there's no telling what tremendous instruction and insight—in fact, keys to success, prosperity and blessing—you're missing out on just because you don't take the time to hear specifically from the Lord.

The Lord doesn't ask you to pray about these things simply because He wants to add one more thing to your to-do list. This is not a "make-work" project. There is real value to this "homework" assignment, and if you don't follow through you'll sadly miss out on valuable counsel that could make a big difference in your life or Home. He wouldn't ask you to pray about these things if there wasn't a real need and a good reason. So please do all you can to find the time. Thank you so much! (ML #3357/GN 952:90, 92)

(FROM "PRAY, OBEY AND PREPARE")

(Mama:) Sad to say, we have heard from several COs that follow-up to the New Wine is a very weak point in the Homes. I have asked before that you have meetings to discuss and pray about some important issues, only to hear later from some of the COs that quite a few Homes had not done it. This is not acceptable! We wouldn't ask you to meet to discuss issues if we weren't convinced that it's very important. We know you're busy people, but to read [the New Wine] isn't going to be nearly enough! You have to consciously see how it applies to your Home and lives, and then do what the Lord shows you to do to enact it! Your safety, future fruitfulness, and the well-being of your flocks and children depend on your obedience. (ML #3420/GN 1007:197)

(FROM "PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS, PART 3")

(Mama:) So many of our Homes are still just going from day to day, simply because you figure you can never stop! There's too much going

on, it's an impossibility to stop and hear from the Lord and study the Word. There's just too much to do! "What are we going to do with the kids? How are we going to make ends meet? We have to provision every day. We have to get out and raise support every day." But the Lord is trying to get you to stop and pray and lean on Him!

Make the sacrifice. Put the Lord on the spot to see if He won't come through with His promises. But how can you test Him, how can you prove Him, if you don't put Him on the spot, if you don't get down to business and read the Word and pray desperately, claiming His Word, and asking the Lord for His fresh instruction for you and your Home? If you're not willing to make that sacrifice—in other words, to have the faith to stop everything and to do what the Lord has said to do, take Him at His Word, put Him on the spot—then how are you ever going to break that cycle?

The Lord said that is the answer—the Word and desperate prayer! But you say, "Lord, we can't do it, because You haven't allowed us the time. We've got too many kids, we've got too much going on." Well, the Lord will never tell you to do anything that is impossible for you to do! So if the Lord says to do it, if He says that His Word is the answer and hearing from Him and doing what He says is the answer, then it must be the answer! And you've got to make time for it, regardless.

Now, is the Lord just being foolish? Is He being an unwise investor, just investing all this Word and pouring out all this material that's going to be wasted, that He knows isn't necessary? Does He know that nobody is going to look at it anyway, and you don't need it, but He just keeps giving it because He has all this to say, and He just wants someone to receive it and publish it? Or does He really expect people to be able to read it, do it and obey it? You know, if He thought people weren't going to be able to read the Word we're pouring out and use it, the Lord is wise enough that He'd tell us, "Slow down, they don't need so much! They can't absorb it!"

The Lord is very smart, He is very wise. He doesn't do things for nothing. He doesn't tell us to get out the Word just to give us at WS a job and to keep us busy. We're already so busy, we don't need any more projects or pubs. We've got so many things to do already, we can hardly even scratch the surface. But the Lord keeps saying, "Get the Word out there! They need it!"

Well, if you need it, then you must be able to read it somehow, and He must want you to. And if He wants you to, then He's going to supply the time, and there's a way for you to be able to; and neither you nor we should say that you can't do it! You can do it and the Lord wants you to do it, just like He wants us to do it. We all can do it, because what we want to do bad enough, and what we know the Lord wants us to do, if we really want to please Him, we're going to do.

So I feel for you dear ones and what you're going through; my heart really goes out to you. But it's very obvious, certainly from what the Lord says over and over, that many of your problems are brought on by your own lack of obedience, your unwillingness to make the sacrifices to obey and go to His Word and follow through with what it says to do. But see, if you would make the sacrifices to obey, then the Lord would more than come through for you. But you have to take that step first. Instead of saying, "It's impossible, Lord!" you need to step out on the water and trust God for the impossible—and then He'll meet you, and He'll more than do it for you! (ML #3071/Vol 23:155-157, 165-167, 169)



5. Be disciples. Stay true and uncompromised, be dropped out, do not manifest the world's spirit, attitudes, and materialism.

Your Home should be an overall sample of the unique qualities of the Family, a sample of full-time discipleship as per the teachings of David.

(FROM “THE NEXT STEP”)

(Peter:) As was explained earlier, saving the Family means we must preserve the sample of full-time discipleship. That isn’t an easy concept to explain, and it hasn’t been easy for the Family overall to grasp the seriousness of it. The sample of discipleship has to do with the sample of your Homes, not just individuals. In Jesus’ day there were many disciples of varying degrees of dedication. They were followers of the teachings of Jesus, although they had different lifestyles. But the standard of full-time discipleship for the children of David has been clarified through the Letters; it’s been enhanced and enlarged upon, to the point that full discipleship as per the Words of David includes many specific lifestyle points such as living communally (in fairly large Homes), living by faith, sharing all things, homeschooling your children and raising them to be missionaries and disciples, having a well-rounded missionary work that includes promoting Activated, etc.

You who are FD members bear the commission to preserve the sample of full-time discipleship of the Family. You must portray the sample of discipleship in the full sense of the term; you are required to live all these aspects of full-time discipleship that are described in the Letters and to maintain the lifestyle that is a picture of modern-day discipleship. Therefore, you will bear the name disciple in your title, as this is the prime defining quality of your membership category, your unique calling and commission, and something you must never forget. (ML #3483/GN 1068:27, 28)

(FROM “NEW YEAR’S CHALLENGE FOR 2004”)

(Peter:) Let’s review discipleship, starting with a look at what the Bible has to say about the discipleship lifestyle, the life of someone who calls himself a disciple.

“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

—This means faithful, consistent witnessing.

“All that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:44,45).

—Working and living together, sharing your possessions, being united, being one body, not being selfish.

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23,24).

—Denying yourself, not doing all the things that you want to do, really living for the Lord.

“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple” (Luke 14:33).

—Forsaking all! That’s not just your material possessions, but really forsaking your will to God, so you have no will of your own. You’re willing to do whatever the Lord says; you forsake your life, your desires, your personal goals, your personal wants, and you give them to the Lord.

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2Cor.6:17).

—Coming out of the world. You’re in the world, but you don’t have to be of the world.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon” (Mat. 6:24).

—Not being divided in heart. Giving your all to the Lord. Not saying, “I’m going to serve money,” or, “I’m going to have my job and do what I want, and I’ll give the Lord part of my time.” You’ll love the one and hate the other—that’s something to think about.

“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil.4:19).

—Trusting the Lord for supply, living by faith. These are not easy things to do, but it is part of the price of discipleship.

“Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1Jn.3:16).

—That doesn’t mean just dying for somebody someday, but that means dying to yourself every day. Even for that guy you don’t really like; even for that somebody who kind of rubs you the wrong way. You’re still supposed to be laying down your life for them, really working with them, helping them, putting their needs above your own. Because:

“By this shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye have love one to another” (Jn.13:35).

—It’s the testimony of love, the testimony of unity that shows if you’re a disciple. When you live off on your own, either in your own small Home or you’re living selfishly in your Home and not entering in, people don’t see that love, that unity, that oneness. But the Bible says that that’s how people will know you’re disciples. It’s so different. It’s such a testimony that you have love one to another. Do you?

“If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (Jn.8:31,32).

—That’s an “if, then” clause. “If you continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed.” If you’re living the Word, if you’re continuing in it, if you’re absorbing it, then you’re disciples. Conversely, if you’re not doing those things, then you’re not a disciple. So how are you doing? Are you continuing in the Word? Are you applying it in your life? If yes, you’re a disciple. If no, or not enough, then you’re not. It’s fairly straightforward.

“Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples” (Jn.15:8).

—What’s the fruit of your witness? What’s the fruit of your ministry? Are you bearing fruit? Is your Home bearing fruit?—Fruit of disciples, of contacts, of friends, of people being won to the Lord, of a witness getting out? What is the fruit?—Real, lasting fruit.

(Peter:) **Those are just a few of the appropriate Bible verses, and I’m sure you can find many more.** And if you want to be a Family disciple, an Endtime disciple of David and Maria, then you not only have to live those Bible verses, but you have to live the Letters. You have to apply God’s New Wine for today to your life. If you’re not, you’re not a disciple. Being a disciple is being a doer of the Word, applying it.

Discipleship is not just a word. It’s not just a matter of believing. It is believing, but it’s also doing, it’s action. You can know somebody’s a disciple by what they’re doing for the Lord. You have to have faith. You have to believe. You have to have a spiritual life and close walk with the Lord. But you also have to put it into action. Like the verse says, “Faith without works is dead.”

There are lots of people in the church system who love Jesus, but they’re not disciples. There are a lot of people who serve Him, but they’re not disciples, because they don’t really uphold the full discipleship lifestyle. They don’t forsake all. They don’t truly yield their will to the Lord. They say, “I’ll serve You, but I’ll serve You on my terms.”

We in the CM Family need to be disciples, and we need to understand what discipleship is. And discipleship is based a lot on action. It’s not self-improvement. It’s not just about keeping the rules. It’s service—true, one hundred percent, giving-of-yourself service.

You can ask yourself what you do with your time, because that can tell you what kind of disciple you are, or if you’re a disciple at all.

What are your priorities? Do you say, “Well, I’ve got to get things for myself. I’ve got to look out for myself, not my brother; I need to put myself before my brother. I have certain personal life goals that I’ve got to reach.” Well, it’s not bad to have personal life goals, but if they’re not the goals that God has for your life, then where are you headed? Are you serving yourself or are you serving the Lord?

Discipleship is a matter of the spirit. That’s what I want to convey to you. The question is: Are you a disciple spiritually? Do you have the heart of a disciple? Because if you have the heart and spirit of a disciple, truly forsaking all, giving your life completely to Jesus, then it will manifest itself through the fruits that you have in your life, the priorities that you have in your life, how you live your life, what you do, how you conduct yourself. Your so-called discipleship won’t just be based on the rules.

We have the rules and they’re important, and I’m not saying they’re not. But if you’re a disciple, the rules aren’t the all in all, because if you love the Lord, if you obey the Lord and follow the Word, you will automatically fulfill all of those rules. You won’t be a bad testimony. You won’t let your personal problems overcome you and overtake you. You won’t live in disunity with the brethren or be unloving to people. You won’t be attached to the things of this world and the System. You will witness; you will win souls; you will have a missionary work. You will do all these things that the Lord has said are part of discipleship. You’ll do them not because there are rules that say you have to do them, but you’ll do them because that’s what you know you should do as a follower of Jesus. You are a disciple. You are a professional.

That’s really what we’re after. That’s what the Lord’s after, and He’s been very clear about that.

Your discipleship is your action, your doing, your living, your obeying. It’s not just believing and listening and accepting. That’s part of it, but that’s not all of it. It’s all of those

things. It’s believing, it’s listening, it’s accepting, but it’s also doing, it’s putting it into action, it’s living the life, it’s being a disciple in the spirit, it’s having a disciple’s heart, a disciple’s spirit. And if those things are present, then you will live the discipleship life and it will be very evident. If those things aren’t present, you can’t fake it. If your heart isn’t in discipleship, then even if you live in a CM Home, you won’t really be a disciple, because your heart is not there. And that’s truly where the change has to come—in your heart, in all of our hearts.

(Jesus:) Discipleship is a hard life; it is for the few, not for the many. There are many in the Family today who really do not qualify for discipleship. It’s not that they don’t want to; it’s not that they don’t desire to; but they’re really not willing to do the hard work of living the life. They aren’t willing to sacrifice, and true discipleship involves a lot of sacrifices.

Full-fledged Family disciples, if they are true disciples, will be sacrificing, giving, yielding, preferring one another, obeying My Word, working for Me, bearing fruit; and, as a result, they will be happy and blessed, but they’re still sacrificing. The happiness doesn’t take away from the fact that the life of a disciple is one of self-denial, sacrificial service, and giving. It costs! And sad to say, many of My children of today are not willing to go that far. They’ve gotten used to “having their cake and eating it too.” They think they can remain in the Family but still live in the world.

I’m taking the Family back to true, radical discipleship, and this means for almost every single Family member a great forsaking of something dear to them, something that the world has a line on them through, something that they’re allowing in their lives which keeps them as “a friend of the world.” The world is enmity with Me, and this compromise is not acceptable.

“It’s not that bad,” you might say. But it’s just the start of greater compromises which are pulling down the discipleship standard and are

pulling the disciples and potential disciples right out of the Family and into the pits of Satan.

I must cleanse and rid the Family of this compromise, and the only way to do this is to raise the standard high and to give people the challenge once again. (ML #3468/GN 1054:128-140, 160-167, 173-177)

Be dropped out of the System, live by faith and avoid dependence on System jobs.

(FROM “BE YE SEPARATE!”—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 3”)

(Mama:) **The Charter allows you to hold System jobs.** It says:

In some cases, some Home members might desire to take a secular job or perhaps run a business, as a means of support. As the “Charter of Responsibilities and Rights” does not specifically prohibit it, it is generally allowed. We are not recommending it, but it’s not forbidden (“Home Life Rules,” I).

Note the key sentence: “We are not recommending it, but it’s not forbidden.” It is Peter’s and my firm conviction that most System jobs held by those in open fields are not God’s highest will. Most System jobs are a compromise of our standard of discipleship, unless they’re absolutely needed for you to remain in your field, or they provide a very clear and abundant avenue for witnessing, or are a tremendous source of income that supports a lot of very active missionaries.

(Jesus:) **The trend toward more and more System jobs is a serious problem, and the main reason is that it’s taking away the most valuable commodity of the Family—its manpower.** I have invested years and years to train disciples, and then they take off and invest their talents in an ungodly business, using the Charter as their “excuse.”...

Many think of “System jobs” as some little problem that isn’t that big a deal. But the reality is that it’s a very destructive inroad of the Enemy. Just as disunity is tearing the Family apart, so System jobs are pulling soldiers who should be on the field fighting the Enemy off the front lines and they are becoming weak, sickly and backslidden in heart. Little by little those soldiers willingly submit themselves to the brainwashing of their captors until they’re practically useless for hard marches and risky assignments. They become just like the poor people they’re supposed to be witnessing to. And even if they do witness, the people look at them and wonder, “Why would I want to join that church?”

System jobs present a much bigger problem than you’re presently aware of, because if not nipped in the bud, if the trend is not reversed, it will destroy the second generation. Some of your talented young people, who could become dedicated missionaries, are getting slowly sucked into the System and becoming dedicated Systemites.

(Mama:) **...If you honestly want to be a full-time disciple, that means total dedication.** That means being a follower of the teachings of Christ. That doesn’t mean serving Mammon with most of your waking hours and then doing a little witnessing on the side, maybe, if you have time.

Most of you who have jobs or use other fundraising techniques that take most of your time but don’t provide an avenue for developing a bona fide, strong, lasting work for the Lord, justify slaving away most of your time for the System and/or money by saying it’s allowed in the Charter. Yes, it’s allowed in the Charter. We had to allow a small opening for System jobs, mainly because there are fields where our missionaries are required to have jobs in order to even stay in the country....

There are also a few other isolated situations where having a System job is a unique witnessing or support opportunity, such as the

rare case where one Home member's job supports the entire communal Home, freeing others to witness full-time.... There is a distinct difference between those who take on System jobs, even meeting the minimal Charter requirements, yet in reality their job is simply helping them support their compromised lifestyle; they earn money, but do very little or no witnessing—and the case where one member holds a System job that supports an entire Home, where they are living communally, maintain a high witnessing standard, fellowship, and so on.

The truth is, some of our most potential fields, where missionaries are free to operate totally openly, are being strangled and the fruit is dying on the vine, because those who should be full-time missionaries are teaching English, programming or setting up Web sites or graphics, selling balloons, clowning, painting faces, or even selling other non-Family Christian trinkets—again, all with very little or no witness involved. This was certainly NOT our intent when System jobs were allowed for Charter members in the Charter!

I can see spending some time in a fundraising method that's not that effective as a witness in order to support a thriving witnessing ministry in your Home....

You might be working at a System job which technically is permissible within your Charter rights, and at the same time, you might even be attending a few Bible studies and doing the minimum witnessing required in the Charter, but what you need to look at in each case is the overall fruit in every area of your life.

Ask yourself: “Is my holding a System job causing me to compromise in other areas of my life? Have I become independent? Have I become compromised on living Acts 2:44-45 and do I hold on to ‘my own’ finances? Do I still live by faith, or is that no longer the case? Am I compromised in my lifestyle, and does this negate my overall sample?”

What kind of witness is it when [your System friends] see you living just like they

do? And you call yourself a missionary, a disciple? And what sort of sample are you setting for your younger brothers and sisters, or for other young people? Do you want them to turn out like you?

I know the arguments for getting System jobs. You want financial security; you're tired of living “hand to mouth”; you say you meet people on the job and you witness on the job. But I want you to seriously consider those so-called “benefits” against the Lord's call in your life to be a disciple. Or are you content to be just like everyone else?

How you live your life is your decision; and how you spend your time is, in essence, how you live your life. So if you want to have a System job, that's your choice (if your Home approves it with a vote). But I ask that you seriously pray about and reconsider your decision after reading this GN.

(Jesus:) System jobs can sometimes be My will, but not to the extent that Family members around the world are engaging in at present!

Each of you who holds a System job should check your heart and counsel with your Home members and shepherds. You should reevaluate your job—why you're doing it—and seriously ask Me if you are in the center of My will. Don't look at it from the financial standpoint. I can and will supply for you. Look at it from the spiritual standpoint.

- Is it helping and motivating you to be a more on-fire radical witness?
- Is it moving you to reach out to others, to give unselfishly and sacrificially?
- Is it causing you to draw closer to Me?
- Do others see good fruit being borne in you through it?
- Is it still meeting the conditions or fulfilling the promises I gave you when you first asked Me about taking on the job?
- Is it enabling your Home to shoot forward and make progress?
- Is it time to stop?

(Mama:) It's Peter's and my sincere conviction that the Lord wants most Charter members who have System jobs to quit them. Yes, quit. Pray and hear from the Lord about it today, and then give notice of your leaving their employment! ... If you feel you are unable to quit your job, please go to the Word and seek the Lord to see if He is leading you to a change of status as outlined in this series.

Part of the reason for our looking into the number of System jobs and their fruitfulness is because the Family needs to shape up to be the sample needed to the new members who will join our ranks. Obviously, if a lot of you supposedly full-time CM missionaries are spending most of your time working in the System, there are two serious problems: 1) You won't win new members because you won't have any time to witness. 2) You won't be examples of full-time discipleship, and therefore even if you do win any new members, they'll lack conviction for true discipleship, too, as they'll follow your example.

The only thing that will give you personally the guts to drop out of your System job and trust the Lord to supply your needs as you work full-time for Him is the same pull of the Holy Spirit that caused our original disciples to drop out and give birth to the Revolution for Jesus in the early days! It has to be personal conviction, a desire to obey the Word, to be a disciple. It has to be a faith that the Word and the Letters are true, and that you want to live the lifestyle depicted in them fully, without reservations. It has to be a faith that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him and obey Him, and that He will provide your needs as He has promised.

This is a personal decision. This is between you and the Lord. This is about your own conviction and what you want to do with your life and what you want to do for Jesus.

I want to make it clear that Peter and I are not happy with the number of System jobs in the Family today, and neither is the Lord. I

want to debunk your "excuse" for your System job that it's "allowed in the Charter," as if that automatically makes it okay or right or God's highest will. You'll have to have a heaven of a lot more than that one Charter reference to make me believe your System job is God's highest will for you, if you're living in a country where you're free to witness full-time as a missionary—the kind of missionary that people look at and know that you're a missionary, that you're different, that you live for Jesus!

You'll need to have a lot more than the simple "okay" vote from your Home to convince me that these jobs that take CM Family members away from full-time quality witnessing and follow-up are God's highest will. At the least, you'd need confirmation from the Lord from the mouth of two or three channels, wholehearted support from your Home, and it wouldn't hurt to have the support and approval of your area leadership, if possible. And even if you do have all these things, on top of that, you'd need to bring forth the kind of fruit in your job and life that makes it obvious that you're fruitful and productive as a disciple!

Yes, System jobs are allowed, but being allowed and being God's highest will are two very different things. Remember, the Charter states that jobs are allowed but that we do not recommend them. Since when does the fact that System jobs are not prohibited in the Charter override the preponderance of the teachings of the Bible?

Can you see what the Family stands to lose through this mass move toward System jobs?—Everything! We stand to lose everything that makes us different! We stand to lose our special Endtime calling! We stand to lose the Lord's blessing! We stand to lose our power to be a sample and not a sermon! We stand to lose our crown, as the Lord says He'll raise up others to take our place if we continue this gradual compromise through System jobs.

But maybe you don't care about that. Maybe the future of the Family isn't that impor-

tant to you. Maybe you're just concerned about yourself and your immediate family. Okay, then let's talk about that. What do you personally stand to lose if you continue with a System job or full-time Family-created self-employment that isn't God's highest?

If you're honest with yourselves, I'm sure you can see that dependence on System jobs or non-witnessing fundraising methods in the Family brings all kinds of weaknesses into your lives and Homes. You become weaker spiritually. You begin to lose the burden to witness. You lose the faith for miracles of supply because you're not living 100% for Jesus. You become independent and selfish, instead of living Acts 2:44 and 45. You resort to "quotas" where each Home member only has to put X amount of money into the common pot, so you can keep the rest of your salary or earnings as "personal money." Eventually your life and Home will no longer even remotely resemble that of Family missionaries. And if you continue like that, I'll tell you where you'll end up—in the System. You'll end up diseased and crippled spiritually through lack of exercising your faith muscles. You'll eventually not even have the guts to give the full message of discipleship because you'll feel like a fool and a hypocrite. You'll get tired of the fight and you'll become more and more like everyone else around you, until you're one of them.

The more I think about it, the more I see that these various compromises that have taken hold in the Family are all related and they're all hitting at the foundation of our sample of living the teachings of Jesus. There's less and less witnessing. You're not living by faith, but supporting yourselves through System jobs or other Family-created fundraising methods that have little or nothing to do with witnessing. There's an increase in personal property and a lack of taking care of the weak. You don't share all things or live Acts 2:44 and 45 anymore. Many CM Family members don't want to live together anymore. Not only are there hundreds

of single-family Homes, but even many of the Homes that fulfill the minimum Charter requirement are very small and hardly the picture of successful, happy communal living.

Do you see how this is changing the face of the Family? At this rate, the Family as Dad and the Lord created it will be a thing of the past!

(Jesus:) **The counsel I have given in the past, that which was published in years gone by regarding System jobs, is not to glean excuses on how to live today.** This is the era of action! You have entered the Last Days, and your mode of operation must change accordingly!

I wish to free My people to serve Me. I am calling My children out of the clutches of this world's System and into My arms where they can live by faith and faith alone. I am calling them out of the clutches of the System, where they will be able to survive in the troublous times ahead! I am calling them out of the anti-God, anti-Christ System of today, to be My mouthpieces, My miracle workers of the End.

There will be few exceptions to this matter of System jobs. The criteria for System jobs depends on the fruit borne, on how much witness can be given, on how much Word can be handed out, on how much training of new disciples, friends, supporters, and Active members can be had, on how many tools can be distributed.

I call everyone to witness and to win. If and when there is a job that will permit this, where their convictions will not be compromised and where they can get out the tools, get out the message, and teach others the doctrine, I will consider and bless their efforts in such a ministry. Yet this will be the exception, not the rule. (ML #3363/GN 959:9-10, 12-14, 18-24, 26-28, 43, 46-49, 52-54, 93-96, 98, 167-170)

Minimize ungodly and unedifying influences...

(Note: See "Shooting Straight" parts 8, 9, 10 and

11 for the Lord's view on the subjects of internet usage, system music, movies, TV viewing, sports, novels, computer games, perverted sex and pornography.)

(FROM "ISSUES, PART 3")

(Dad:) Let's step back a bit and look at things from outside the reference point of **the Family**. Let's talk about discipleship. Let's talk about following Jesus. Let's say you're not even in the Family; you're simply a disciple of Jesus. So what did Jesus teach?

If you think, "Oh, the Family is so narrow, so conservative! I need my freedom, I need more access to the world, I need to be a free thinker, I need to not be restricted in what I do or see," then maybe you need to reconsider whether you want to be a disciple of Jesus, because He's the One Who drew up the original discipleship standard! All the original disciples had to decide if they wanted to follow the Lord's teachings, which became their fundamental rules or their "contract of Charter Membership"! And you need to do the same.

If you don't like it when you're expected to believe and obey the Word, to witness, to forsake all, to minimize ungodly and unedifying influences, don't blame Mama or Peter. Don't blame me. Don't blame the Family. Blame the Lord! He's the One Who wrote the original discipleship "mission statement." He built the company and laid the foundation, and those are the rules! It's ridiculous to stay around spitting and cussing and complaining about the teachings of the Family, which really are the teachings of Jesus! If you don't like it, get out! If you really feel that serving the Lord in the Family is robbing you of some important freedom of thought or individuality, then maybe it's not the place for you!

It's up to you. No one's twisting your arm. You either choose to be a disciple or you don't! That's your freedom of choice, your freedom of thought. Take it or leave it. (ML #3302/GN 904:85-88)

(FROM "SHOOTING STRAIGHT, PART 8 – A CLEAR SOUND OF THE TRUMPET")

(Jesus:) Compared with the spiritual riches you have received and how you have been fed spiritually for years and years, your faith is weak. Why is that? If you've had access to more truth and spiritual enlightenment than any other generation, why isn't your faith equal to that blessing? Why is your faith also not the greatest of all generations?

One of the prime reasons is that many of you have allowed the Enemy to come in and steal away the seeds of My truth. You fed of the Word, but then you fed so much of the world, and that latter feeding nullified many of the positive fruits of your Word time.

If you were to look at your pre-renewal habits like a scale, it's as if you put the weight of My Word on one side, and it tipped to your favor; but then you took in so much worldly input that it equaled out or even tipped to the world's or the Devil's favor. And back and forth it went. So while you should be millionaires in spirit, with the weight of the Word far outweighing the influence and words of the Enemy, that was not usually the case.

Most of you, pre-renewal, merely "broke even," because you took in the Word, but then literally undid that act through your input from the world. It's a matter of good versus evil, with the evil of the world so often rooting out the good of My Word in your life.

It's a pitiful picture. Here you could each be amongst the strongest saints and Word warriors who ever lived, because you have access to such vast Word and truth, and yet most of you are not nearly at that place; you're much more "ordinary" and "average" than that. And the reason for this is that you allowed so much of the truth to be canceled out, to be made of none effect through your compromises.

It has been so sad for Me to see you allow the Enemy to take the "eraser" of his propaganda and wipe out the truth of the Word that you had been trying to establish and strengthen.

It has happened repeatedly. And when it did, there you would go again, trying to rewrite the truth, trying to piece it together again, trying to do damage control.

That, in simple terms, is what so much unchecked worldly input has done to the children of David. It has prevented you from being the powerful saints and miracle workers that you could have been by now. It has delayed a lot of the manifestations of My power through you; it has caused you to be stunted and retarded compared to where you could be by now, as so many of you have had to go over and over the same spiritual ground, building, then allowing the Enemy to break it down, then building again.

That is something you'd never tolerate in the physical. If you were doing a job and someone kept coming in and undoing your progress as fast as you'd make it, and that kept happening day after day, before very long you'd kick that troublemaker out and forbid him to come near your work! You wouldn't have the slightest desire to do the same thing over and over, all the while letting a thief or vandal come in and wreck your work day after day.

That would obviously be ridiculous and futile, and you'd either stop the troublemaker, or you'd move, or you'd increase your security and defenses, or something! Somehow you'd find a solution so that you wouldn't have to keep going over the same ground, doing the same thing day after day, without making any progress.

It's so easy to see how ridiculous, frustrating, and even crazy it would be to allow yourself to be in that position in the physical realm. But that's exactly what happens in the spiritual realm if you work hard building up your faith in the Word and exercising with the weapons of the spirit, and then you walk away from your "work" and allow the Enemy of worldly input to come in unchecked and kick over the walls, haul off the supplies, and break your tools and equipment, so that when you come "back to work" the next day, you have to repair and rebuild before you can make forward progress.

See how deceptive yet effective this approach of the Enemy has been? He has been the one breaking down your work, erasing the foundation of truth, kicking over the walls of your defense, and you haven't even seen it. Instead, and this is the real brilliance of his plan, you blame it on some lack in the Word or in Me. You fail to see the real culprit, and instead you blame Me, the GNs, the prophecies, the Family. You name it, it doesn't matter what you blame it on, as long as it's not the Enemy. He is very happy that you're blind and deceived, as long as you don't see him for the lying thief that he is!

He comes in to do his damage through System input. It's not that you are so naïve that you're reading books on false religions. You know better than that, so the Enemy has to take a much more subtle approach. He knows you won't fall for his temptations to read about Buddha instead of Me, or to practice transcendental meditation instead of taking Word time. That would be so obvious, and you're too smart for that. So he disguises his attacks and uses the acceptable ways—System input, mostly via entertainment. Because it's been deemed okay and acceptable, he has had much greater free rein to come and go in your heart and undo the good you've done as you've worked to build up your spiritual strength and faith.

The deception has come in to the point that you have felt you can take System influence (fire) into your heart (bosom) and not be affected negatively (burned) (Pro.6:27). You have thought of System input as neutral activity that has no real effect, either negative or positive. But that's not the case at all. Rarely is System influence a positive effect; in most cases it's negative. And it's not like bad attitudes or thoughts just come and reside in your heart and mind; they also cancel out the positive that you've built. They don't coexist side by side with the good of My Word; they erase it.

So if you take in a fair bit of System input, then you can actually be just treading water spiritually, just standing still, not going forward

at all, even if you're faithful with your Word and prayer time, because you're allowing the Enemy to come in through that System input and kick down your walls and uproot your foundations and hide your tools and equipment so that you then have to start over.

(Jesus:) It's not that all System input has such obvious negative effects that make them easy to spot—like a violent movie or demonic music. But what about just too much reading of pointless info online, or playing solitaire on your computer? What's so bad about things like that?

Sometimes you have to look at the cumulative effects. System input, no matter how "harmless," takes time. It takes your time, which is valuable. It takes time that could otherwise be spent with Me, with the lost, or even relaxing in a way that could benefit your spirit more—such as in fellowship with loved ones, or doing something that brings unity.

So while not all System input has an immediate negative effect, cumulatively it does, especially if you're taking in too much of it and not judiciously guarding your spirit. It can bring spirits of lethargy and complacency into your life, because you're so used to spending time on pointless activities. It can make other more fruitful activities less appealing to you, and even seem boring or unpleasant. It's generally selfish by nature, in that you don't have to reach out to others or stretch yourself spiritually in order to engage in it. It wastes time. And all those things don't strengthen your spirit, they weaken it.

And then of course there's the System input that's obviously bad for

your spirit—violent movies, lies of the Enemy, subtle propaganda woven into so-called "entertainment," which you should also be watching out for, and which I highly recommend that you avoid completely. But even the "benign" stuff can hurt and weaken your spirit if you take it in too much, if it isn't balanced, if it's done without My permission, or if your spirit isn't strong enough to handle it.

So that is My warning to you, dear Family, those of you who would be full-time disciples: You must see the correlation between your faith not growing as it should, your not seeing the miracles you desire, your not having the spiritual power that you feel you should have, with the amount of System input that you were taking in. You will not reach your full potential, you will not become the miracle workers and prophets that you hope to become and that I have foretold, if you now go back to allowing the Devil to come into your midst through unchecked System input, if you go back to giving him leave to undo the work you've done as you've read, studied, memorized, and prayed.

If you wish to be powerful conduits of My Spirit, if you wish to turn this world right side up, if you wish to become full-time disciples whose wish is My command, then you cannot allow the Enemy's evil influence to steal away what is rightfully yours in the truth of the Words of David.

Just because you've been given so much truth, even if you read and study it, does not guarantee your becoming the instruments in My hand that will defeat the Evil One in the Last Days. It's not enough to drink deeply of the fountain of David; that's only half of the equation. You must also seal off the fountain of the Enemy in your life; you must stop up his entrance and forbid him leave to destroy, steal, tear down or erase that which you're building.

Both parts of the equation must be present if you are to grow as you wish, and if you are to see the miracles and manifestations of My power that I have promised. These promises are conditional, and there must be a greater level of consecration and devotion. You must walk further from the world and stay separate from her evil ways if you wish to be worthy of such gifts of the Spirit, such miracles, and such manifestations of My power.

For those of you who are truly striving to be full-time disciples, if you are crying out for the fires of revolution to be rekindled in your hearts, if you want to see Me work and move, then realizing the weakening effect of System input could very well be the missing element in your lives. If you feel you've been faithful with the Word revolution, if you're hungering after righteousness, if you're desiring the fruits of the Spirit and the gifts that I've promised, and you feel you're still coming up empty, then I call you to pull away from the things of this world, release your hold on the pleasures of this world, and turn your back on the sirens of the System. As you do this, you'll feel a marked improvement in your spiritual growth and understanding. My Spirit will be manifested more obviously, you will see miracles, and grow in anointing and power.

I have already provided everything you need through the Word, the new weapons, the keys and key promises, greater understanding of your spirit helpers and hinderers, the restructuring of the Family, larger Homes, and the safeguards of the board criteria to come. You have everything at your fingertips to make you into the revolutionary powerhouse that you want to be. You just have to work smart, and you do that by locking the door to the thieves and robbers, the thugs and gang members of the netherworld who seek to steal your progress and faith by displacing it with their worldly ways, ideas, attitudes, and input.

All System input has influence. It's not neutral, where it has no effect at all, being neither positive nor negative. So when you are faced with a choice, ask yourself, "Is this going to tear down

what I've been doing? Is this going to erode the walls of my spiritual strength, or reinforce habits that are undesirable for my spirit? Is this an inroad on my spiritual force field? Is this going to waste my time?" If it is, then the choice is yours: Will you work smart and kick that evil intruder out? Or will you be content to redo the same thing every day, working to build up again and again the same walls because you've allowed your Enemy access to steal in by night to wreck and sabotage your work?

It all depends on you and on how much you want to be a full-time disciple with real power and anointing. It all depends on how much you want to see miracles and see My Word fulfilled in you. Whatever you love the most, that's what you'll cling to, that's what you'll tolerate, that's what you'll seek.

That brings us full circle back to My original counsel. As I called to My disciples of old, I call to you, the children of David: Come out from among them and be separate. Touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you, and in receiving you, I will grant you full access to My miracle-working power. Then you will become the Endtime prophets that you are called to be!

(Mama:) **You might wonder if the preceding message means that System input is always harmful** and never a very good option, and if you want to be a strong disciple, you should always choose to avoid it. We asked the Lord to speak further on this topic and clarify this question for us.

(Jesus:) **So much of where I "draw the line" depends on your attitude, your state of mind and heart.** Unfortunately, for those of you who really desire and crave System input—movies, novels, computer games, etc.—the "line" is very close to home. There isn't a whole lot that I would give you My full blessing and permission for, because I know that when your heart craves something like that, and then you indulge in it, there are several dangers.

One: You take it straight in—you relax, let down your guard because you want to enjoy it fully, and it goes into your heart and spirit and becomes part of you.

Two: It's much more likely to become an addiction for you, or already is an addiction, and it's much harder for you to pull away from it after having just a little, or to keep your intake within godly limits. Your desire to indulge becomes stronger than your conviction to keep your spirit strong, and the flesh is more likely to win over your spirit in your decisions.

Three: You like it so much that you sometimes don't see the dangers; you aren't desperate to be “cleaned up” in spirit when you do take in something that sullies your spirit, because to you it feels good. Your discernment is dulled and influenced by your personal likes and dislikes and often perverted tastes, and this is a danger to your spirit.

This is a hard saying, because the more you crave System input and want to be able to take it in, the less safe it is for you. Can you understand how this can be?

On the other hand, if you're much less attached to it, if you regularly choose to forgo it in order to invest your time in true priorities, if you're willing to receive specific counsel from Me, even if it's difficult to implement, ask for safeguards from your brethren and then follow through and obey, if the most important things to you are keeping your heart right with Me and being a strong disciple, then I'm much more willing to allow you some entertainment that involves System input from time to time, because your perspective on it is different.

Here are attitudes and perspectives that I wish for all My children of David to have toward System entertainment. When you have these attitudes and perspectives, then I don't mind you partaking of some now and then, because I know that you're keeping it in its place.

One: You see it for what it is—worldly entertainment, part of the world. While you sometimes find it enjoyable, you don't let down

your guard fully, you're desperate with Me to help you be discerning. And if it's something that I check you is harming you or damaging your spirit, you care more for your spiritual life than you do for some temporary entertainment and you get up and walk away from it. This is a spiritual strength that is developed, that is strengthened through sacrifices, through making hard decisions, through choosing spiritual values over earthly pleasures. When you have that spiritual strength and are using it and exercising it, then I'm much more comfortable giving you permission to do things that involve System entertainment, because I know that I can pull you away from it if need be, if it's something that's harming you or influencing you too much.

Two: You highly value your connection with your brothers and sisters, mates and co-workers, and you put them and their needs first. When you have a choice, you choose to strengthen your bond of love with them, above relaxing alone or in an atmosphere where there is little or no quality fellowship taking place. You know how important your unity is—unity based around the things of the spirit, around the dedication you all share toward Me, around your life of uncompromising discipleship, and you're willing to sacrifice to maintain that unity. That in itself is a safeguard against taking in too much System entertainment, because most of you are busy and don't have much time for both, so making the right decisions to share love and fellowship with your brethren will limit the times you indulge in System entertainment.

Three: You realize that as enjoyable as System entertainment can be at times, you always need cleaning up afterwards. You safeguard yourself with quality times in My Word, seeking Me about questions or attitudes or subtle nuances that you are faced with in the entertainment you've taken in. You do this even when you don't “feel” you've been affected—you have conviction that chances are you have been affected, and so you take the necessary steps to be cleaned up in spirit. You support My Word in your conversations, your

actions. Your life bears testimony to My truth. You regard the opinions of man as just that—opinions of man that will pass away and change with time, and are often influenced by the Devil himself. Whereas you honor and uphold My Word, which stands forever.

Four: After reading the above points, this one could be obvious, but I will state it here anyway because it is another “symptom” of being dropped out in spirit: You don’t rely on System entertainment for fun. You have the attitude of being able to take it or leave it. You don’t automatically turn to worldly entertainment when you want to relax. It’s the exception rather than the rule in your life, and you’re faithful to ask Me about it—when, how much, what, etc.—before you partake of it. Instead, you automatically turn to fellowship with your mates, children and loved ones, and “renewal-style” activities when you want to do something fun and relaxing.

That’s not to say that you don’t still find System entertainment enjoyable at times, and some of you, if you were to just let yourselves go, would probably indulge in it a whole lot more. But you consciously choose to distance yourself from it, to not rely on it for your fun. It’s a sacrifice you consciously make for the sake of your spirit and in order to be a strong disciple, and I’m proud of you for it.

When these attitudes and convictions and actions are firmly in place in your lives, then I will say that there is room for some System entertainment in your times of recreation. As soon as you start to slip from any of these, it’s a sign that you’re letting things get out of balance, you are “off” in your attitudes and perceptions, and it would do you good to pull back completely and have a mini-renewal with Me to bring things back into perspective.

Realize, too, that often you might not notice these things in yourself, but your peers or shepherds might. And if you truly want to be a disciple, you will receive their counsel and ask for safeguards to help you remain a strong disciple.

(Jesus:) As for System input, if you want to fully obey Me, you will be prayerful, careful, and you will guard your spirits. You will be alert, you will be aware of the Enemy’s subtleties and his attacks. You will be mindful of the sewage of the System that seeps into your minds and hearts when you give place to the Enemy in this way. You will count the cost. And you will ask Me, you will receive My confirmation on the influence you allow the world to have in your lives. And thus you will have My protection, because you will be obeying Me.

I do allow certain entertainment, certain fun, certain activities, with My permission and protection of spirit. But when you go ahead of Me and do not receive My blessing and protection of spirit, then you are open to the Enemy’s influence and attacks through these venues, and you are weakened.

The key is being in sync with Me and being willing to listen, yield, and obey. But so many feel that it’s too difficult, it takes too much time, it’s not worth the trouble. So many of you feel that you’re “big boys and girls” and that you should be able to make such decisions on your own; you should be able to do what you want and what you “feel like” or think you have the faith for. You fail to remember that you are bought with a price, and that you don’t really know what is best for you when it comes to taking in the pollutants of your Enemy. You are often unwise and foolish children.

The secret is in keeping in much closer step with Me, and in forsaking the desire, longing, and that feeling of need for the things of the world. It’s not that I will take it all away completely, but if that insatiable desire is there, that feeling that you’ve “just got to have it,” that belief that “life won’t be fun without it,” then you are in grave risk of the Enemy coming in and gaining footholds in your mind, heart, and attitudes.

That is what you must cleanse yourselves of. You must be willing to give it up, in effect, while knowing that I’m not demanding it of

you. And some of you probably should give it up altogether—in heart and in action—but that is a choice that I will leave with you, and can speak to you about personally if you will come to Me with the willingness to do so. Some of you are addicted, some of you are greatly weakened, and this renewal period has barely pulled you up to a level of survival. But if you go right back into the pit of System input, especially taking in input from a variety of avenues, then you will be weakened further and will eventually fall.

It would make Me happy if you talked about My Word more, if you placed more importance, thought, investigation, research, and emphasis on My Word, on the days that are to come, on your spiritual preparation and understanding, on the things of the spirit rather than on the things of the world and the flesh. So much time is wasted talking about movies, computer games, the Internet, System music, movie stars, fashions, and gadgets of the world. Why would disciples talk so much about those things when there are oodles of spiritual treasures at your feet? For the most part, those spiritual treasures are discarded by those who are so into talking about the things of the world.

You cannot be double-minded! You cannot serve God and mammon. And if you wonder who you're serving, here's a test that should make it abundantly clear: Your conversation and thoughts bear witness. If you talk more about the world, the material things of the world, and System entertainment than you talk about Me and the Word and the things of the spirit, then you're serving mammon, because that's where your time, thoughts, and energies are going. Conversely, those who glorify Me and lift Me up are truly serving Me. It's that simple.

It's a hard fact to face, because many of you will see the great lack in your life if you honestly evaluate and assess your spiritual life in this way, but it's well worth being honest about this, because it's a key to cutting-edge discipleship.

(Jesus:) My goal in asking you to be much more prayerful, wise, and obedient to My Word regarding the worldly input that you take in is not to take something out of your life. But rather I want to fill your life with things that are much better, of much greater value! Throw yourself into fulfilling the "dos," into taking positive steps for Me and others, rather than focusing on the "don'ts." If you are fulfilling the things you should be doing, and if you're focusing on the things that will make you a better disciple for Me, you'll automatically refrain from the don'ts. You'll be striving for a reachable and worthwhile goal, and reaching for it and working toward it consistently will be fulfilling, satisfying, and rewarding in itself. You'll see progress, change, miracles, and will feel a difference in your spiritual life and discipleship. (ML #3512/GN 1100:38-47, 52-83, 90-94, 99-101, 115)

Refrain from going on anti-Family websites, and minimize your contact and unnecessary fellowship with people who talk against the Word, and who seek to tear down your faith and weaken you or your Home spiritually.

(FROM "STAY ON THE WALL")

(Mama:) Peter and I understand that anyone, even someone who is dedicated and sold out to the CM Family, will be affected negatively by reading or listening to these former members' accusations. It's even more difficult when they say they're your friends. But remember, just because someone claims to be your friend, it doesn't necessarily make him one. As Jesus said, "He that is not for Me is against Me." Watch out for those who claim to love the people in the Family but who denounce and fight against the doctrine, the leadership or the work of the Family. It could well be that their words are smooth like butter, but war is in their hearts.

Some say they are compelled out of love to “save the wayward sheep.” But let’s not be blind to the fact that this is exactly what the anti-cult people claim too. “Oh, we’ve got to rescue them! We’ve got to show them the truth.”—And then come the doubts, deceptions, innuendoes and twisted half-truths.

Now why do you think they do this? What’s the fruit of it? What is their desire?—To stop our work for the Lord, to stop you, and to get you to quit! Who would want you to lay down your swords and walk away from the battle to win souls? It’s not the Lord, that’s for sure!

If you receive such negative, divisive letters from former members, via e-mail or otherwise, even if they are your old friends, we would encourage you to not bother to read them. It’s like Sanballat and Tobiah all over again. (See Nehemiah 4.) They wanted to voice their doubts and accusations within earshot of the Children of Israel because they knew that their words would have an effect, and they wanted to stop them from building the wall. Those examples are in the Bible for our benefit, especially those of us who have now come to the Last Days when the spiritual warfare surely becomes hotter and heavier than at any time in history. If you’re concerned about your spiritual health and want to accomplish all you can for Jesus, if you don’t want to wound yourself unnecessarily so that you’re not able to wage a good warfare in God’s Endtime army, then we would encourage you to not let your curiosity push you to dignify such communications with your attention. And don’t send them on to other people.

Remember, these people are attacking your faith, so don’t promote or participate in their attack by forwarding their letters to others. It’s unwise for you to pollute your spirit and bring a lot of doubts and confusion to your mind by dwelling on things that are definitely not going to help you stay strong. If you’ve already read such letters, then you need to get cleansed of any doubts by seeking the Lord, having prayer and getting help from your shepherds. Don’t let

those doubts take root in your heart. Don’t let them grow until you’re weakened to the point of being defeated and giving up your service for the Lord! You need to take a stand against this attack on your faith. Whose word are you going to believe, God’s or man’s? (ML #3303/GN 902:17-19, 42, 43)

(FROM “CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES, PART 2”)

(Mama:) Let me also add a reminder here that when you don’t have to read the writings of our detractors and apostates, it’s wise not to. When you’re faced with hearing or reading something that you were not expecting or that you couldn’t avoid, the Lord will use it as a test and strengthen you through it if you go to Him and receive His Words on the matter and get cleaned up spiritually. But when you knowingly subject yourself to something that could be harmful or dangerous, that’s usually more a lack of wisdom or conviction or self-control, and because you put yourself in that situation, the Lord has less power to protect you from the harm or danger. Of course, Peter and I won’t forbid you to read those things. But please be aware that it can be damaging and weakening for your spirit, and if you can help it, it’s wise to avoid putting yourself through that, even if you plan to get “cleaned up” afterward. (ML #3485/GN 1070:10)

(FROM “SO YOU WANT TO BE A DISCIPLE?”)

(Mama:) The Enemy isn’t just sitting in the corner idly twiddling his thumbs. He’s waging all-out war for the hearts and souls of men. He’s fighting the Family, and he’s fighting you! He wants to defeat you, because in defeating you, he chips away at the Family. You’re each a vital part of the Family, and your commitment, faith and sample are the Family’s commitment, faith and sample. He wants to steal your faith, and he’s going to great lengths in order to do so—through overindulgence in System music, movies, the Internet, novels and magazines, lukewarm churchy books, the media, TV, worldly

propaganda and entertainment, etc., to name just a few of his tactics. Sadly, he's even using some of those who were formerly a part of us, those who have left us and have now chosen to actively fight us and our faith.

If you want to stand strong, if you want to be a disciple, if you want to go on for the Lord and protect your faith, then you're going to have to make a decision and take a stand! Your faith, your discipleship, and how much you're willing to cherish it, is a personal decision, and no one can make that decision for you. I'm sorry to say that some of you don't seem to value it much, or don't see clearly the things that are weakening your faith. You're not raising a standard against the attacks of the Enemy and the avenues he's using in your life to eat away at your faith. You think you're strong enough to handle it. But I want to tell you again plainly that these things—these compromises, these inroads of the world, these things that bring doubt and disbelief—will weaken your faith and will pull you away from the Lord, because that's the Enemy's plan through them.

The contact that many of you have had, and some of you continue to have, with the Enemy's lies via antagonistic ex-members—either in person, by letter or e-mail, or going on their websites and chat groups on the Internet—has been a part of your weakening. It has caused a deterioration of your faith and convictions, and has contributed to pulling you away from the Word and causing you to doubt. It's one of the Enemy's inroads to bring about compromise and to ultimately destroy the Lord's work. Sad to say, some of you just don't see it. You think you're strong enough and can drink it all in without being affected. But you who think you know better or who don't heed the Lord's counsel will continue to be weakened to the point of eventually forsaking your place of service and your crown.

You must make a personal decision to not keep dabbling in the doubts, but to slam the door and realize with conviction what these things

are all about, and that they're designed by the Enemy to destroy your faith. You can't continually open the door of your heart to the Enemy's garbage, because it will weaken you. You can't allow yourselves to be so blown about by what antagonistic ex-members are saying—even if they're your loved ones or friends. And if you're not sure if an ex-member you're in contact with falls into the category of an “antagonistic ex-member,” ask the Lord. He knows.

Some of you certainly aren't “trying the spirits” to see if they be of God or not (1Jn.4:1). You're not asking Him personally about the things you see and read. Even after all that the Lord has explained about how vicious and malicious the Vandari demons are (ML #3420, GN 1007), some of you are still wallowing in the stuff that those who are influenced by the Vandari are spewing out. So how do you think you're going to be strengthened? If you continue on down this path, you're on your way out of the Lord's will and out of His service. You can't help but be weakened.

And if you're tempted to believe the apostates' words and advice over God's Word and the things Peter and I have said over the last few years in many different GNs—such as “None of These Things Move Me” (ML #3307, GN 906), “The Way Things Really Are in WS” (ML #3309, GN 910–911), and “Stay on the Wall” (ML #3303, GN 902)—then you'd be wise to ask the Lord why. If you are having a hard time believing His Word or certain specifics in His Word, then go to Him about it personally. If you're really serious about living for Jesus, then you've got to live His Word, because that's the basis of our faith. And how can you live His Word if you don't believe it? It's very important, folks!

(Dad:) I don't understand why any of you would even desire to read the lies of those who are fighting against the Family. A very few of you have to, because it's your work, but I pray you are being faithful to clean your hearts and spirits through the Word.

Do you think the Lord gave the Devil the time of day? Do you think He sat down and listened to all the Devil's lies, accusations, and the like? No! Give no place to the Devil! Those negative postings, letters, and e-mails from apostates are designed by the Devil to destroy your faith. So for you to be reading them, you are giving place to the Devil. You are deciding to give place to the Devil, and it is disobeying God's Word to do so. (ML #3458/GN 1043:6, 7, 13, 15-17, 35, 36)



6. Create a winning team by lovingly and consistently giving and receiving shepherding from one another, and upholding the requirements for maintaining a spiritually strong Home.

The Home shepherds are responsible for the spiritual shepherding of the Home members and for making sure the spiritual requirements in the various board criteria are fulfilled in the Home.

(FROM "SHOOTING STRAIGHT, PART 3—'HANDS OFF' SHEPHERDING")

(Jesus:) If you're not open to shepherding in a certain area of your life, that's a sure sign you really need it. The part of your life that you keep closed and private and "untouchable" is probably the area you need the most help in—help from Me and from others.

There are some things in your life you just can't see clearly yourself. I sometimes even cause you to be blinded to certain problems so that you will be pushed to accept the help of others, not so that you can clam up and privatize your life even more.

(Dad:) Sometimes shepherds just have to meddle. They don't always like it, but you need it! If you have the mindset that there are untouchable things in your life that you can't

take shepherding in, those are probably the things that you need the most shepherding in.

The Lord knows just how and where you are sinning or falling short in your life, and He usually tries to give you the conviction in your heart long before a shepherd comes to ask you about it. He leads shepherds to those areas of your life because He knows what you need. If you close yourself off in these areas, you're going to be missing out big time.

It's dangerous to close off an aspect of your life and think you're doing all right without any outside help or counsel. It's then very easy for the Enemy to pull the wool over your eyes and do some serious damage to your spiritual life in that area, because he knows you're not going to accept help from others, so if he can keep you from seeing the problems (which isn't that hard—because everyone has a hard time clearly seeing their own problems), he's able to work freely.

And, yes, I know that it's easier to feel that you'd be open to the Lord and His personal shepherding, and you'd prefer that to letting earthly shepherds get in there and meddle with what you consider very personal matters. But look at it the way that I've always said. It's a whole lot easier to take correction and instruction from earthly shepherds, who can present it nicely and pray with you, and love you up afterward, than to let it get to the point where the Lord has to intervene by force and wake you up to the errors of your ways.

Of course, the Lord will be loving too, if you're going to Him and getting your shepherding from Him, but if you wait too long and close yourself off to the shepherding He tries to give you through others, He's usually got to do something a little more extreme to get your attention, to wake you up and show you how you've gotten off track.

And the reality of the situation is that if you're not open to earthly shepherds, you're not humble and open enough before the Lord either, so you're missing out on both fronts.

The Lord is in the business of making shepherds out of all of you. As He brings people into various positions of leadership and you find yourself with new shepherds, either in your Home or area, it might be difficult to look at those people in a new way. You're thinking, *This guy was just a normal person last month, and now he's on the teamwork and thinks he can ask me about my kids or marriage.*

Well, that's how it works, folks. The Lord raises up those who He knows are right for the job, and He gives them the anointing for it, as they're yielded to His training. Of course, it's a bit difficult and takes time to adjust to having someone get involved in your personal life, but look at it as coming from the Lord's hand. He's the One with the master plan, and He's got it all figured out.

You know, you'll find out a lot of times that the part of your life that you're most closed off to receiving help in is often the part that is key for you to really make spiritual progress in. Once you overcome in that area, it's like you've opened up to the Lord and yielded your all to Him, and everything else falls into place. Think about that.

It might be the most painful thing to discuss, and you feel that it's your own little life, they're your kids, it's your marriage, it's your sex life, it's your faith. Well, it's true that it does involve you primarily, but in our Homes, everything affects others. What goes on in your life definitely does affect others for good or bad. You might think you're hiding it or containing it pretty well, but if something's not right, it's affecting at least you, and you affect your Home. Not only that, but if you're harboring sin or compromise in one area of your life, it will bleed over into other areas in your spiritual life. If you resist shepherding in one area, eventually you'll be closed off to shepherding more and more, till it takes you right out of the Family.

Another way to look at it is that when you chose to be a disciple, you were giving your life to the Lord. So whatever way He chooses to work in your life is His business. And He often

chooses to work through earthly shepherds—your mates, co-workers, Home teamworkers, etc.

It's easy to say, "I'm yielded and open to the Lord's shepherding." It's not as easy to say, "I'm yielded and open to so-and-so's shepherding." But that's how the Lord works. He uses physical shepherds to care for His sheep. It also works to keep everyone humble, because it's humbling to give correction, and it's humbling to receive correction and have someone else tell you that you might be wrong, or give you some pointers, or at least ask you to pray about a certain area of your personal life. But it's good for you. It's part of your growth. It's imperative that all Family disciples become open to shepherding, because we have to make some progress as a Family, and shepherding is one of the main avenues the Lord is going to use to help each person do that.

So, hear these words and take note. The sooner you are able to open yourself to shepherding in every area of your life, the easier it will be in the long run. It will bear so much good fruit in your life because you will gain humility, you'll grow in your weak areas, it will promote unity in your Homes, and each time you open up in honesty and show that you need help, you receive the Lord's strength and power. When you are weak, then is He strong in you. (ML #3501/GN 1088:43-57)

Home members need to take responsibility for the state of the Home, including its overall sample, fruitfulness, spiritual state and progress, and for the Home's decisions and the effects of those decisions. This is the concept of Home accountability.

(FROM "WHAT IS FULL-TIME DISCIPLESHIP?")

Charter members should:

K. Endeavor to fulfill the scriptural injunction to "bear one another's burdens"—to put the needs of the Home and its members before their own.

As disciples, we should manifest our love one for another by doing all we can to make sure that we are aware of the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of those around us, and we should do whatever we can to help care for them in their need. Since so much within the Home will be decided by the Home's voting members, it will become even more important that we all are mindful of the burdens, hardships, battles and needs of others in the Home. And that we are willing to put their needs and the good of the Home before our own wants and desires.

(Peter:) You are responsible to put the needs of your Home, and of others, before your own. You are responsible to look out for the needs of others in your Home and to try to help meet each need, whether it's the care of their children, or finances, or a need for love and affection or sex (within the Charter guidelines), etc. Whatever it is, you are responsible to help them! It's your responsibility before the Lord to bear one another's burdens, to love your neighbor as yourself, to lay down your life for the brethren, to die daily for one another. It's not just a good or nice thing to help one another and to bear each other's burdens, it's a responsibility. It's part of being a Charter member.

Every voting member is bound by the Charter to bear the spiritual, physical, material, educational, and financial responsibilities of their Home. What does this mean? It means that you personally bear responsibility, along with all the other voting members of the Home, to help keep your Home spiritually on track. You're personally responsible to help the Home keep a high spiritual standard. You're personally responsible for the physical care of your Home. You're personally responsible to help bear the financial load of the Home and to keep it afloat. You're personally responsible to ensure that the Home's material goods are well cared for and kept in working order. You're personally responsible to help make sure that the children in the Home receive a proper education.

These are not things that you can toss off to someone else in the Home and say, "The Home's not doing well spiritually, but that's the teamwork's problem, not mine." Or, "I'm not a childcare person or a parent, therefore if the kids in my Home aren't getting a proper education, that's not my responsibility." Or, "The Home is a mess, but at least I keep my room clean, so I've done my part."

It's your personal responsibility to help make sure that your Home, as a whole, fulfills its responsibilities. If the children in your Home are not getting educated, whether you're a parent or not, you are partly responsible. If your Home is going through financial hardships, you are partly responsible. If your Home is doing poorly spiritually, you are partly responsible. If your Home is a mess and is a bad sample because of it, you are partly responsible. There is no passing the buck, because you bear these responsibilities with every other Charter member in the Home.

So take a look around and ask yourself, "Am I fulfilling my responsibility?" Am I helping to make my Home what it should be spiritually, physically, materially, educationally and financially?" If you're not, you're not fulfilling this responsibility as a Charter member.

Maybe you don't think you can make a difference in these problem areas of your Home, because you feel that it's the fault of others. Well, you're a voting member of the Home, and therefore you can have an effect for good through your vote. If you see problems, you are responsible to bring them up for discussion at Home Councils. You can present your points of view—or better yet, what the Word has to say on the subject—and encourage others to follow suit to strengthen whatever weak areas there may be. (ML #3469/GN 1055:266-271)

(FROM "MORE ON 'THE SHAKEUP 2000'")

(Mama:) You read in "The Shakeup 2000" how each person and Home is responsible to do their part to clean up the Family and keep

it clean, to get rid of the poison that is threatening our very existence. You can't depend on the VSs and COs to do it all. The Home Councils are one of the three governing bodies of the Family, and those Home Councils are made up of individuals—you! You are responsible for your own personal sample, reactions, decisions, obedience, and determination to uphold the CM standard, but you're also responsible to be wise, mature members of your Home Council. You must personally obey the CM contract; that is your obligation. But you must also help others to do the same, and if they refuse to do so, then it's also your responsibility to discipline those people, and if they refuse to change, then you're obligated to see that it is recommended that they be moved to FM status.

You live with each other, you see how your Home members conduct themselves, and you know if they're upholding the CM standard. If they aren't, it's your responsibility to do something about it! The Lord will hold you accountable! It's up to you to recognize the problems, pray about them, offer Word-based counsel and shepherding, and mete out discipline according to the Charter. If these measures don't bring the needed results, then you're responsible to recommend that the people who are contravening the Charter be moved to Fellow member status. That is your charge before God! (ML #3262/GN 863:150, 152)

(FROM "WHAT IS FULL-TIME DISCIPLESHIP?")

(Peter:) Collectively, your Home members are going to be responsible for the spiritual lives and training of others. All of you will need to work together to help them grow. That's why you need to start now by making your personal commitments, progressing spiritually, accepting spiritual help from others, being your brother's keeper, and being uplifting to your Home. As a Home you need to make progress. You need to grow together, be united, and solve your Home's problems.

If you have a problem or someone who has spiritual problems in your Home, it's your

responsibility to do something about it. (ML #3469/GN 1055:107, 108)

(FROM "FORMING FRUITFUL TEAMS")

(Mama:) By January 2005, all FD Homes must have a minimum of six members over the age of 18. There is also the concept of Home accountability. Homes will be judged as a unit—which means that each person in the Home will be held accountable for the spiritual and physical standard of each member in the Home. So you really want to wind up with people that you can bond with and help each other and all pull the load together. The Lord is expecting each Home to become a winning team. (ML #3496/OOGN13:2)

(FROM "SHOW ME THE MONEY!—PART 1")

(Mama:) Holding yourself and others accountable to obey and do what's right is a day-by-day process. It's all about those millions of little decisions that all add up eventually. You can turn things around in your lives and Homes, but it will take a very desperate effort to abandon that lackadaisical approach to life that tells you that you can pretty much do whatever you want and everything will continue as it is without things going haywire or getting bad. That's not true.

If you day by day, week by week, month by month ignore the Lord's counsel on any subject ... then your choices to disobey, compromise, or just not care about the Lord's Word on the subject will eventually all add up to disaster. Being accountable means that you are educated, you know some truth, and you will either be blessed or suffer loss according to your choices to obey or disobey that truth.

You hold your own future in your hands. You literally "control" the Lord's hand of blessing by your choices. It's not that things are going to happen to you and your Home while you're a mere innocent bystander who can't do anything about it. You decide if you'll fail or succeed!

To expound on this concept of accountability, of how you will reap the results of your actions, here are some excerpts of an interesting news article called “The Formula for Failure and Success”:

Failure is not a single, cataclysmic event. We do not fail overnight. Failure is the inevitable result of an accumulation of poor thinking and poor choices. To put it more simply, failure is nothing more than a few errors in judgment repeated every day.

Now why would someone make an error in judgment and then be so foolish as to repeat it every day? The answer is because he or she does not think that it matters.

On their own, our daily acts do not seem that important. A minor oversight, a poor decision, or a wasted hour generally doesn't result in an instant and measurable impact. More often than not, we escape from any immediate consequences of our deeds.

If we have not bothered to read a single book in the past ninety days [in the Family's case, of course, it'd be more appropriate to substitute “Letter” for “book” in this example], this lack of discipline does not seem to have any immediate impact on our lives. And since nothing drastic happened to us after the first ninety days, we repeat this error in judgment for another ninety days, and on and on it goes. Why? Because it doesn't seem to matter. And herein lies the great danger. Far worse than not reading the books is not even realizing that it matters!

Those who eat too many of the wrong foods are contributing to a future health problem, but the joy of the moment overshadows the consequence of the future. It does not seem to matter. Those who smoke too much or drink too much go on making these poor choices year after year after year ... because it doesn't seem to matter. But the pain and regret of these errors in judgment have only been delayed for a future time. Consequences are seldom instant; instead, they accumulate until the inevitable day of reckon-

ing finally arrives and the price must be paid for our poor choices—choices that didn't seem to matter.

Failure's most dangerous attribute is its subtlety. In the short term those little errors don't seem to make any difference. We do not seem to be failing. ... Since nothing terrible happens to us, since there are no instant consequences to capture our attention, we simply drift from one day to the next, repeating the errors, thinking the wrong thoughts, listening to the wrong voices and making the wrong choices. The sky did not fall in on us yesterday; therefore the act was probably harmless. Since it seemed to have no measurable consequence, it is probably safe to repeat.

But we must become better educated than that!...

Just like the formula for failure, the formula for success is easy to follow: It's by making the future an important part of our current philosophy.

Both success and failure involve future consequences, namely the inevitable rewards or unavoidable regrets resulting from past activities. If this is true, why don't more people take time to ponder the future? The answer is simple: They are so caught up in the current moment that it doesn't seem to matter. The problems and the rewards of today are so absorbing to some human beings that they never pause long enough to think about tomorrow.

But what if we did develop a new discipline to take just a few minutes every day to look a little further down the road? We would then be able to foresee the impending consequences of our current conduct. Armed with that valuable information, we would be able to take the necessary action to change our errors into new success-oriented disciplines. In other words, by disciplining ourselves to see the future in advance, we would be able to change our thinking, amend our errors and develop new habits to replace the old.

The real magic of new disciplines is that

they will cause us to amend our thinking. If we were to start today to try harder, and in every way make a conscious and consistent effort to change subtle and deadly errors into constructive and rewarding disciplines, we would never again settle for a life of existence—not once we have tasted the fruits of a life of substance! (*End of news article.*)

(Mama:) This author sheds some light on the concept of accountability from the perspective that you are building your future today. If you make the right choices—which in our Family means if you obey the Lord and the Word—then you’ll be blessed. ... But if you become deceived, thinking that wrong choices, bad decisions and disobedience don’t matter, then eventually you’ll find yourself in a mess. And the reason you’ll find yourself in a mess is because the Lord won’t simply let it pass, He won’t let it “not matter,” because you know better. That’s the crux of accountability. (ML #3462/GN 1047:149-153)

Home members are to be their brothers’ keeper by being honest with one another, being willing to shepherd each other, not covering up for one another but rather being willing to speak the truth in love.

(SEE “GET UP AND GET OVER IT,” ML #3497—ALL 3 PARTS.)

(FROM “CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES, PART 2”)

(Mama:) Being your “brother’s keeper” has a bit of a bad connotation with some of you, I think. You automatically think of self-righteousness, correction, shattered friendships, someone reporting on you unfairly, etc.

I asked the Lord to give us a list of what He means when He calls each of us to be our brother’s keeper. I think it will be enlightening for many of you, and also will help to relieve the

pressure or dread that you feel at this challenge from the Lord, wondering if the Lord is expecting you to turn into some kind of self-righteous ogre and have no friends. When you read this list, you’ll see that the Lord is asking you to be a better friend than ever—the right kind of friend. Yes, it will take humility, conviction, and a strength of spirit that many of you are not used to fighting for. But it can be done, and done in a way that will make you—and your friends and loved ones—happier than ever. No one has to lose out when you lift the standard together!

(Jesus:) **Being your brother’s keeper is to love another more than yourself.**

Being your brother’s keeper will make you do whatever is necessary to make sure that no physical, emotional, or spiritual harm comes to that person.

Being your brother’s keeper means being supportive.

Being your brother’s keeper means that you will always have a good word to say behind their back.

Being your brother’s keeper means that you would never gossip about that person, or in any way hinder their fellowship with others through spreading untruths, or even facts that are none of your business to know or repeat.

Being your brother’s keeper means pointing one another to the Word.

Being your brother’s keeper means being the right kind of friend.

Being your brother’s keeper means being there for one another.

Being your brother’s keeper means that there will be times that you will have to put each other’s spiritual well-being above your personal friendship—even if it will mean the end of your friendship.

Being your brother’s keeper will allow you to share one another’s joys, and will eliminate comparing.

Being your brother’s keeper means doing no harm to one another.

Being your brother's keeper means helping each other stand strong against compromise and temptation.

Being your brother's keeper is responsibility. It means you realize that I hold you accountable for your influence on your friends and your influence on their choices that determine how they turn out, what they accomplish, and how well they serve Me. Of course, each person's choice is ultimately between Me and them. But how much have you contributed to those choices, whether for good or bad? That is what I hold you accountable for.

Being your brother's keeper is opening your life to another so that they can help you, correct you, safeguard you, and likewise help others in turn.

Being your brother's keeper is the ultimate bond of friendship, brotherhood, and unity.

Being your brother's keeper means wanting the best for one another.

Being your brother's keeper will strengthen the Family at all levels.

Being your brother's keeper requires humility, but the rewards are worth it.

Being your brother's keeper requires a close connection with Me; in fact, it requires that I'm the most important One in your life. If you're not tied in tight with your biggest Brother of all, you won't be the kind of brother or sister that your friends and loved ones need.

Being your brother's keeper means speaking the truth in love, even if you know it will hurt.

Being your brother's keeper is your duty.

Being your brother's keeper never means unprayerful criticism of one another, holding grudges, or placing labels.

Being your brother's keeper means that you are clued in to the fact that there are dangers in this world to your service for Me, to your mental health, to your emotional well-being, and even to your bodies and lives. And because of this, it means doing all that you can to guard one another from those dangers. You can't be your brother's keeper if your head is buried in the sand and you

pretend that nothing ever goes wrong and that there are never consequences for your actions.

Being your brother's keeper means that sometimes you will have to forgo something that you personally have the faith for, for the sake of another. "If eating meat causeth my brother to stumble, I will eat no meat."

Being your brother's keeper is bearing one another's burdens.

Being your brother's keeper means giving till it hurts. It means being willing to share what's most precious to you—your time, your loved one, yourself—if it will help someone else.

Being your brother's keeper requires you to have a desire to not just want to personally be the best disciple you can be, but to also have a passion to help as many others as possible reach that goal.

Being your brother's keeper means caring more about someone's long-term future than their short-term happiness.

Being your brother's keeper means lending prayerful words of advice.

Being your brother's keeper also means knowing when to just be silent and pray.

Being your brother's keeper means never giving up on someone.

Being your brother's keeper means encouraging others in the decisions they make to live My Word, and making it as easy as possible for them to make the changes they need to make.

Being your brother's keeper requires you to live around those who have similar goals. It requires teamwork—a shared objective.

Being your brother's keeper will help you to be twice the disciple that you would be on your own, and likewise you will help others reach twice their potential as well.

Being your brother's keeper means being Spirit-led, so that you do the right thing, at the right time, for the right person.

Being your brother's keeper requires a lack of self-righteousness. It won't work if you're esteeming yourself as somehow better than the others around you.

Being your brother's keeper means knowing that you're all in this together, and that the tighter you stick together and the more you can watch out for each other, the easier it will be and the more you'll get done along the way.

Being your brother's keeper means a willingness to consider any sacrifice, if it will help someone else.

Being your brother's keeper means treating others the way you would want to be treated, and approaching their needs, problems, and also successes with the same courtesy, love, admiration, and sensitivity that you would want in those same situations.

Being your brother's keeper is not a work of the flesh. It is allowing yourself to be a physical extension of My Spirit, so that I can touch another through you.

Being your brother's keeper means not jumping to conclusions or making assumptions, but taking the time to understand one another and know each other on a deep level.

Being your brother's keeper is a two-way street—you give some, and you get some.

Being your brother's keeper means sticking up for one another in the face of negativity, unloving hurt, or attacks of the Enemy.

Being your brother's keeper requires an understanding that actions speak louder than words, and that a sample is greater than a sermon.

Being your brother's keeper is My will for all of you. (ML #3485/GN 1070:26, 29-74)

(FROM "FORMING FRUITFUL TEAMS")

(Dad:) **You're all your brother's keeper**, and what you have to realize is that at times he'll be keeping you and at other times you'll be keeping him. We're all in it together, working together, pulling the load together, because we need each other.

Yield to each other in love to lift the standard together. As you do these things, you'll be the Family of Love the Lord needs, in order to show His face to the world. Love is a major

ingredient in becoming a winning team. I love you! (ML #3496/OOGN13:40, 41)

(FROM "THE ACTION SERIES!—PART 3")

(Jesus:) **Learn to receive correction, guidance and counsel from one another.** For if you expect to become the teachers and shepherds of the new flock that I am going to bring to you, then you must be humble enough to be shepherded yourself. You must not see it as interference by others, but as someone who loves you trying to help.

(Peter:) **Not only are we to be our brother's keeper, but he's supposed to be our keeper as well.** You're not going to be the only one dispensing help to others—they're going to be helping you as well. And you need to learn to receive it.

Since the Charter, a lot of Family members have gotten out of the habit of gracefully receiving correction when something they've done wrong is pointed out to them. If your teamwork gives you correction and you don't like it, you can just hand in your 30-day notice and you're on your way—no need to listen, no need to change. Many people have become very independent, and as such, are not open to shepherding from others. Because of this reticence, usually caused by pride, their spiritual growth has somewhat stagnated.

The Lord makes it clear that He wants us to be able to take it if we're going to dish it out. If you're going to be a shepherd of the coming flocks, then you have to be humble enough to be shepherded. You need to get over feeling that others are interfering with your life, and instead realize that they are trying to help you because they love you. (ML #3308/GN 908:33, 125-127)

(FROM "KEEP FIGHTING!—CONVICTION VERSUS COMPROMISE, PART 6")

(Mama:) **If you have differences or conflicts in your Home, you need to work it out in your**

Home. If people in your Home are not committed and refuse to be shepherded and change, then those individuals should move to the level in the Family that better reflects their personal commitment. If you want your Home to be united and free of compromise, don't just coexist with those who continue to compromise. If you do, you're apt to suffer for their sins, because you didn't obey. (ML #3366/GN 969:65)

(FROM "CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES, PART 2")

(Mama:) Another lesson that is very important for you young people especially to take to heart from these situations [*referring to the situations involving Megan's Homegoing and Joe's mental breakdown*] is that of being your brother's keeper. It's possible that these incidents could have been completely prevented through loyalty to the Lord, being willing to stand up to your peers and to have conviction to help them, and reporting faithfully. I venture to say that the compromises and disobediences in these situations are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the things that you know about your friends and their problems and weaknesses and compromises and needs, much of which you could help them with, or ask for help for them, or encourage them to get help. But you don't.

These situations would have turned out so differently if you, the youth of the Family, were in the habit of being loyal to the Lord, and showing that real pure love for each other by being willing to speak up, to shepherd each other. And if you can't help someone yourself, then ask for help for them! I know you value your friends and friendships, and you should! But you should value your friends and loved ones enough to want the best for them—and that includes helping them spiritually, being willing to correct them, encouraging them to share their hearts with their shepherds when they need to, and if all else fails, then reporting on them so they're forced to get help!

(Jesus:) These situations have been sad, shocking, and devastating for some. I certainly hope they have been sobering and eye-opening to realize the dangers of compromise, of disobedience. This is a lesson for all. It's a lesson that absolutely everyone needs to learn. ... None of them were standing up for their convictions and for what they knew to be right, and they were outright disobeying My Word, the rules in the Family, and covering for each other.

The problem is that many of you have become so familiar with My protection, My love, and My blessings, that you don't even fear to disobey anymore. You don't fear to disobey and then to cover up for each other. And as you carry on, the voice of My conviction wanes in your heart, and you no longer even realize that you're doing anything wrong. You don't even realize that you should be reporting, that you should be helping one another to keep the standard.

Can you see how important it is to be your brother's keeper? You think that you're protecting them by covering for them, but look at this! I am using this as a lesson to help all of you to understand what such compromises can lead to—and conversely, that by having conviction and by standing up for what you believe, you may just be saving someone's life! They might not see it that way at the time, and they might be mad at you for having reported on them, but in the long run they will thank you—that is, if they continue in My service and if they are really sold-out disciples. If they aren't, it's still important that misdeeds are exposed and that people are brought to a point of decision, so that through their disobedience they are not weakening the Family.

You don't have to be perfect, but you do have to be obedient, you do have to be honest, and you do have to have a clean heart before Me. If you don't, you'd better watch out, because the Enemy will use anything he can get to hinder, hurt, and destroy. (ML #3485/GN 1070:11, 12, 14, 17-19)

(FROM “WHAT IS FULL-TIME DISCIPLESHIP?”)

(Peter:) The Lord is calling all of you to make commitments. The commitments that you need to make are: to be a shepherd, to follow close, to embrace His Word, and to apply it in your life now, so that you can help others apply it in their lives in the near future.

He’s asking you to “become your brother’s keeper,” to “learn to shepherd one another in love,” to “help one another in the spirit,” and to “uphold one another in prayer.” These are the jobs of a shepherd, whether you have a title or not. Jesus is asking you to start now so that you’ll be ready when He starts bringing people to your door.

Work to become your brother’s keeper. When you see someone who’s heading downstream, maybe someone you’ve been hanging out with, try to help them. Don’t be self-righteous about it, but don’t be a complete wimp either. If someone is making the wrong choices, speaking doubt, or not following the Word, talk to them about it. Pray for them. Talk to your shepherds about it. See if there is anything you can do to help them by asking the Lord. They are your brothers and sisters, so help them if you can. It’s your responsibility. Don’t let them just drift away.

Is there someone in your Home who you feel is eventually going to leave the Family because of the choices they’re making now? If so, actively help them. Don’t let the Enemy snatch them away. Fight for them! Get involved. Bring this person to the attention of your team-work. Don’t let them float away. Do what the Lord says: “Become your brother’s keeper. Learn to shepherd one another in love. Help one another in the spirit. Uphold one another in prayer.”

Or how about your younger brothers and sisters? When was the last time you taught them a class or read the Word with them? When was the last time you had talk time with them and answered their questions with the Word? When was the last time you got involved in their spiritual

lives? Ask yourself if you’re a good influence on them. Do you want them to follow in your footsteps? And if they do, where will they end up? You can start shepherding them by being a good sample today. (ML #3469/GN 1055:95, 96, 100-102)

Discuss, formulate, and vote on Home decisions and policies in Home Council or other official Home meetings. Do not run a “mom and pop shop” where decisions are made by the de facto “heads” without the genuine input, open discussion, and majority consent of the Home’s voting members.

(FROM CHARTER – “BASIC RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS” PAGE 20-21)

B. Determine by prayer, discussion, debate and voting, the basic nature, goals, direction and activities of the Home, providing they are consistent with the goals of the continental area in which they reside, and of the overall Family.

You have the right to help decide the direction, the goals and the basic nature of your Home, and the activities that your Home undertakes to meet those goals. You have the right to pray, discuss with others, and debate any issues in your Home council meetings before voting on a course of action.

Under the Election Rules, which are found in the “Fundamental Family Rules” (see page 308), unless specified otherwise, when a vote is taken on any matter, the majority rules. So if over 50% of the Home’s voting members agree with something, then it is passed. This means that if there is a tie vote then the measure is not passed. There are some matters that require two-thirds of the voting members’ agreement before passage, including all financial matters, certain personnel changes, and disciplinary matters.

- All decisions of any kind should never be dictated by one person, without agreement by other leaders and/or the rest of the body, as seems necessary.... Any decisions made on the part of any individuals without such due consultation and agreement could be considered null and void, because others affected were not consulted nor conferred with. This is the way we personally have always operated even within our own tiny personal family. (ML #210:40)

(FROM CHARTER – “RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL: WITHIN THE HOME” PAGE 30-31)

D. Bring up any matter in the appropriate Home council meeting and have it brought to a vote. The matter must be discussed and voted on within 15 days.

While it may be most appropriate to suggest topics for Home council meetings prior to the meeting, allowing for a predetermined agenda to be followed in the meeting, you are free to bring up any matter that you want to in the appropriate Home council. However, since the meeting will probably be following a predetermined agenda, it may be inappropriate to stop everything and discuss and vote on that matter right then. The person chairing the Home council meeting will make that decision. In any case, the topic needs to be discussed and voted on within 15 days.

After agreement is reached in a Home council meeting, the decisions of the voting members are to be implemented. So even if the Home teamwork feels the Home should do one thing, but the voting members vote to do something else, then the decision of the majority of the voting members is what should be carried out.

- We all ... need to listen to each other, counsel together, agree together, decide together and then work it out together. If we're going to be an effective body, every member must work together with all the other members—not just one,

not just a few, not even the majority, but with all working together as a body, which Christ described as His Body, the Church, and with Himself as the Head. (ML #263:76)

(FROM “FORWARD, ALWAYS FORWARD!”)

(Peter to the Summit attendees:) Successful Homes are those who have a united goal. The members of the Home work hard and sacrifice to make the Home successful; they move forward together, they feel responsible to make the Home work, and because of that they build a camaraderie which helps carry the Home to success. They are generally fairly well shepherded by people who help the Home members progress spiritually.

Successful Homes usually have a significant core of people who are committed to the Home, who stay in the Home and stick with the same team for a substantial period of time. When there are problems, the Home members work through them instead of turning in their 30-day notices. Generally speaking, you will find that Homes that stick together, work together, and spiritually grow together for longer periods of time are the most successful.

On the other hand, while teams made up of a core of individuals dedicated to making the Home work are usually successful, it's not always the case. Often the core individuals who are committed to the Home are those who opened the Home, and that's generally one particular couple or family. They are the ones who found the house, met the landlord, signed the contract, etc. Their names are on the legal paperwork and they are responsible for most aspects of the Home.

Often these folks feel that it is “their” Home and they begin to act that way. The Home becomes the “property” of these individuals and they become the de facto heads of the Home, often becoming permanent members of the teamwork. There develops an “understanding” among the Home members that these individuals must be on the teamwork. This especially happens if the

Home “owners” are actual homeowners, in that they have purchased or inherited the physical Home property.

In a case where the couple or people who opened the Home are good shepherds, wise leaders, open to counsel, and desperate to apply the New Wine, and have the gifts needed for being on the teamwork, then this situation may not be detrimental. However, that isn’t always the case, and unfortunately such circumstances often lead to Homes that begin to be run by those who originally established the Home, who set things up the way they want them to run, according to their personal Home rules rather than the Family rules outlined in the Charter and the Word. People in the Home have to operate according to the wishes of the “homeowners” or they can no longer stay in the Home. This has sometimes even evolved into the “homeowners” listing their demands to people who want to join the Home, saying if they won’t agree to these demands, they can’t join the Home.

Often these spoken or unspoken demands run contrary to the Charter. For example, “My young children watch TV often because we are too busy to take care of them. If you join our Home, you need to understand that’s how it is.” Or, “We have a certain way we discipline our children (often meaning that they don’t discipline), and if you and your kids join or stay in our Home, you have to understand that we will keep our way of disciplining, and if you don’t agree, we won’t allow you to join our Home.” Of course, such statements are contrary to the Charter, but the fact is that there are many Homes like this. They become “mom and pop shops” which often sink well below the CM standard and are in fact FM Homes with the CM title.

Even if such Homes don’t establish rules or policies that are contrary to the Word or the Charter, just the fact that they’re run like little kingdoms, where those in charge are used to having their way and only doing things their way, is contrary to the Charter. If “mom and

pop” aren’t allowing the other Home members to exercise their rights of choice and self-determination, to determine by prayer, discussion, debate and voting, the nature, goals, direction and activities of the Home, then they aren’t true Charter Homes living the CM standard. (ML #3479/GN 1067:41-47)

Each person in the Home must be given ample opportunity to have 1½ hours of quality Word time daily, as per “What is Jesus Worth to You?”

(FROM “WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?”)

(Jesus:) **The key is putting first things first.** If My Word has prominence in your life, if I am first and foremost in your life, if I and the things of My Spirit are worth the most to you, then I do allow and even encourage times of fellowship and relaxation. Even now, with this new revolution, this hasn’t changed. But I desire for you to seek the fellowship and relaxation of the spirit, those things that bring unity, feed your spirits, and draw you closer to Me and each other, not the things of the world which bring no lasting fruit.

In many cases, in order to meet this challenge, something will have to go, something will have to be sacrificed. Worldly pleasures and System input in whatever way, shape, or form are the first things that should go or be limited, because you’re all going to have to forsake this System “fluff” at some point in time anyway, so why not begin cutting it back or cutting it out now?

If you don’t spend any time in any worldly pursuits—and there are very few people who fall into this category—then you have to start looking into other areas of your life and seeing where you can make sacrifices. Maybe you could stand to spend a little less time relaxing and fellowshiping. I’m not talking about cutting it out altogether, but about setting priorities and putting first things first. Or possibly you will need

to spend less time working in order to have more time with Me.

The key in all this, My loves, is a proper balance. You must get this minimum daily Word time, and if you are lacking it, you must examine other areas of your life which are out of balance. If you are spending an excess of time in worldly pastimes of some sort, then you should cut back on that time, or even cut out some of those pastimes. If you are spending too much time fellowshiping or you find that your time is being eaten up by a little chat here or a little discussion or talk there, then cut out that excess as well. If you can redeem the time by saving minutes here and there throughout the day that would have gone to other less necessary things, then you will find extra time appearing as if by magic. And finally, if your life has gotten out of balance to the point where the work of the Lord has taken precedence over the Lord of the work, and My Word, which gives you the necessary strength and power and direction to accomplish that work, then you need to find a better balance in that respect as well.

It's very important that you understand the point of all this. It's that I come first; My Word comes first.

(Jesus:) ...The one and half hours in the Word should be quality time. ...

The onus is on the individual to determine what is "quality," and those who are sincerely seeking to be obedient, to do all they can to receive the input and training they need at this time, will judge righteous judgment and won't always be trying to fudge it or find less quality Word-related activities to count toward the Word requirement. The key is in quality, deep, feeding Word time. It's not in just putting in the hours. The point is to be fed, trained and inspired!

I can't emphasize enough how the goal is quality Word time, real concentration, being fed, and not being satisfied with spacing out in united devotions, or casually listening to an

MP3 file or audio Word tape while engaged in another activity, or just skimming some Family pub on whatever subject and calling that "Word time." I want time in the bed of love with you, deep communication, intimate touch-base time, quality exchanges, heart-to-heart interaction. And that's again where your personal commitment and desire are the secret, because each person will need to make a decision to not be satisfied with anything less than a real connection with Me, really getting fed, and defining that as "quality Word time."

(Mama:) **It's something that He's asking you to do for Him, because you love Him, because you want to be a disciple.** ... This is voluntary, but please realize that you'll be blessed according to your obedience to this counsel. It's not that you'll be able to just blow it off and think that nothing will happen, that things will just continue the same. They won't. If you continue to neglect the Word, either personally or as a Home, there will be consequences; you will suffer loss. This will be the Lord's doing. (ML #3433/GN 1016:185-189, 233, 234, 240, 57)

Have united times of intercessory prayer...

(FROM "WHAT IS JESUS WORTH TO YOU?")

(Jesus:) **I do want to institute a new Charter requirement of 30 minutes of intercessory prayer each day.** This should be each person's prayer vigil time. This is time you spend working for others, pouring out in spirit. This is not time in which you are feeding your own spirit. While intercessory prayer is edifying and inspiring, and you do come away from such prayer time feeling that you accomplished a lot and having a sense of peace, it's not time when you're feeding your own spirit or being trained in the Word and in My ways. So this time should be set apart from the Word requirement.

This would be a change in the present Charter requirements. At this time, the one and a half hours includes intercessory prayer. But that time in prayer can be “fit in” on top of other activities. You can pray at night when you’re awake, or while you wash dishes, or while you hang the laundry or have get-out walks, or while you’re on public transport. There are limitless opportunities to fit in intercessory prayer during the activities that you already do, things that are necessary and inevitable. You can just redeem the time a bit more by multitasking. So to add the 30-minute intercessory prayer as an additional requirement, above the one and a half hours in the Word, is not that difficult.

Prayer vigil is something that can often be done while you do something else that you’d be doing anyway, so that won’t really take time away from other activities, either work or free time. It’s just greater efficiency, and making prayer vigil a requirement on its own gives it the priority it deserves.

One and a half hours of Word and time with Me plus half an hour of prayer vigil is not too much. It is doable. Yes, it will require

change, it will require sacrifices, but it’s not an unattainable goal. Especially if you are to include all of the things that make up your time in My Word—loving Me intimately, reading My Word, praising Me, memorizing and reviewing, hearing from Me in prophecy, etc. In fact, this is basically what I have required all along—with a few slight modifications—it’s just that My children haven’t been giving it the priority and sacredness it deserves.

Prayer vigil should come in addition to this hour and a half of Word time. Prayer vigil can be done while you’re doing other things—you can include the children or your sheep; you can do it while you’re waiting for the bus or sitting on the toilet; you can do it while you’re exercising. In saying that you can pray while you are doing other things, I do not mean that you should devote any less of your heart to the prayer. And there should also be times when you kneel before Me in prayer and pour out your heart in intercession, devoting yourself fully to prayer. Those times are good for your spirit, and they bear great weight in the spiritual realm. (ML #3433/GN 1016:236-239, 258)