

Being happy doesn't mean everything's perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections.

ACTIVATED STATS AND SHINERS

By WS

The month of December saw terrific progress on the *Activated* front! Worldwide, we had a total of 2,552 new subscriptions—by far the highest ever in a single month.

India broke all previous records with 1,427 new subscribers in December. Brazil continued with the recent trend of doubling their subscriptions each month—for a total of 747 in December—by far their highest ever!

The October to December quarter was the first time since we started the *Activated* shiner prizes that all top 10 prize slots were filled! Four individual Homes each got over 300 subscriptions in that quarter. Cheers!

We're thrilled with the latest advances, and pray that after that terrific Christmas season we'll continue to move forward with the momentum and activate the world like never before! There's still lots of room for growth!

Top 10 *Activated* shiners, October – December 2001

and the winners are...	1	BR0045	Niterói Home, Brazil	415
	2	IA21	Mumbai DF Home, India	375
	3	IA08	Delhi Activated Home, India	357
	4	IA42	Bangalore Service Home, India	332
	5	IA40	Rose Garden Home, India	256
	6	KY1521	Kenya	244
	7	BR0014	YAM, Brazil.....	175
	8	IA03	Garden Home, India.....	159
	9	IA38	Josh, Lily, Angel, and Home, India	147
	10	IA23	JTC Home, India	116

P.S. As announced in a notice on the MO site a few months ago, the shiner prizes were increased for the October to December quarter of 2001. Now, because finances are low, and in order to enable us to have the funds to continue giving out *Activated* prizes for as long as we can, we're decreasing the amounts somewhat. For 2002, the quarterly *Activated* shiner prizes will be as follows:

- 1st prize: \$400 (150 subscriptions minimum)
- 2nd prize: \$200 (150 subscriptions minimum)
- 3rd prize: \$200 (150 subscriptions minimum)
- 4th to 10th prize: \$100 (100 subscriptions minimum)

Find out what the Family did for this crowd and many others this past Christmas season on pages 6 through 15!

Post-Feast PNP assignment, by Mama	2
Pray for finances for the boards, by Mama	3
Notice re: Anonymous SGA e-mail, by Mama	3
New developments with Reflections	4
Your Christmas gift, by Mama	5
Reax to the Board vision.....	15
What did Fast 2001 do for you?	16
Movie ratings & reviews	18

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Presenting a SPECIAL OFFER!
"THE VINE 5 PACK"
on Video CD**

The Vine 5 pack

Now available as a set: *Vines* 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5!

Did you miss any of *The Vine* videos (a.k.a. VGV, Video Grapevine, etc.)? Never seen them? Well, now you can! Get your very own home copies from:

The Vine
P.O. Box 520
Samsen Nai P.O.
Bangkok 10400, Thailand
e-mail: thevine@mail-me.com

Please include your full mail address and Home number. Thanks.

Five pack on VCD sold at US\$20 including postage. Please send payment through your TRF designated to "The Vine Team" Home #TH07.

(The Vines are also available individually at US\$5 a piece.)

So telegraph, write, e-mail, pigeon mail, smoke signals, UPS, FED EX, DHL or whatever, a.s.a.p. while stocks last!

[About VCD: What is VCD format? It's a CD that you play on your computer or VCD player and watch as a video.]



Pull down that encouragement!

By Mama

During the Feast and in the days following, many people in our Home were hit with heavy battles. Despite the wonderful treasures and New Wine that our wonderful Love had poured out during the Feast, many were hit with severe battles, tests, and discouragement, which left them wondering if they were going to be able to make it.

When we asked the Lord about this, He said: "The Enemy is fighting everyone in the Family tooth and toenail right now! His aim is to destroy faith in the New Wine and specifically, in the keys of the Kingdom. He's trying to convince people that the keys don't work. He knows that if he can hurt a Family member's faith in the Word and the new treasures and revelations that I'm pouring out, and cause doubt, then that person won't have access to this wonderful power."

I asked everyone in our WS units to ask the Lord in their personal prayer time for a message of encouragement about how they could personally make

it. The Lord poured out wonderful counsel, giving each person tailor-made instruction and personalized tips on how to refute this attack of the Enemy, showing each one that "it can be done" and that "they can make it" with the Lord's help, and by calling on the power of the keys.

I'd like to ask each of you, dear

Family, to do the same. Please take some time over the next week or two to ask the Lord the question below, and avail yourself of the boost of encouragement that our wonderful Husband wants to give you.

With love in our ever-present Husband,
Mama

Question to ask the Lord:

Dear faithful Love, thank You for all the awesome revelations and the amazing gifts of Your spirit that You gave us during the Feast days. I'm forever grateful for the privilege of being called to be one of your Endtime brides. Even so, the extraordinary gifts You've given us and the responsibilities that come with them can sometimes seem overwhelming. I know the Enemy has been hard at work trying to fight many of us, some with feeling discouraged or overwhelmed, and others with afflictions, or in more subtle ways—with seeming little things, but nevertheless, nagging trials here and there. I know, too, that the Devil is not going to stop fighting and he's very mad as he witnesses these mighty moves in the spirit and the victories that are ours for the taking.

With this in mind, darling Husband, can You please give me encouragement, instruction, and counsel about how I can avoid feeling that what is set before me is "too much" or that feeling of "I'm too far behind and can't catch up," or any temptations of not really wanting to give up my carnal mindedness or worldly habits, or not wanting to obey the things You're asking of me? Can You please tell me how I can rise above the Devil's attacks—how can I make it?

in My arms...

Written by Angela (VS), USA: Please pray for the encouragement and strength of Peter and Sara (Tom and Donna in Guatemala) whose 16-year-old son, Jeremy (former member), went to be with the Lord on January 9 after a few days in a coma, following an overdose on alcohol and morphine.

(Editor's note: This is not the same "Peter and Sara" whose former member daughter, Cynthia, recently went to be with the Lord.)

(Jesus:) I'm so sorry for the heartache you feel inside. I'm so sorry for the loss. I wish that I could convey to you in human words something Heavenly that would wipe all those sad feelings away. I wish I could whisk you away, up Here with Me in Heaven, and show you the big scope of things, and how today is but a moment in time, and that all things will work together for good.

My darling loves, I will care for you. My greatest prayer for you right now is that you will not feel like this is a defeat. For what looks like a defeat on Earth is victory in the spirit. There is great rejoicing in Heaven for Jeremy's arrival, and he is becoming accustomed to his new life. So please, My dear ones, rejoice in his happiness and joy. He is your son and My son, and he is safely in My care

until it is My time for you to be with him again. *(End of excerpts of message from Jesus.)*

Written by Angela (VS, of Juan), USA: On January 11, Elkanah and Tamar's newborn baby, **Mariah**, went to be with the Lord, just 20 minutes after she was born. Five days before the baby was born, they learned that there were possible complications with Tamar's pregnancy. At that time, Tamar had toxemia, and was rushed to the hospital. Mariah's funeral was held on January 14.

Please pray for Elkanah and Tamar's encouragement through this heart-breaking experience, and also for Tamar's health, as she is confined to bed for two weeks for health reasons.

(Jesus:) Although you are sad and tears flow for your loss, My dear precious darlings, there is no need to weep for your little one, for she is with Me! She is resting Here on My bosom even now, and is calm and quiet and happy in My arms. She is receiving the most tender care, and is completely happy and whole. She is yours, My darlings; she is My gift of love to you, and she now awaits your arrival in My Heavenly Kingdom.

Now that I have called her Home again, do not look on it as if I have taken her from you, for she has only gone on before you! She is now in My courts as your ambassador, your intercessor, your comforter, a piece of your heart which has gone on to Heaven before you. *(End of excerpt of message from Jesus.)*

kidbits

Dominic Dean, born to **Sara and Francis** on November 23.
—England

Nicola Katie, born to **Jolena** on November 26.—Kenya

Kirstin, born to **Lauren and David** on November 27.—Germany

Keith Evan, 1st child, born to **Marie and Micah** on December 4.
—Mexico

Kaden Ethan, 3rd child, born to **Sara and Frank** on December 7.—USA
Natalia, born to **Pilar and Victor** on December 12.—Spain

tidbits

new CM disciples...

Rachel (30, Russian) joined in Russia.
Rose (18, Dutch) and child joined in Holland.

Emmanuel (25, Ghanaian) joined in Ghana.

Pray for finances for the boards!

By Mama and Peter

With the board vision set to become a reality very shortly, it's an exciting time for the Family, a time of progress, of change, of new projects and initiatives on the local level. We think—and hope and pray—the boards will be a great blessing to each of you and your Homes.

As the boards meet and come up with proposals to help the Family, there will probably be an increase in meetings, seminars, fellowships, workshops for Homes, educational resources, and many terrific benefits.

This will also mean an increase in expenses to support all these local endeavors, and we'd like to ask your help in this matter, dear Family, in praying in the necessary finances. If the boards are to operate as effectively as we all want them to and provide all the services they can, they must have the support they need and deserve. And you can each help provide this support through your prayers, calling on the power of the keys and claiming our Husband's marvelous supply.

In a new Letter coming your way very soon ("The Board Vision, Part 3," GN 983), the Lord said:

"I want the Family to believe that I am able to supply all that is needed according to My riches in glory, and to pray for it! Send out a worldwide prayer request and let the Family know that I want to supply the funds that are needed for the *Activated* follow-up program, the expansion of the Family, and the implementation of the board vision. Tell them I want to see believing faith through prayer and them putting feet to those prayers by believing and receiving the finances I wish to give, despite the seeming impossibility if you look at it in the flesh.

"Faith can move mountains, and there are mountains of finances simply waiting for your command in prayer! You have not because you ask not! Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and I will open the doors and pour out such an abundance of finances that it will more than meet the needs. Ask of Me and I will give you the heathen for your inheritance and the uttermost parts of the Earth for your possession."

So please do pray unitedly for the necessary funds that will finance the boards and help us all do our job better. Make it a daily prayer request for those "mountains of finances" awaiting your command as you ask and seek and knock. The Lord can do it—and He will! Thanks so much!

Anonymous SGA e-mail

Dear Family,

Peter and I love you so much. We pray the board workshops and first board meetings are going very well. This is a monumental time in our history, and we know the Lord is going to work wonders. We are supporting you all in prayer and calling on the keys of the kingdom for your inspiration, health, safety, fruitfulness, supply and protection.

As you know, the Lord said in the Convictions Versus Compromise series that there would be more apostates, more "stories" about us or WS that would test your faith, so it shouldn't be a surprise that there is an e-mail circulating that has raised some questions from various people. This e-mail consists of a letter from a group of anonymous SGAs who wrote to me demanding that I answer various allegations, many of which they gleaned from James Penn's second letter. I wrote a short response to these young people, which was sent back to them personally, to the anonymous e-mail address that they provided.

One of them has now taken it upon himself to send an e-mail to various Family members in different parts of the world that consists of the anonymous young people's letter to me, my response, and this young person's commentary on my response. We have received numerous complaints from Family members about this intrusion of their privacy, as many of them don't know this person who is sending the e-mail, and they wonder how he got their address.

There has been some speculation as to whether this letter is "legitimate" and why it is being sent the way it is. The answer is that yes, I wrote the short reply. One of the young people who wrote in is sending this around, not your area officers or Peter and me. This is by no means an official WS mailing.

This e-mail file is quite draining, as you have to wade through quite a bit of material from apostates' accusations, which is never inspiring. My letter doesn't really offer much new information; it's mostly saying the same thing that has been written in "None of These Things Move Me" GNs. Of course, Peter and I are not forbidding you to read the e-mail compilation if you receive it; you can if you want to. But when we prayed about it, the Lord said that He would prefer that you not deliberately waste your time or allow yourself, out of curiosity, to be dragged through all that negativity and those doubts again that have already been addressed by Peter and me.

God bless and keep you feeding deeply of the Word, so you can put on the Lord's mind and focus on the power! There is so much to do to win the world, let's get busy doing that and keep our eyes looking straight ahead, on the goal! We love you and are praying for you!

Much love in our Miracle-working Husband,
Mama

legal and media

EURCRO MEDIA COVERAGE,
NOVEMBER 2001

BOTSWANA – Ben, Meekness, Sam, and Sherri: A weekly newspaper has a very favorable slot for us in that it puts us alongside the Red Cross, SOS, Childline, and other well-known organizations (circulation: 250,000).

LIBERIA – Stephen, Maria, and Joan: On *DC101* radio we put reading/drama/music from the *Treasures* and other GP tools. We've heard good reports so far from people we've met on the streets who've listened to it, and people seem to like it (audience: 200,000).

MALAWI – Ben, Tirzah, and Marie: *The Nation* did a very favorable report explaining one of our recent projects. Coverage was given to our past achievements as well. The specific launching reported was our micro-loan scheme to set women's groups up with a small business to support themselves and the orphans in their community (circulation: 80,000).

NORWAY – Gideon and Lamb: *Dagbladet*, a weekly Saturday pull-out from Norway's largest circulation newspaper, covered the "Go On" conference with a front page, title, plus six pages on the inside. It was not very favorable, but could have been worse (circulation: 200,000).

(Editor's note: "Go On" is a non-Family organization that provides counsel and some practical help for young people who are making the adjustment from living in a religious community to mainstream society.)

REUNION ISLANDS – Isaac and Meekness: The anti-cult campaign is continuing in the media through vicious TV programs, though mainly using sex abuse arguments as that is what gets the most attention with the public it seems. What is amazing though (and what we're very thankful for!) is that the people on this island don't seem to really tune in so much to it.

UGANDA – Tina, Happy, Simon, and Celly: Six *NuBeat* shows per week aired this month makes 24 shows (reaching 8,000,000).

YUGOSLAVIA – Andrew, Miracle, and Samara: *RTK Radio Kosovo* and *RTV 21*, *TV Dukagjini* and *TV Peja* covered our show for children very favorably (circulation: 400,000).

ROMANIA – Dust and Diamond: *Monitorul*, one of the two major daily newspapers in this area, printed a favorable article about the playground we built at a public orphanage including an interview with Dust (circulation: 15,000).

NEW DEVELOPMENTS WITH REFLECTIONS

Dear Family,

The Lord has recently said He would like to lead us in some new avenues in our production and distribution of *Reflections*. It's exciting!

Here are some points to keep in mind about *Reflections*—along with the new thrust the Lord has asked us to share with you.

***A caution not to sell Reflections pages at this time.** The *Reflections* pages were originally put together as a devotional publication for those just getting started studying the Word. They were not intended to be used for raising support, but rather to be given to friends on a one-on-one basis, as they contain many articles not written by Family members, but by other writers. As much of the material is thus not our property, we do not have the right to copyright *Reflections*, or sell them for our own profit. So just a word of caution to those who do distribute them: While we can sell the posters, tapes, videos, Aurora products and other materials we either have originated or have permission to sell, this is not true of *Reflections*. Please be sure not to request financial recompense for them.

***The need for Family material in Reflections.** The Lord has said that because we will get more and more well known in the future (as per His promises in the GNs on miracles), He would like for the *Reflections* to contain much more Family material! As more and more people know of us, they will want to hear from us and learn from us.

So please, Family writers, can you help with this urgent need? We need bite-sized anecdotes, stories, little object lessons ranging

from 300 to 600 words which we can use in *Reflections*! They need to be written in language the GP will understand, and address the needs, concerns, and problems that the man on the street faces every day. Please ask the Lord to give you some little gems, carefully prayed through and written with His inspiration and guidance, that we can use in *Reflections*!

Then we will be able to copyright pages that are by the Family, which you can then collect donations for, and the Family will get the credit.

Note: Material is also needed for the Activated mags, as per the notice in Grapevine #80. If you write an article for the Activated mag, it can be longer than the Reflection-length articles. Thanks!

*** The Family copyright and Web address on the Reflections pages.** The Lord has said that He would like to use these pages to draw people to us, the Family, as we have so much to offer His sheep. He said:

It is My wish that you include more Family writings on these pages, so that you can copyright them, and be known in your own right as Christian writers. I will give the material, stories, examples, anecdotes—things that you can use to feed My sheep. I can do a lot to inspire My children with Heaven-sent items that you can use.

I wish for the Reflections readers to be led to the Family Web site, to the source, so that they can grow in the faith themselves, and also so that they can be of help to the Family. Many do not know the origin of the Reflections, and as such they do not help the Family worldwide. But as the Reflections are being used more and

more, I wish for My Family to receive the credit, and I wish for the pages to draw people unto you and not just be from a nameless source.

The approach you have had was good up to now, but I wish for you to take a new step by using Family-originated materials more, and then drawing people to the Family website. As you do this, I will bless.

Just as you have been led of Me in Reflections up to now, and they have borne fruit, even so they will bear greater fruit as they

bear the Family copyright, and as they lead the readers to the Family website.

The Lord has been the One who has led in putting together the *Reflections* pages, as each month we pray and ask the Lord what topics to cover, and then what material to use on the pages He has shown us to compile. It's been His

idea, His inspiration, and His doing all along. Now with the new approach He's asked us to take, we are excited by the promises that He has made of providing more material through you!

If you feel you have a gift of writing, if you feel the Lord is leading you to get stories or even short quotes that we can use in *Reflections*, please send them to "Reflections editors" at: ws@wsfamily.com. Stories and anecdotes are very well received by the GP reader; we have to stay away from items which are too preachy or too lesson-filled without a story to introduce it or explain it. People readily receive a story—then the lesson can be built from that. We know the Lord will give you wonderful ideas and material, as He said He would.

Thank you for your faithfulness, and for your help in answering this call from the Lord for Family material for *Reflections*. Thank you for receiving the anointing to reach and teach the masses in these times when His truth is so needed, and so sought after!

Love,
Your Reflections editor

help wanted

We, the Cambodia team, still need your support so we can keep our minds on the sheep and not on the funds. Please send your gifts to Tommy and Serena, in Phnom Penh, Cornerstone Project, KA 01.

Hi! My name is **Diamond**, I am an **SGA single mom of two**. My sons and I will be moving to Brazil very soon and would like to request your help. The Lord has wonderfully provided a large portion of the needed funds for the move, but we are still in need of about \$500. Here in Romania it is difficult to raise funds due to the economy, so I wanted to ask you if you would be able to help us with a donation, big or small towards our move. This would be greatly appreciated! Thank you so much for considering our request, and most of all for your prayers. You can write us at DmdRA@yahoo.com and we would love to send you more information about us, as well as a THANK YOU.

WS NEWS: YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Mama

On Christmas Day, when our Home got together to celebrate our wonderful Husband's birth and to praise Him for all that He has given us, I gave those in our Home a special assignment to ponder and hear from the Lord about. I thought you might want to do the same, so here is that suggestion for you, also:

Didn't you feel so richly blessed at Christmas by all the presents Jesus gave us? Not only does our wonderful Husband pour it on throughout the year, but He even goes out of His way to give us special gifts on His birthday. It's very rare for someone to give presents to others on their own birthday. But that's just how much He loves us! Jesus has given us His life—the greatest gift of all!—And then He just keeps giving gift after gift, day after day.

You've given Him your hearts and you've given your lives in service to Him, but I was thinking how much He would appreciate a special personal birthday gift from each of you. You know how much it touches you when someone goes out of their way to do something special for you that they know you will really like. Well, Jesus is the same, and for His birthday it's fitting that we should do something very special and "extra" for Him.

Why not ask Him in your personal P&P time, "What can I give You for a birthday present that will be special to You, something out of the ordinary, something that I don't normally give you, something that will make You very happy?"

The things that mean the most to our Husband are our love, our sacrifices, our giving to Him and to others. If you'll ask Him, He'll show you what He'd like for you to give Him for His birthday this year. Maybe it'll be to devote a certain time to praying for an important need, such as our young people who have left the Family, or to pray for souls to be won through *Activated*, or for our large families to find the help they need. There are so many things that Jesus would be thrilled to have your prayers for. Or maybe He will ask you to commit a portion of your time to helping someone in need—a single mom or a child who needs a little personal time. Or maybe He'll show you to spend some time each week with someone who is lonely—or write a letter to someone that He lays on your heart. So we can each ask the Lord, "What special thing can I do for You? Can I do something for You or for someone that is going to cost me a little bit in time or prayer or money?"

Jesus has given us so many gifts, such a wonderful life and so many

blessings. Just think of the many things the Lord has done for us. When you go out witnessing, you see how much you have compared to what others have. You see the wonderful health the Lord has given you. You see the wonderful friends and the fellowship you have. There's just so much that the Lord has given us that others don't have. He continues to heap blessings on us over and over and over. It's really true, what the Lord

says, that He's blessed us more than anyone else, as He daily loads us with benefits. His mercies are renewed every morning. Great is His faithfulness!

So can you try to do this as a special birthday gift to Jesus, since He's given us so much? Ask our Husband what He would like to receive from you, and make a promise to Him that you'll give Him a special gift—of your time and love—for His birthday this year. Okay?

CHRISTMAS PRAISE TIME IDEAS

Over the Christmas week, we used the following praise time ideas during our daily prayer and praise time. Feel free to adapt them and use them for variety in your praise times!

- 1 Serve a chilled drink or hot chocolate [depending on the climate]. Praise Me for everything to do with the Christmas season.
- 2 Fill a bag with small Christmas ornaments (miniature angel, a ribbon, a string of lights, a candle, etc.). Have each person pull an ornament out of the bag and praise Me for something that the ornament reminds them of.
- 3 Find some Christmas songs (on tape, CD, or MP3) in other languages. Have praise time listening to a different rendition of a familiar Christmas song.
- 4 Pass out strips of colored paper and pens. Each person writes down (about the person to their right), "Dear _____, I'm so thankful for you and for the way you..." Then pass it to the person the appreciation is about.
- 5 Pass out the words to Christmas songs, just phrases and choruses. People can read these words in praise to Me, and see them in a new light.

ideas & tips

Try an ad

BY SHAJJAD (OF KATIE), ROMANIA

You can place an advertisement in the local newspaper about the *Activated* magazines, using one of the icebreakers from the *Grapevine*. If you live in a foreign field, place the ad in English as well as the local language, and put an e-mail or GP phone number under the ad. Use a local paper so the ad fees are not so high.

christmas

MORE highlights 2001



People waiting to be served Christmas Dinner

Christmas CTP miracles

BY SEEK, MEXICO

This was our fifth year to host a Christmas Dinner for 3,000 people, but as the time rolled around we didn't feel like we had the time or personnel to do things the way we usually have, which meant contacting hundreds of people to help by donating different food items for the cakes, sandwiches, and fruit salad. Each local call here costs about 25 cents, and we make a couple of thousand in preparation for this Christmas dinner.

So, we went to the Lord in prayer and prophecy, claiming the power of the keys. The Lord spoke clearly, saying that this year it would be easier and we would receive larger donations from a few people. This was a big encouragement and we proceeded with our Christmas outreach.

One day Manantial and I were going to the office of a man who had bought CDs the year before for all those who worked in his office. This was an important appointment as this elderly man works for one of the wealthiest families in Latin America. When praying about the visit, the Lord told us to ask him for 50 kilos of ham and 50 kilos of cheese. When we arrived the man was very nice and called everyone into his office to meet us and told them about our work, and

bought CDs for them once again.

Then we told him about the Christmas dinner and our need for ham and cheese. He immediately picked up the phone and made an appointment for us with someone upstairs and accompanied us to the meeting. The younger man we met was in charge of donations for this large corporation and he agreed right away to donate the ham, and in the process told us that if we were able to get together a soccer team from the local orphanage where we

in a freezer space for a couple of months to have the 3,000 pieces of cake that were needed. One friend at the market donated 30 cases of papaya for the fruit salad. So with these donations from a few large donors, we were able to get what was normally supplied by a couple of hundred people. The Lord wonderfully kept his Word, made it easy, and led us to large donors this year.



The coach of the soccer team where Jason and Cedar's boys play soccer ... he and another coach served the juice

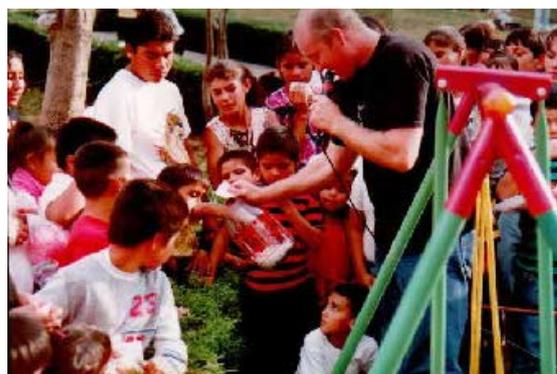
The miracle of the loaves and fishes

Just before the Christmas dinner, Jessica, who was processing the clothes and toys, told us that we had 2,300 gifts. However, last year 3,000 people attended, so she asked what we should do. After a few suggestions we took it to the Lord in prayer and prophecy. Mercy received a prophecy that we shouldn't worry, that the Lord

would supply, and it would be like the Lord feeding the 5,000, and we would take up extra at the end, like the 12 baskets of bread and fish.

Each year, social services and a government organization help us to distribute the tickets for this event, which has worked very well for four years. But when visiting the government organization this year, the man in charge seemed to be more politically minded. We sensed that he might be concerned about our ever-growing popularity in the community.

It seemed that he didn't distribute the tickets this year, and about half the people we expected showed up. Since we had extra food and gifts, we let everyone go through the line another time and then another, and then another, and they kept getting in line until we were giving every member of each family a few gifts each, to try to give out all the gifts,



Woolworth donated some larger, more expensive toys and we decided to have a raffle for those. Each person's ticket had a raffle number. Jason let the children draw the numbers out of the jar.

work, they would buy the uniforms. We returned to the elderly man's office and he was happy to pray with us to receive Jesus.

A few days later we wrote a thank you and included a Christmas *Conéc-tate* and left it with his secretary. Before we drove away she came out to the car to tell us that her boss wanted

to see us. As we walked in, he told us that he had confirmed with a large company in Mexico City to pay for the 50 kilos of cheese. We were flipped!

Later we contacted a friend who has a friend who owns a very prosperous company, and he agreed to donate 2,500 pieces of bread. Another man agreed to make 600 tortas. A large chain agreed to donate a tree and 1,000 pieces of cake. A supermarket donates pastries twice a week, which we saved

but we still couldn't give them all away! Finally Jessica suggested that we should stop and save the clothes and toys to give away at another event.

Each person who attended got 4-5 gifts each, and there were 1,500 in attendance, and we only had 2,300 gifts to start with! It was a miracle!

After the dinner, we loaded up two vans with food and gifts and went to a poor area and gave them out. We still couldn't hold everything that needed to be given away, so the next day we loaded up another van with the extra fruits, vegetables, and 50 roasted chickens and gave them to families in time for them to have them for Christmas dinner.

We all marveled at what the Lord had done in answer to claiming the power of the keys.

Christmas joy broadcast to millions

BY ABE AND MERCY, TAIWAN

"Have you ever had people come to your hospital on Christmas?" we asked the lady from the social department that was showing us around the large government hospital. The building was rather old and somewhat depressing, even though the staff tried their best to keep it clean and bright.

"Well, a few years ago someone dressed up as Santa Claus and passed out candy," she answered.

Hmmm, we thought to ourselves, it looks like we came to the right place.

A few days before Christmas we set up our simple sound system in the hospital's main entrance hall and our children did their best to bring some Christmas joy to this dreary place. To our surprise, the response was overwhelming. The audience was very excited, shouting "encore" after each



(L to R:) Edmond and twins Elsa and Eldora sock it to the prisoners!



The article in the *United Daily News*

song. They turned off the big TV, parents brought their sick children with their trailing IV drips, old folks in wheel chairs, doctors and nurses, everybody joined in.

Though this is a predominantly Buddhist country, everyone wholeheartedly prayed the salvation prayer with our children. The day before we had contacted a few of our media friends. *TTV* (a big cable TV station) and *United Daily News* (one of the biggest daily papers) sent reporters and they loved the enthusiastic response of the audience. Later that day *TTV* aired our show twice, reaching the whole country and the next day *UDN* featured an article on us with a big color family photo.

A few days later the TV reporter called us to tell us that they had received many good reactions to our news clip and that several people wanted to get in touch with us. Mercy took the chance to witness to her over the phone and she prayed to receive Jesus. Afterwards she told Mercy that in her job she rarely meets people like us, who are so simple, yet rich in spirit and caring for others, even toward a stranger like her.

It was December 25, 10 A.M. We were getting ready for our last Christmas show at another hospital. It was the usual hectic scene—fixing hair, getting costumes ready, packing wires and mikes, etc.

Ring! Ring! There goes the phone.

"Hello, this is *Kaohsiung*

Cable Television. We saw your newspaper article and would like to do a program on your family. We are interested in how you bring happiness to others. We think that's a wonderful sample to society. Do you have any performances coming up?"

"Well, yes," we stammered, "we will be at St. Joseph's Hospital in two hours and that's our last program this Christmas."

"Okay, we'll be there and we'd like to do some interviews with you."

Off we went to do our program—a special appreciation show for the doctors and nurses. Again the audience was very enthusiastic, clapping and shouting. In the middle of the show the TV crew rolled in, filming everything in sight. They came just as Mercy was giving a short speech of appreciation to all the doctors and nurses for their tireless efforts to help people. Everyone was so touched when she shared how our premature twins were delivered at this very same hospital.

Afterwards a friend told us how moved she was to see the children sing some local songs so wholeheartedly and sincerely. With tears in her eyes she said, "Don't worry about giving them professional training. I know many good dancers and they all fall into the trap of pride. They are professional on stage, but they lack spirit and love in their performance. But that's what your children have, they have a strong power that enables them to give from their hearts, and to touch the hearts of the audience."

Meanwhile the TV crew filmed short interviews with each of the children. The cameraman followed us everywhere, even all the way into our car, filming how we pack everybody into our little van.

"We'd like to come to your house tomorrow and film some scenes of your home life and talk some more. Is that okay?"

Gulp! We had never had reporters come to our house before, so this required some desperate prayer. But the Lord told us, "Do not look at their profession. Look at their soul. Look at them as sheep that I brought to you to show them My love."

In spite of the Lord's assurances we were rather nervous, but we did our best to show personal interest in the interviewer and her cameraman. One week later the program

(Check out the article published in a law enforcement magazine about Abe, Mercy, and their nine children! It's on the MO site! <http://familymembers.com/newswire/article.php3?nwid=547>)

was aired on our local cable station. It was about ten minutes long and focused on the fact that our nine children speak fluent Chinese and that we live and work together in unity in order to serve others and train our children in this way, something almost unheard of in today's society. Our show was on

12 times in the course of one week, viewed by more than a million people.

The day after the first showing Mercy called the TV reporter to thank her for her good editing job, and ended up having an hour-long conversation with her. At the end of the conversation, she got saved. She told

Mercy that there was something special about our children, that she felt love from us during the interviews and was deeply touched inside. A few days later she sent us nine presents, one for each child and a card that said, "You are the most warm-hearted family I ever met and interviewed."



Manger scene with Jonathan and Amy's children's show



Tommy with the girls



The teen singing group

Sao Paulo's 10th annual Christmas dinner

BY TOMMY, BRAZIL

The Lord did a miracle this Christmas and we had our 10th annual area Christmas dinner for friends, contacts and Active members. We have seen the growth in attendance with the passing of the years from 45 in the first year (1992) to over 300 this year (a yearly growth rate of about 5 to 10%). Although the growth has been slow in this huge and work-dominated industrial city, it has been

steady! The children of Jonathan and Amy's Home did a beautiful presentation, as well as the children from Juan and Eden and Tommy and Joanie's Home, together with several Active members' children.

Once again this year, our Active members did a tremendous job doing the behind-the-scenes work: finances, reception, decorations, sound, lights, etc. Without them, we couldn't do it! Our new friends are always impressed as they can barely tell who's who, as everyone cooperates and it's just one big happy Family! The Christmas music by Chris, Felipe, Joanie, KK, Eden, Bernardo and the band was

beautiful! Thanks to all who contributed and provisioned!

As the event grows each year, we need to expand the staff, find bigger restaurants and so it goes! The expanded *Activated* Family is here to stay. We also had a Christmas pageant at our Church of Love which was a beautiful "side-by-side" effort!—Over 90 attended! We read the "Christmas Praises 2001" phrases, put them up on a big screen with the data show projector and had everyone participate! It was beautiful! We then played the video of the songs that KK so beautifully edited and it was like being at the Christmas dinner all over again.

Christmas stand in a five-star hotel!

BY DAVE, ANA, AND ELÍAS, COLOMBIA

A friend, one of the managers of a five-star hotel, offered to let us have a stand of our Christmas materials set up in his hotel every Sunday during

the month of December. Through this avenue, we were able to get out over 100 CD Christmas cards. We also were able to witness to many potential people that now want to visit our Home. We witnessed a lot to a girl that had a stand next to ours, and she is now a potential disciple!

won 3,092 souls to the Lord!

After we finished all the shows, we held a meeting to show them our appreciation, to share testimonies and victories, and we gave each one a prophecy and a gift for their dedication to the Lord!

Two of them are daughters of Elias: Paula and Cristina who participate actively with us throughout the year in our youth ministry and CTPs. Paula invited a friend, Laura, who also sang and danced beautifully. Also, a doctor, Yvonne, decided to help too and she sang the lead in two of our songs. After work each day, she continued working with us to perform our Christmas shows. She said that it was the best Christmas that she ever had!



The girls performing

Christmas shows with our Active members

Since we have only one senior teen (Kesia) in our Home, and one YA boy (Juan) from another Home who helped us during Christmas, we invited our young Active members to participate in our Christmas show! It was beautiful to see them shining for Jesus! We did 25 presentations and

Merry Christmas from China

BY FILLY* (OF MICK), CHINA

Being “great with child,” I may have been perfect to act as Mary for the nativity play, but we lacked personnel to put on a performance. I was unable to do as much as I wanted as I was experiencing some minor contractions. So we came to the conclusion of just having a simple “tea party” to invite our friends and neighbors to celebrate this beautiful day together.

To our surprise, most people, especially our neighbors, confessed that it was the first Christmas party they had ever attended. And it was the first time they realized the real meaning of Christmas. Mike was able to explain the Nativity scene and the Christmas tree with the decorated gifts under it. Then he read from the Bible passage of Luke 2:1-20 to emphasize the real history behind the

[*ALIASES USED]

birth of our Savior. One of our Chinese sisters read in Mandarin for the guests. Toward the end, all our neighbors and other friends asked to take the songbooks home to study the words of the Christmas songs.

Penny, the 14-year-old girl who received her new (artificial) leg, came with her mother and younger sister. They were among the first that came and they stayed till everyone else had left. Penny’s mother said, “I know we are very blessed to know the Lord. Without Him, my Penny wouldn’t be walking today. Without Him I wouldn’t have the many friends I have today, either. Thank you for showing me Jesus. I do not know how to read because I have never been to school. Do you think I can learn to read so that I can learn more about Jesus from your Bible?” Arrangements have been made that, once a week, a Chinese sister will be coming to teach Penny’s mother to read, so she can read the Bible on her own in the near future.

We gave their family a Bible and the *Jesus* movie, which they were very thankful for. Penny’s sister couldn’t help but stand right in front of the nativity scene and gaze at Baby Jesus for a long, long time. Her mom pointed out to me that she had been there three times and each time she seemed to be in her own world when looking at Baby Jesus. Then this little girl noticed a comic storybook of the “Life of Jesus” in Chinese, which was left at the bottom of the shelf. Seeing her interest, we gave her the book, and she hugged it dearly as if she had found a great treasure, and a great treasure indeed she had found!

Out of the 30 visitors we had, only four of them are old friends who have been coming year after year for the party. The rest are first timers and all of them were thrilled for the opportunity given them to know the truth about Christmas. They took home a print-out of Luke chapter one, which we introduced as an historical account of the First Christmas.

Merry Christmas from Cambodia

BY TOMMY, SERENA, JOHN M, AND EZRA, CAMBODIA

It all started when we had our Christmas outreach meeting to make ourselves some goals to reach this Christmas. We were quite limited having only two adults, one senior teen, and a JETT. We thought, *With so few people, let's not try to shoot too high and kill ourselves trying.* But with the Lord’s help we were able to do above and beyond what we had the faith for at the beginning. For example:

Souls – Our goal: 100. We won: 545!

Christmas tracts – Our goal: 10,000. We distributed: 20,347!

Posters – Our goal: Maybe we can get out some after we’re done with our tracts. We got out: 2,667!

CTPs – Our goal: 10. Done: 27!

Christmas parties for the orphanages (by the orphans themselves which we trained to sing Christmas carols, dance, do the Nativity skit and lead their peers to the Lord in their own language) – Our goal: 2. Done: 4!

Christmas Reflections – Our goal: None. We distributed: 4,980 pages!

Christmas CD cards – In a very Buddhist country with very few foreign Christian businesses, we thought we were shooting high with 150. But we prayed that we wouldn’t have any left. On December 19 we still had 52 left, but we were so busy provisioning for the orphanages that we stopped trying to get them out. Instead, the Lord took over and one man who had bought two a few days earlier phoned us asking to buy 100!

Road Trips – Our goal: 4 (one each week to the various provinces). We ended up going on: 7!

The flood of toys

BY EDEN, FOR THE BRIDE HOME, ROMANIA

For our team, this Christmas was like putting together a beautiful puzzle with lots of pieces. By giving us a new house and new landlords, the Lord was putting His puzzle together, since there was more to it than met the eye.

In early December we got a phone call from Danzas in Germany—a well-known European transport company who heard about us from one of our local contacts. They explained to us that together with *Deutsche Post* and *ZDF* (a German TV station) they would like to organize a big gathering

of toys in Berlin for the children in Romania. They needed to work closely with people in Romania who they could trust and who knew of needy children, since they didn’t want the toys to end up at the wrong destination. There were many organizations that offered their help, but in the long run they chose us, since we had good reference from our contact.

In Bucharest a large Christmas show was organized in one of the country’s largest indoor areas, where we were asked to invite the poor children who would really enjoy the toys. More than 3,000 children participated in this event. The City Hall in Bucha-

rest got involved, helping with the transportation of the children, and the mayor also attended.

It was a great event and more than 3,000 beautiful toys arrived in the arms of the little ones. And miraculously, the Lord worked it out for the Family to have few minutes on stage! “What Can I Give Him?” sung by our little Christina reverberated in the hall, touching people’s hearts and making them think about Jesus. God bless Liz, Cristi, Abe, and Daniel who came to help us with this project.

But the story is not done! There were 3,000 children who received toys, but the amount of toys that ▶

came into the country was ... 25,000! And these weren't just any old toys. They were beautiful stuffed animals, roller blades, electronic cars, train sets, etc., worth well over \$100,000. Most of the toys were brand new!

We didn't know where to store all the leftovers. Many people with "good intentions" offered to take them, but



Christina (of Paul and Maria)

we knew that it was our responsibility since Danzas had trusted us with them. We needed to distribute them to the right kids. As we did our part, the Lord did a miracle which our landlady played a big part in, as she gave us a big storage place to keep the toys.

It really was an incredible story: We gave toys to all the kids that are

on our CTP projects. In addition, lots of people called, asking us if we could give some to their institutions. It was like a "flood of toys" descended on Bucharest, and with our wonderful Husband's help, they arrived to poor children along with a witness of Jesus' love. The toys benefited children all over the country.



Liz (SGA), Ana, Elisabeth and Christina singing for 5,000 - All Romanian TV Channels and ZDF were filming



Christian unloading for the Christmas party



Romanian Police guarding the 10 vans and TIR truck full of toys which just arrived from Germany (25,000 toys)

Our Christmas charity party

BY THE MANNA HOME, JAPAN

We held *Side by Side International's* annual Christmas charity party at the Westin Hotel in Tokyo. We didn't get as good a discount as previous years, but we heard from the Lord and decided to have it by faith. Most of the refreshments and all the printing were provided by our contacts. Our flower shop friends donated a beautiful flower arrangement for each table.

We had over 150 visitors attend, including the ambassador of the Republic of Botswana and his wife, the deputy ambassador of Cambodia, and the former ambassador of Cambodia.

The theme for this year's party was "Peace on Earth" concerning world events. After the opening speech, one of the Family's friends, Mr. M., (a high-ranking Buddhist priest) led everyone in the prayer of Mother Teresa. During the prayer, Jerry played beautiful Christmas songs in the background. This man used to be a well-known peacemaker and received Jesus four years ago, and later his whole family got saved.

Following the prayer, Dr. NakaMats gave the speech for the *kampai* (toast). It was his first time to attend any of our events, and he mentioned in his speech how impressed he was that a Buddhist priest had offered a Christian prayer—that it must be

a new invention! Everyone had a good laugh. Dr. NakaMats is a famous inventor: He invented the floppy disk, among a total of 3,000 inventions (more than Edison), and has received many honors and awards. The U.S. Science Academic Society selected him as one of the five greatest scientist in history.

Next the former ambassador of Cambodia gave a speech, and then we introduced the letter from Mr. Hata, the former prime minister of Japan. It says: "[After] the incident that happened in the States, Japan is asked to help to build the trust between countries. We must make the effort and help so that the people in Afghanistan can live in peace as soon as possible. ▶

Peace, that is what everyone seeks. Everyone from the Family volunteer project, *Side by Side International*, is making a daily effort to heal the wounds in Cambodia from the war and give people hope and encouragement. Your work has been bearing lots of fruit and is helping bring peace in the world. I admire your work and pray that the coming New Year will be a wonderful year for you.”

After giving a brief summary of our work, the music show by *Heart to Heart* and Jerry began. Towards the end of the show, *Heart to Heart* sang “I love Japan.” Ezra explained how they love Japan so much. He also mentioned that although the economy is going down and Japan is having a hard time, now is the chance for Japan to reach out to others, because as you give, it always comes back to you. Everyone listened very intently and then applauded.

Jerry then introduced his wife, Margie, and explained how they also love Japan and had seven of their children in Japan. He announced their move to Mexico. He then sang “Change the World” in Japanese. He was followed by Ezra, who led everyone in “Silent Night.”

Timothy gave the closing speech, which brought tears to people’s eyes. At the end Yuka (MC) led everyone in the salvation prayer. The Lord’s Spirit really punched through and it was wonderful. We were able to get some *Activated* subscriptions as well!

Here are some testimonies about our visitors:



A group shot of Family and friends at the event

One of our contacts brought several of his friends who didn’t know much about us. One of them was grumpy from the very beginning—first because he had to wait until we found him a seat, and then because he didn’t like anything to do with religion. As the party went on, he saw all the other guests enjoying themselves and having a wonderful time. He determined to resist this spirit of joy and said to himself: “I will not change my heart.” Towards the end of the event we led all the visitors in the Salvation prayer. Afterwards, he came to Tim all excited, saying: “I can’t believe it! I have a new start. I am a new person! I can be sweet to others now! Unbelievable, this party—it must be that God is here!” His three friends testified how he had been so rebellious, and that now he completely changed!

One of our friends who sat with Mr. Sekine (a friend who is bound to a

wheelchair, and cannot speak, so uses a computer to communicate) wrote to us after the party: “During your final song, Mr. Sekine was singing! That showed the power of God clearly.”

The wife of the Botswanan ambassador said during the party, “This is the best party I’ve attended! Everything is so perfect and relaxing. I am enjoying it so much. I would like to attend every one of your parties!”

One of the hotel managers who was organizing the party got saved during the time we were setting up. He wasn’t planning to stay, but he ended up staying till the very end as he enjoyed it so much!

Many thanks to Hiromi, Crystal, and Rejoice who helped with the reception. Three of our Active members helped to man the tool tables. Thanks also to Johannes and Lydia, Jerry and Margie, Ezra and Mary, Philip, Niki, Yuka, and Lynn!

A Christmas CTP to remember

BY CARLOS AND GLORIA MARIA, MEXICO CITY

A call from the Army

The night before Christmas our Home got a call from the local army base to notify us that all things were ready. Several squadrons of soldiers had been on cooking duty for two days preparing the food for an estimated 10,000 Christmas meals to be given at our yearly Christmas CTP for the poor at Mexico City’s largest plaza, El Zócalo. This was the second year the Army had agreed to donate their personnel and cooking facilities to prepare the charity meal. Over the years the amounts of food to prepare

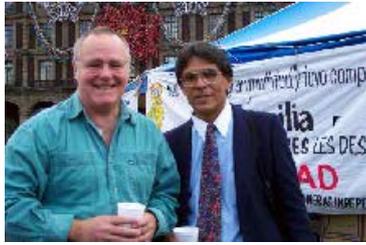


Sammy and Robin in the serving line

has grown to such colossal proportions that only an army can now handle the cooking necessary to feed thousands of the poor and needy of Mexico on this special event.

Christmas morning—El Zócalo

It’s early Christmas Day and a couple of moving trucks are rolling on to the Zócalo plaza to unload tables, thousands of plates, cups, three tons ▶



of fruit, and other supplies that will be needed for the super soup line scheduled to start at 10:30 A.M. Preparations for this CTP began in early November and seven tons of food have already been donated for the event.

As the excitement mounted, vans of all sorts drove up bringing dozens of local Family members and others from around the county—wild and wooly workers ready to work hard to make the Christmas CTP a reality. An army truck has also arrived and soldiers are carting in all the food containers, steaming hot, ready to serve. Today's menu is rice, beans, stew, chili sauce, sweet bread, coffee, an orange, a banana, and a glass of water. The spiritual menu was Christmas posters and tracts, of which 12,000 in all were given out.

The tortilla bean meal miracle!

This year we weren't able to get any bread for the Zócalo CTP and we didn't know what we were going to give in its place. A couple of days before the event however, we were invited to put in a plug for the Zócalo CTP on *Radio Acir*, so we asked for tortillas—any amount would be well received. The very next day a sweet man called us and said he was very interested in what we were doing to help others and he offered to bring 100 kilos of tortillas and his portable stove with gas tank and all to serve the tortillas hot to go along with the beans and stew at the special occasion. Wow! This was definitely

the tortilla bean meal miracle! We had calculated it would have required at least 400 kilos of tortillas for 10,000 people, but somehow the tortillas kept being served and didn't run out for most of the day!

The good news!

Reaction from Gerardo, news reporter for a major national TV station: "On Christmas Day we were on the lookout for a newsworthy event. We noticed some activity at the Zócalo and I asked a police officer what the commotion was all about. The officer informed me that a Christian group was going to give out free food, and when I noticed that it was not just a donut or cookies that were being given, but full meals with rice, stew, beans and coffee, I thought, *This is good news!* I called my coordinator and clued him on what was happening here and that this could make for a good documentary on charity for the evening newscast. Christmas Day is when we have the highest ratings cause everyone's at home watching TV."

Soon after, this TV network sent their mobile unit and they were filming and televising live most of the morning and afternoon. Later this friendly reporter approached us to let us know that he would be willing to televise any of our future events if we let him know ahead of time. He was very happy about us giving free food and he was hugging us and telling us how amazing it was that we that we could do this. Interestingly enough, we'd sent an invitation to his station informing them of the festivity, but for some reason they had not received it—but the Lord wanted this to get publicity so He worked it out Himself anyway! This day TV *Azteca* also covered the event along with a cable network and *Galavision* TV, which transmits to the States and South America. Nine of the national newspapers also sent their reporters and the next day these news agencies displayed beautiful pictures of Family members dishing out food to the poor, and several included inspiring articles on the charity dinner with quotes saying that the "love of God" inspired the free Christmas meals for the poor.

The story of how it all started

(Maria:) It was 1994 when I returned from Spain after my father

went to be with the Lord. I arrived in Mexico broken-hearted because of the events of that month and I wanted to get my mind on other things. I told the Lord I wanted to do something special for Him and others—something meaningful and worthwhile.

It was then that I remembered reading something in the newspaper about a small group of people giving out food to the needy at a park on Christmas Day. When I shared this with Carlos and the vision of doing the something similar, he got very excited and we started praying about the idea and asking for a confirmation. The Lord showed us that the best gift we could give Him at Christmas was to give to others, and we got the verse: “Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me” (Mathew 25:40). The Lord showed us that if we did this He would turn it into a wonderful testimony of His love for many and we later we got that we should do it at the Zócalo.

The Zócalo, you could say, is the physical and spiritual heart of Mexico City because many go there to voice their requests, their visions, their problems or political stand, etc. Even when people come from far places to be heard, they choose the Zócalo as their platform to echo their message.

We shared this vision with some of the other Family members in the area and everyone thought it was a good idea. Shortly afterwards we made the final decision to do our first Christmas CTP at this plaza and the goal was to serve 1,000 free meals! That seemed to us a staggering amount of food at the time. With the help of several full-of-faith brethren like Ben and Ruth and others, we got busy making calls to companies asking for the donated goods to make this first CTP possible, and the food donations started to come in. Before we knew it we were driving to the Zócalo on Christmas Day to begin our first CTP for the poor. (This was all by faith as we still didn't have everything we needed.)

The area teens had prepared a special Christmas dance and songs, but when we arrived at the Zócalo we got discouraged as the sun was so hot it seemed to be melting our food and we didn't even have a tent or sound equipment for the singing group. It

then dawned on us that another Christian show group was present at the plaza and they had big tents and a stage and all that wonderful sound equipment that we didn't have.—It was time to call on Jesus so we prayed desperately.

Just then, one of their representatives walked up and we had some friendly chatter for a few minutes. Soon, however, this person discovered we had a show group and no stage, and food to give out that needed to be stored in a shady place, so he said, “You have food to give and a show group to perform and no stage or tents, I, on the other hand, have a stage and equipment and tents and no show (his clowns and show group never showed up), so why don't we team up and do something together for the poor on this Christmas day?” Wow! Such a testimony of how the Lord will bless abundantly if we take one step for Him!

From then on, every year the event has continued to grow and from giving 1,000 plates of food, the Lord brought the increase to 2,000, then 5,000 and now 10,000! Well, now we're at the point that if we were to try and squeeze all the food to cook for such great amounts of people into our kitchen, it would fill the entire kitchen top to bottom and still overflow—so what's the answer? The answer for cooking for an army of people was to ask the army to help us cook it, of course!

In a vision the Lord gave us of this CTP, we saw a bright light ►



PHOTO CAPTION NUMBERS

1	6	14	19
	7	15	
2	8	16	20
	9	17	
3	10	18	21
	11	See next page for captions	
4	12		
5	13		

coming out of the Zócalo, and then a lot of little lights started to lighten the horizon all over the country. This year other Homes in Guadalajara, Monterrey, Morelia, Matamoros, Puebla, etc., are also letting their little light shine with their own food CTPs for the poor on Christmas and Kings Day!

There is also a fulfillment of how God said He was going to use this as a testimony to all the nation. This year, with all the coverage on both national and international news media, we've reached an estimated 203,000,000 people through our mass witness!

(Note: Read one of these newspaper article transcripts on the MO site, at: <<http://familymembers.com/newswire/article.php3?nwid=555>>)

Christmas in Madagascar

BY DOMINIC AND MARIE, PEDRO AND LILY, MADAGASCAR

Our small team was able to distribute toys, clothes, drinks and snacks to several poor families, and did shows almost daily with our kids, who in turn won over 320 souls. We gave out all the French Christmas CD cards and *Christmas to Remember* books that we had on hand.

The most inspiring event was working together with the one and only other Home on the island, dear Paul, Charity and Constanza, who, God bless them, have poured a lot into setting up a local association and give their all to help the poor people here.

CTPs: Their two children teamed up with ours for most of our shows and we performed for their Home's CTP. They distributed toys and served meals to over 300 poor children and taught them how to perform to our songs. Our favorite program was for the teenage reform home where they teach weekly Bible classes. After a special meal and distribution of clothes, these young people thoroughly enjoyed the program, danced with us and in gratitude at the end sang for us some rock 'em sock 'em Malagasy songs at the top of their lungs.

Activated: In the beginning of December, we held a Christmas meeting for our Active members, to give them the vision to do their best for

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Paz (of Alex) serving some fresh fruit donated by our area contacts
2. Eric (6, of Dust and Ahlai) helping with the fruit
3. Evaristo, Jono, and Elsa passing out Christmas posters
4. The food line stayed like this all day from 10:30 A.M. till 8:30 P.M.
5. Joni (of Vas) helping with the clean up
6. (L-R) Ben, Benny, Gabe, Serena, and Gabe
7. (L-R:) Jon, Eric, Renee, Chris, and Stacy
8. (L-R:) Danny, Chris, Ahlai, Miguel, Natty, and Serena
9. Dust and Ben at the Zócalo 2001
10. Clara, Natty, and Spring (with baby Kenneth) distributing shoes and clothing to the needy
11. (L-R:) Serena, Julie, Stacy
12. Ahlai serving water to the thirsty
13. SGA Stacy getting roscas (Christmas sweet bread) ready for serving
14. An old man getting his plate
15. Jono and Stacy in the serving line
16. French Pheobe in the serving line
17. Children enjoying their Christmas meal
18. Susanna (of David) personal witnessing at the Zócalo
19. Poor lady kneeling to eat
20. Poor man in wheelchair receiving Christmas dinner
21. Ben being interviewed by Mexican national TV



Our Christmas meeting with Activated members

Jesus this Christmas. About 30 people came and they all left with stacks of tracts to distribute.

Mid-December, we also held a DF Christmas meeting unitedly with the other Home at the Hilton (who graciously gave us a free hall) to wish a Merry Christmas to our local friends and contacts and show them our appreciation for all their help. Most of our Active members also brought some of their friends. A total of 120 people came. Then we held a candlelight service for our Active members—their very first ever. It was very touching to hear their precious words of dedication to the Lord. We were also eager to hear what they had done for Jesus this Christmas. Below are some of their testimonies:

(Solo, DJ for a radio station:) After my Christmas radio program where I

included the *Reflections* you gave me, some people wrote in and said how much they appreciated the Christmas message and how it gave a whole new meaning to their celebrations.

I brought a little Chinese boy to your Christmas program and he was totally flipped out. He told me, "I didn't know that Jesus was real! For me, Christmas has always been a pine tree and presents, but it's the first time I see what really happened at Christmas, how Jesus came to be with us, and how He is still alive today. I also learned that you can dance for Him." This little Chinese boy gave his heart to Jesus that day, and he was utterly thrilled by the whole program.

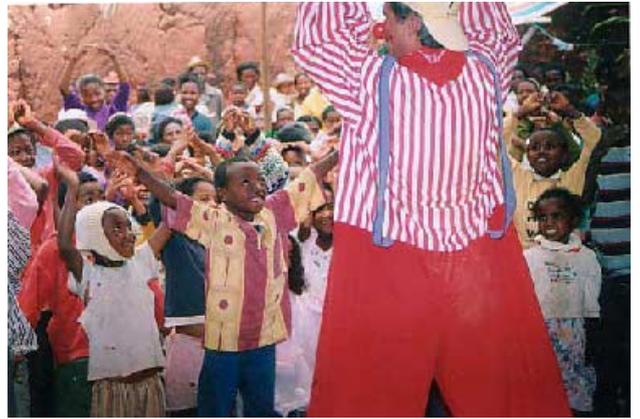
(Nerina:) I distributed all the tracts you gave me and I prayed with many people to receive Jesus this Christmas. When I gave out tracts,

many people would comment how incredible it was that in this evil world, God would love us so much. They would tell me of the misery of their life and how hopeless they felt, until they read this Christmas tract. They shared how they could see things in a different light now and they felt the strength to go on living and to trust Jesus to help them.

(Misa, 18:) I distributed all the tracts you gave me in my university, and my prayer for this New Year is to be able to witness and to win many souls for Jesus, and also for the rest of my family to get to know Jesus.

(Annick, mother of 3:) The Lord did a miracle of healing for me this Christmas. For months I have been sick with a painful womb infection. After you prayed for me in the beginning of December, the pains continued, so I had an appointment with the doctor. But the night before

the appointment, I had a dream (and I never dream) where the doctor was turning his back on me and telling me that there was nothing he could do for me, because Jesus had already healed me. The next day, something came up and I was not able to see the doctor. But the following week, I went for some tests, and when scrutinizing my scan, the doctor was perplexed. He told me I had a hole of 7 x 2 cm in my tube, but that the infection was gone. He said that in my condition, it was totally impossible to be walking about and living a normal life like I had been, and that this type of infection can normally only be removed by surgery. He was totally puzzled, and simply



Malagasy children following Pedro's motions

prescribed some medication to help the hole to close, but said that I was healed. Hallelujah!

We distributed 8,000 copies of this little Christmas tract, and we found out that some journalist, who must have gotten a copy, read it on TV, with beautiful slides of Madagascar and classical background music.

WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE BOARD VISION

By Isaac (24), Latvia

The new Board vision is just what the Family needs if you ask me! That's one thing that is so great about the Family—when something isn't working just right and needs change, we're not afraid to get in there and rearrange the structure until all is up and running to its full capacity.

Couple in South Africa

We have just finished reading "The Board Vision" as a Home and initially I was tempted to wonder how we were going to manage to fit this in to our already busy schedules. I am very inspired by it now as there are definitely many areas I feel that can benefit from the many talented people in the Family. Both my husband and I are general plodders who seem to find it harder to get things rolling, although our hearts are in the right place, and we do want to follow all the latest moves. Practically speaking, we are just not one of those super-talented couples who seem to get so much done. We try to be faithful with our outreach, and follow up, and make sure that our kids are getting the schooling and training they need, and by the time we are finished with all that, it doesn't

seem very flashy or showy.

We look forward to getting more input and help from others who are gifted in these different areas in the hopes that we ourselves can learn more and then hopefully accomplish more for the Lord. God bless all those who worked and prayed about this change, we are all going to benefit so much from it. And our shepherds should have a bit more of a reprieve from the myriad of problems they have had to face till now.

By Josh Beloved, Japan

YES! It sounds very inspiring. After years of trying to improve in all areas of the Home, often with the feeling of going at it alone, it will be great to have a more unified vision with the rest of the Family. When we've tried to work together, in the past, it was always inspiring for all involved. Everyone would always say, "We should do more of this!" But, alas, we usually found ourselves back to our own Home needs and visions. So, having something like the Board vision that will cause us to have more unity, more working together, and more shoulders to lean on, as well as inspiring us to help the next guy. I think it's going to be a real boon!

Also, thanks for painstakingly preserving our basic Charter rights. God bless all those who worked on this Board vision!

By Annie Grace, Mexico

Wow! This is great! We're so excited to read about the Board vision and how it can work! We can hardly wait! Already our load feels lighter just reading about the potential help this will be for the whole Family. There's so much hope and encouragement here for better and quicker solutions for the problems and burdens we face day to day. And by seeing how we can be part of the solutions—by giving suggestions, knowing who to contact, and offering our talented personnel to help—it's wonderful. It really is very encouraging!

By Daniela, USA

We have been reading and studying the Board vision GNs. The picture of the structure with the pillars and the crossbeams is fairly easy to understand, but it will take us a while to really understand all the aspects, especially the responsibilities, etc. We are really thankful though for this new change in the Family, and it sounds like it is already making a difference.

What did FAST 2001 ? do for you ■

A marked day

SGA FEMALE, USA

The Lord blessed us with a very inspiring Fast time. Our meeting the night before was a Loving Jesus inspiration, where we took turns reading *To Jesus – With Love* interspersed with our own compilation of Loving Jesus songs that we gleaned from FTTs and other Family CDs. We ended with communion where we prayed for the Lord to cleanse our hearts and rid us of any baggage so we could fully partake of all that the Lord had for us.

The day of the fast we began with our intercessory prayer and claiming the keys of the Kingdom promises, as well as verses on strength and power and spiritual victories. We then had prayer vigils for these prayer requests. The Lord gave someone in our Home a great idea for our prayer vigil walks. We have quite a large property and recently our junior teen spent a lot of time on our donated tractor/mower cutting paths through the 17½ acres. We've been using these for get-out and prayer vigil walks. So we nailed envelopes on trees along the path and put the prayer requests in them. Then we started at one end of the trail and pulled a prayer request from the first envelope. Then you'd pray that prayer request until you came to the next tree. You'd put the one you just prayed for in that envelope and take out a new prayer request and kept walking, etc. It took about 20 minutes to cover the whole trail and was a very fun and inspiring way to pray.

We then had our afternoon prayer time to present our personal prayer requests, anoint each other with oil and pray unitedly for the different things we needed to let go of and get victories in our personal lives. Following is one of the prophecies received during this time.

(Jesus speaking:) It is your desperation, your humility of heart and spirit which you have exhibited before Me and your brethren that has been able to unleash the full power of the keys to work miracles on your behalf. This is the day of miracles. So do not forget that one of the prerequisites for miracles to happen is that you be willing to do the humble thing, as you have done this night together. So mark this date when you gathered yourselves together and humbled yourselves under My

mighty hand and opened your hearts before Me and your brethren to unleash the full power of the keys. From this day forward you will see mighty miracles worked on your behalf.

But be aware that the Enemy is furious, for he sees that his end, his doom, is close at hand. He sees the unity of spirit that you have manifested this night, and he is shaking, and he is on the run. But you must keep him on the run by daily manifesting this desperation of spirit, by coming to Me in humility and asking Me to continually keep you filled with My Spirit and renewed with the white hot Words of David. Each and every one of you have come before Me and have pleased Me with the desperate cries of your heart.

Do not judge yourselves or one another, for I look on you as I did upon the sinner who smote his breast and simply said, "Be merciful to me a sinner." Know that your sincerity of heart in which you have asked for forgiveness of your sins and for renewing of spirit has been answered this day. And this answer will be manifested in many ways in your life in the days to come.

So do not give in to your own feelings and thoughts in the days to come, but hold on to the victory that you have this night, and know that you are Mine and My love for you is eternal and that you, My precious ones, My brides, have made Me very proud. So continue on with the good fight of faith, holding on and letting nothing dissuade you. *(End of message from Jesus.)*

"Not bad, Jesus, not bad!"

FGA MAN, USA

The whole "Conviction vs. Compromise" series was real tough to read. Ouch!!! The shoe fit more than tight. Dang, it even hurt! But it spelled out loud and clear what the Lord was expecting. I took quite a lot of time to pray and reflect about the whole thing and the Lord showed me very clearly when and where I took a step down in my service for Him, why I did it and what I was thinking at the time. Crumbs, I blew it, folks! It was so cool to see my son and my two daughters praying individually and writing like mad to get all the answers the Lord was giving them. Guys, I can't tell you how

way out there this fast was and all the Word the Lord gave (both the written GNs and the living Word of prophecy He gave each of us).

Early on the morning of the fast (try 2:45 A.M. for early!) we got up to see the meteor shower. It was so cool.—The Lord gave us a dark night, no moon, no clouds. What a great way to start the fast with signs in the sky and all! Earlier that night when I prayed the prayer of commitment, I had a special experience. During several of the paragraphs, I had tingles all over and could feel a surge of power going through my body from head to toe.—I'm getting it again right now just writing this! I asked the Lord what it was and He told me that it was my new mantle descending upon my shoulders. Then He gave me a vision of it and it looked somewhat like what I figure the musketeer's capes looked like, a blue velvety stuff.

Another cool thing happened. Last month I got to travel to Brazil, and among other things I got to talk to Tommy about outreach and follow up. As soon as I got back we got out on the road to start consolidating our follow up *Activated* style. The Lord shut down all our other fundraisers that we have done to supplement our income. We had no tables nor did we have enough personnel to do car washes. All of our support this month came either through mail ministry or follow up. I have to admit that things have been a bit tight on the funds side; nevertheless, we did make it, PTL. And we laid the groundwork for beginning Bible studies with our contacts and all.

It was like, yeah, this *can* work after all. Not bad, Jesus, not bad!

Stepping stone to victory

FEMALE, IRELAND

I wanted to write a thanks to Mama and Peter for being willing to share with us all that the Lord says even though at the time it may be strong. The fast has been a major stepping-stone in my life regarding getting rid of ungodly attitudes, and to get my convictions stronger in the Family as well as our radical beliefs. It was time to get the rug pulled out from under my feet and have a chance to get needed victories in my personal life and walk with the Lord. Some of the things that He has helped me to gain victories in through this are over bulimia, more love for others, and to really live the Law of Love more fully; to really give it my all and not get too comfortable and lethargic with the world's influences and to have a greater intake of the Word, as well as pour out the Word more to my daughter.

TTL He's given us the keys to help us and to stir us forward. I love you, Mama and Peter. Thank you for your undying love, and for giving us the meat of the word. Please keep it coming.

A better diagnosis

SGA, NIGERIA

I wanted to say thank you to Mama and Peter for having the faith to give us the “Conviction vs. Compromise” series. A couple of months ago, I thought that things were rocking along okay as far as my spiritual life was concerned. I knew that I had a lot of areas that could definitely be worked on, and I would get desperate with the Lord and try to change a little when pertinent Word came out about of my “areas of lack,” but pretty soon things would go back to the way they were and life would continue rocking along.

I love the Family and know this is my place of service, but I have always been the type of person that wants to do something all the way, and if I'm going to be in the Family, I want my light to be burning brightly with conviction and dedication. After starting the series and hearing from the Lord about the questions from the checklist, I started evaluating my life for the Lord and was shocked by what I found. I have definitely become lukewarm in my witness and life in so many areas; it shook me up to see myself for what I am right now. From the series and the prophecy questions I now have my diagnosis, so am praying desperately that I'll follow through on my prescription and do as the Doctor ordered!

Rewards of obedience

SOMEONE AT THE ROSE GARDEN HOME, INDIA

Last month we were low on our finances for the third month in a row, and every month we were getting more and more behind. Thank the Lord that we had reserves so we did not go into debt. This month after we read the latest “Conviction vs. Compromise” series we all took time to search our hearts and ask for prayer and forgiveness from anyone that we had disunity with. And we put in a renewed push on *Activated*. The last few months we had averaged only about 20 *Activated* subscriptions. This month the Lord helped us reach 61 *Activated* subscriptions and in only about seven days, from a desperate situation in finances, the Lord helped us reach our entire budget. The Lord also gave us three new pledgers. Truly a miracle that the Lord does reward obedience and spiritual progress.

The Lord also taught us all to go to the Word for our finances and apply the Word in managing our finances

and being austere, and seeking pledgers so that we can have more time to feed the sheep. Personally for me, being the business teamworker, I am learning not to let problems grow, not to give up, but to fight with the Word and obedience, and prayer.

The deepest desire

FGA FEMALE, RUSSIA

Thank you so much, Mama and Peter, for the “Conviction vs. Compromise” series! It was so needed in my personal life. The Lord told me when I first started to hear from Him about the different questions, “I have much to say to you and if you will diligently seek Me, and then fight with all your might to do what I show you, I promise you great victories in your personal life—victories that have long been the deepest desire of your heart.” It's so true that the deepest desire of my heart was to be delivered from the many devices of the Enemy that were exposed in the series.

Before reading the Letters, I knew that I needed to change, but I felt so overwhelmed when I realized in how many areas I was failing the Lord that I didn't know where to start. So many things were the key to the victory—the keys of the Kingdom, the clear sound of the trumpet the Lord gave through the Letters, the questions to ask the Lord, the to-do lists and finally the fast day. The Lord is so merciful to give me another chance!

I really liked the lists of questions. It was such a lesson on how to apply the New Wine to my own life. I plan to make myself a list of questions like that for each new GN that comes from now on. That's one way to really get the most out of the Word! I've never gotten so many personal prophecies in such a short amount of time before!

The fast was wonderful, renewing, and extremely uniting! We are two Homes living next door to each other, and we decided to have the fast together. We have nine children between the two Homes, and three of our sheep agreed to take care of the children for us so that no one would miss the meetings, GBT! All together we were 17 adults—three FGAs, two SGAs, and 12 young Russian disciples, one of them a new babe!

We so much wanted the tone of the meetings to be one of desperation, as the Lord asked of us. I was concerned that we wouldn't stir ourselves up enough and it would be like “another prayer day,” but the Lord did it! We all got on our faces and wept and cried out to the Lord with all of our hearts for the Family at large and the Spirit really fell!

In the afternoon, as each one read his or her prayer request, it broke our hearts in love for each other. Each person's requests were so sweet and humble and right on the mark. We ended our fast with a dance to Loving Jesus songs.

I feel as though I've been born again, really! I know this victory is real because I've already been tested on many of the things I've gotten delivered from, and it's so much easier to fight now! Thank you so much, dear Mama and Peter, for not being afraid to tell us the truth!

Glad to be in the army

FEMALE (21, TWO YEARS IN THE FAMILY), RUSSIA

The fast helped me to understand where I'm personally at, and what areas I need to change in. I have a bit of self-righteousness in my everyday life and relationships with others. And that's horrible, I know. I thought that I was doing fine and that it was okay that I didn't get along with some people sometimes. After all, everybody is that way! Whenever I had an argument with someone, I didn't feel an urgent need to talk about it with my shepherds or the person I was disputing with and work things out! I would prefer to forget about it rather than try to bring it to the Lord or do something about it. Or even worse, I would just talk about it with someone else for the purpose of getting that person to see things from my viewpoint.

Thank You, my sweet Husband, for showing this to me, for letting me know about the areas that I'm failing You in and compromising. Answering all those questions in the “Conviction vs. Compromise” series opened my eyes to many simple truths that I wasn't able to understand because my pride hindered me terribly. For example, out of my pride I would always do things that are pleasing to me, trying to look good in everybody's eyes. Lord forgive me for being such a horrible sample to those loving, wonderful children of Yours around me. Thank You for giving me another chance to do my best for You, Your sheep, Your Family.

When I fall back into looking at things the way I did before the fast, or treating others the way I did before (impatiently, unlovingly, even selfishly), the picture of all of us in a circle weeping, forgiving each other and becoming new creatures, forgetting our past sins, apologizing to each other, giving hugs, etc., comes to my mind. I don't want to be the way I used to be. I love everyone! I want to appreciate every moment of being in this army, because it's the most important and precious place for me and I'm really thankful to Jesus for choosing me!

entertainment

Movies Rated for Senior Teens and Up

A BEAUTIFUL MIND (2001)

Russell Crowe, Jennifer Connelly, Ed Harris

Drama based on the life of John Forbes Nash, Jr., a math prodigy and Nobel Prize winner who struggled with schizophrenia.

(Jesus:) This movie has good lessons and messages. It shows how real love wins out over some very big obstacles. It also shows some good insight into one of the Enemy's main battlefields, the mind. It's a fighter movie portraying determination and resolve. The movie confirms many things that you've learned from the Word about conflict in the spirit world.

It's a serious movie, so people shouldn't go into it lightly. It's well acted and evokes many strong emotions. It has its sad parts and depicts true-to-life struggles that aren't easy to go through. It's based on a true story, though of course it's dramatized and enhanced some.

Schizophrenia is a real thing, and many people in the world are afflicted by it. It is a device of the Enemy, oft times a delusional tool, but at times also a spiritual attack in which the victim is haunted by spirits and therefore lives a double life. It is not an affliction that is incurable, however. With prayer and the power of the keys, a man's mind can be again set on the straight and narrow path, if he will yield to Me.

However, so many in the world do not have this insight and knowledge. They do not know the truth, so they follow the path of doctors and medication, seeking to sedate the delusion and the spirits with drugs, which often leads to more confusion, depression, and anxiety.

This movie exposes the failure of the System's psychological profession to understand and help those with mental problems and difficulties. Unfortunately it doesn't point the audience to the true source of the solution, which is Me, but at least it points them away from the godless and hopeless outlook that the psychologist had to offer.

I gifted this man with an amazing mind, and I give various ones—geniuses—these outstanding gifts, to demonstrate My mighty power, to show that the mind of man, as created by God, is beyond man's control and ability to discern how it functions. I give some extraordinary gifts of perception, discerning, and specialized ability so that people are reminded of Me, and of how the Creator is far greater than His creation.

This movie shows the life of a man who went through mental torment, but who struggled and fought to regain a semblance of a normal life. He kept his demons, if you will, at bay, choosing to believe the truth rather than what he could see, hear, and feel around him. This is a good parallel of the life of faith.

In your lives for Me, the Enemy is the impostor who calls to you and tries to lead you down another path. Even though he is there, waiting for any opportunity to whisper in your ear and influence your mind and thoughts, you cannot allow yourself to give place to him. You must rebuke him, defy him, cast him out of your mind, and ignore his attempts to pull you off the wall of your life for Me. This is what, to a certain extent, John Nash had to do in his struggle to regain control over his mind and spirit.

Though he has continued to fight this battle (not being privy to the knowledge of My deliverance), he has nevertheless been a good sample of a fighter, of one determined to overcome the obstacles in his life. He shows the victory of a man who desperately determines to harness his mind.

There is no mention of Me and of My help in his life, and that is the downside of this movie. There are certain principles of the spirit that if practiced get results, whether the person acknowledges Me or not, and in this case this man got the desired results by applying those principles. Of course I could help and comfort him a lot more if he would turn to Me for help, but nonetheless he did get a measure of My grace by disciplining his mind.

The movie also shows a beautiful example of love, compassion, and sacrifice in his wife. It shows the power of love, and shows the eventual fruit that love brings when given in sacrifice, humility, and true care.

This is a good movie for some people to see. I say some, because while it's got a good message, and there are things in the movie that will help to enhance your witness and understanding of the troubled people in the world today, it's not for everyone, as there are some disturbing scenes and it's emotionally intense.

The message of love is beautiful, and of course My love is the only love that is strong enough to make it through those deep, dark valleys, and times when all seems lost. My love has the power to completely heal and save, and although they don't give Me the credit in this movie, My love played an integral role in the scenario played out.

Your prayers can help people trapped in such a state. Even if they don't know Me enough to call out to Me personally, your prayers call out on their behalf, and I am able to help them supernaturally. Pray for these people to come to know Me, to know My peace, to have the grace and strength to stand against the attacks of the Enemy.

You can also learn from the spiritual principles in the movie—that his strong pride and desire to “make his mark” allowed his mind to be weakened to reality.

As always, each person should pray before watching. Any questions you come out of the movie with, especially those that relate to the spirit world or mental illnesses, should be brought before Me.

THE GOLDEN BOWL (2001)

Uma Thurman, Jeremy Northam, Kate Beckinsale

Adaptation of Henry James' novel about a turn-of-the-century woman obsessed with her former lover. When he marries into a wealthy art collector's family, she follows suit. Drama with interesting insight into relationships and communication.

(Jesus:) This movie is a peek into the world of a class of people, the nouveau riche who were considered “privileged,” as well as the old-world rich who lost their fortune through neglect and squander through the generations. For those who like period pieces, the costumes, and a peek into how people lived in those days, it will be entertaining.

On the other hand, this is not an easy movie for some to see, because of the intense emotions involved, and the mistakes you watch the main characters make. It begins with a mistake, and wrong motivations.

There is never a justification for deception and for hurting others through deceit and lies. It only causes hurt, and when you undertake something of this nature—deceit and lies and misrepresentations—then you are sowing seeds of disaster and pain.

Love must be with the consent of all parties involved. This is the path that it must take, to avoid hurt. Of course, things can be expressed in such a way as to soften the blow, and while you need to tell your mate the truth, it's not always wise to share all the juicy details. But you do need to be open and up front and honest, and then I, the Lord, will direct accordingly. But deceit and lies and lack of faithfulness in this way lead to disaster.

Strive always to be truthful, My loves, in your loving of each other, and in your sharing of your mates. Do not hide feelings or situations, for this only fosters distrust and causes pain. Be up front, and then get the consent of all involved. For I, the Lord, led you into the Law of Love, knowing that you could bear the sharing with My help, and knowing that the good hurt that is caused would bring you to Me. But the “bad hurt” is what is caused when there is deceit and lies.—Do not let this be true of you.

Movies Rated for JETTs and Up

THE MAJESTIC (2001)

Jim Carrey, Martin Landau

Comedy/drama. A blacklisted screenwriter with amnesia washes up on the shores of a small California town and buoys the residents' spirits, as they believe him to be one of their own sons, lost for nearly a decade after WWII.

(Dad:) This is a movie about truth—about standing up for the truth, regardless of the outcome. About not letting people push you around, or tell you what to say to protect your interests. You can't be pushed around or bullied or otherwise persuaded to stand down from what you know to be true. You can't maintain a lie just to protect yourself.

This movie really shows how one person can make a difference in the lives of many. This man, through a series of unexpected circumstances and events, was able to give love and hope, and mend broken hearts, and his own life was changed for the good because of it as well. This movie has a good message. Even though it's laced with some real “high and mighty spirit of America” type speeches, it also shows the other side of the coin. It shows the corrupt judicial and political system of that time, which has only gotten worse and worse since then.

There are some glorified portrayals of the System and specifically the military. There's also a lot of sentimentality in this movie that some people won't like, but the underlying message is a good one, and I agree with it, and I think it makes the movie worthwhile. This movie takes a poke at those in charge of Hollywood, and of course I always like that too. But most of all, it's about truth and love and the real values in life.

It delivers a good message, and I'm proud of Jim Carrey for presenting it. Pray for him, that he finds the Lord and becomes a tool in His hand.

Movies Rated for OCs and Up

CHILDREN OF HEAVEN (1997)

Mir Farrokh Hashemian, Bahare Seddiqi
(In Farsi with subtitles)

Nine-year-old Ali takes his sister's shoes to the cobbler for repairs, and on the way home, when he stops to pick up vegetables for his mother, a blind trash collector accidentally carries them away. The boy is afraid to tell his parents, convinces his sister to keep quiet, and the two decide to share one pair of shoes with heartwarming results. Touching story with interesting insight into the Iranian culture.

(Note to parents/teachers: The prophecy below brings out some important points to keep in mind if you watch this movie with your children. It's a movie that would require some discussion, as without explaining certain aspects it would be difficult for many children to understand. However, the message also gives away much of the film's plot, so you would probably not want to read this message to the children before watching the movie. Also note that this movie, while many found it touching and uplifting, could also be a bit of a downer for some, young or old, depending on their mood and sensitivities.)

(Jesus:) This movie shows the life of some who, although poor, were rich in love and sacrifice and maturity. Some things are a bit too subtle even for older children who can read the subtitles to catch, so it is a film that should be explained and pow-wowed.

These children had to work hard to help their parents and one another, and it's a good example of helping without complaints or dragging your feet. There are lots of good lessons about how all things work together for good. For example, the father and son had a very long, exhausting journey uptown to do gardening, and the little boy was so tired, but a teacher could later bring out to the children that the fact that the little boy had to do so much running and walking around—to and from school, etc.—is what prepared him to run the four-kilometer race.

His little sister was very wise, even when she saw her missing shoes on the feet of another little girl, she didn't start a fight or try to steal them back. Instead, she waited and took her brother to the house of the girl who had the pink shoes, and when they discovered the little girl's father was blind, they decided not to try to get the shoes back, because they saw that the other little girl was even worse off than them. This also is a good example of thinking of others, and a teacher or parent can bring out the spiritual principle of how God blesses unselfishness.

It will be one of those movies that will help Family children to count their blessings, and it will also broaden their perspective a little bit, to see how some people in the world live. It is something that could be used for a social studies class coupled with a study on this part of the world and Islam in general. It was a good, positive example of how they share and help each other out, basing their lives on their faith.

Even though it ends a little abruptly, the movie or lessons won't be lost on the children if the parent/teacher is faithful to bring out the happy ending that occurred. The parent/teacher can bring out that life is often like that—sometimes you give and sacrifice and try to do good and simply don't see the blessings right away.

The parent/teacher can also bring out the comparison with the boy in the rich section of town, that even though the rich little boy had a big, fancy house to live in and toys and a swimming pool, and new clothes, he didn't have the blessing of a sister or anyone to play with in his big lonely house, and it was very mature of the poor boy not to compare, but simply to be a friend to the lonely rich boy. There are quite a few good morals that a prayerful parent/teacher can glean from this for children as they watch.

The love of this little boy for his sister is a very good example to your kids, to love one another, to truly care for one another with My love. When you are poor and have little, you often find your little blessings are more meaningful. This is how much of the world lives, and this is the life of many of the poor children today. Besides giving a good insight into how others live, it's a sweet example of a good relationship between a brother and sister. Their material blessings are few, but their love is rich. Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Movies Rated for All

DANNY (1970)

Rebecca Page, Janet Zarish

A poor girl comes across an injured horse, nurses it back to health, and grows to love it. However the horse had previously been sold to a wealthy family, whose spoiled daughter, having previously rejected him because of his injuries, now wants the horse back.

(Jesus:) This is a sweet movie, with a simple and sweet message. It's one that's good for the whole family. There isn't anything that's bad or would be harmful to children.

The little ones would certainly like the scenes with the horses. There is no violence or bad language. There is only one scene to be aware of toward the middle of the movie, when the little girl encounters a mean-looking man. You may want to explain to your little ones why he acted like that, and that later on the man is happier.

It has good lessons on working hard for your goals, being faithful, and not losing hope. Overall it is positive, showing that with faith people can change.

OTHER MOVIES

BANDITS (2001)

Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton, Cate Blanchett

(Dad:) It's an "entertainment only" movie with some insight into a threesome. In a way, it confirms the Lord's Words about the Law of Love. There was a good example in this movie of sharing, of love, of caring. It's fun, it's got laughs and you get that without having to see people beat up and killed. It doesn't really portray the right attitudes, because the main characters are going around robbing and stealing, but the way that they do it is polite and not violent.

However, while the acting is good and the plot interesting, it's a little sad that they glorify people who are committing crimes. It's your typical Hollywood film that mixes the bad in with the good. On one hand it's fun and has its laughs, but the bottom line is, lying and stealing is lying and stealing. No matter how nice the bad guys look and seem, no matter how much you might sympathize with them, wrong is still wrong.

For the spiritually mature, it may not be of great consequence to see this film, if they

reject the wrong attitudes and take it where it's at—which is not too deep.

VANILLA SKY (2001)

Tom Cruise, Penelope Cruz, Cameron Diaz

(Dad:) "Vanilla Sky" was an interesting and captivating movie. It kept you thinking. It kept you looking and searching for the answers. It was engrossing as there was a mystery to be answered and understood. However, it was packed with schizophrenic, self-existentialist, and Buddhist thought. This movie was full of the concoctions of mental midgets devoid of real answers who, through their existentialism try to explain the world as a place without God, without salvation, without a concrete answer to life; teaching that there are no absolutes other than the choices of the individual that make or break the person by creating for them the world around them. This is contrary to Christian moral choice that involves judgment of right and wrong, good and bad.

Movies like this are quickly catapulting mankind further into a world without absolutes, where there is no right or wrong, no difference between reality and dream, no life and death, and no salvation. It's riddled with counterfeit truth and counterfeit salvation, counterfeit resurrection and a counterfeit eternity.

That's the way the world is going these days. They're looking for answers to their questions about life, while at the same time rejecting the Answer Giver as too absolute and clear; and it all only leads to anarchy and confusion and deception.

I certainly wouldn't recommend this movie for everyone. But if you really want to see the way the world is going, and get a full hit of the subtle, godless doctrine flooding the world these days; if you want to see a picture of the thinking the Enemy is perpetrating on the ungodly, and the conclusions he is bringing them to, this movie will portray it perfectly for you.

My counsel to folks that watch this would be that they open their eyes, look and see what is going on around them, see how lost, how hopeless, how directionless people are without the lucidity of the Lord, without the wonders of the Word and the answers it gives, without the clarity of our convictions that salvation through Jesus is the way, the truth, the life and the light. Now that is real clarity! It's not a dream. It's not based on the phony or the shallow, the contrived, the godless, or the existentialist. It's based on the rock solid truth, and the fact that they who do know the Lord will be strong, will do exploits, will see and know right from wrong, and be able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. The truth is very clear and knows no confusion.

This movie is interesting and intriguing, but more than anything, it's depressing. It shows a world without God, people without God. It gives you a good, hard look into a man's life without God. Unlike Christians who can claim the promise that "all things work together for good," this is a story of a man who grew bitter and resented his life and the turns it took. This movie also promotes suicide as a plausible way to find answers.

If one takes time for a thorough cleansing afterwards, and that includes asking the Lord to make his or her thoughts His thoughts about the movie, then it won't stumble. You should also pray diligently beforehand. I would not recommend that anyone under YA age view this movie. Nor should anyone watch this who fights bad dreams or is in the midst of strong emotional or mental battles. Be wary, and pray before you view this if you choose to do so.

Pray!



Healing key: Let the sick ones reach out to the keys and grab hold of their power. The keys of the Kingdom have the power to heal, to restore, to make whole, to renew, to reverse any condition.

Answered Prayers

From Bethel, Bolivia: I have to testify that the Lord has healed me almost completely from my problem with the sciatic nerve. It is amazing! The only time it bothers me is if I overdo lifting things or get too rundown. But even then, last time that I overdid and became sick, I thought I'd blown it for not taking care of myself, and was going back to my former sickness, but it lasted only a day and then I was well again. Thank You Jesus! This is a real miracle. The doctors said that it was a problem that was going to worsen in time and they couldn't do anything for me, not even operate.

Europe and Africa

Victoria: Cancer in bones and lungs.

Marie-Claire (of Matthew and Heidi): A form of bone cancer.

Peter (of Dust and Maria): Relapse of leukemia. Undergoing treatment for the third time.

Peter (of Ela): Infection of a heart muscle, apparently caused by a prolonged case of bronchitis. Experiencing daily fatigue, dizziness and swelling on various parts of the body.

Pacific

Megumi: Large, painful tumor.

Mark: Multiple sclerosis.

Shaney (of Cesco and Cryssy): Eye focusing disorder.

Aaron: Lump in the right side of his neck. Will undergo an operation.

North America

Vanessa (5 months, of Stephen and Amber): Recurring fevers. Blood and urinary tract fungal infections. For easy withdrawal from sedatives. Reflux (stomach acids going up past the esophagus, which is causing inflammation and pain in her throat and breathing passage, and can cause pneumonia).

South America

Political and economic stability in **Argentina**.

Love: Cancer of the uterus.

Joana (of Adino): Cancer. Against negative affects of radiotherapy.

Amber: Pain in her liver, and to be able to sleep at night.

Amor (of Juan): Frequent pains in left knee that are currently undiagnosed.

Luz (13, of David and Lily): A congenital degenerative disorder that hinders her growth and has been slowly causing a deterioration of hearing and eyesight.

Ana Ester: Endometriosis, causing abnormal periods and pain.

Tiffany (11, of Isaac and Promise): Headaches and pain in her right eye.

Melody (15, of Isaac and Promise): Scoliosis.

Baby boy, of Renee: Right arm, shoulder and hand are paralyzed, due to being stuck in the mother's pelvis during birth.

Marcin Gabriel (11 months, of Pawel and Melanie): Difficulty eating solids.

Ryan (15, of Sarah): Boils.

Marcus Vinicio (Colombia): Vertigo (sensation of whirling or tilting, causing loss of balance, often caused by disease of the inner ear) and a calculus (abnormal bodily secretion) in ears. Also will undergo an operation to remove a skin tumor.

Personals

Dear **Trusty Wind and your Home** (JA057?), we safely received your gift, but your Home number may be wrong, thus we can't contact you via ABM. Please let us know where you are. Thank you for your help! We love you.—DJ and Davi, RU009, Siberia. E-mail: DanielJeremiah@altavista.com

Richard is looking for **Stephanie Volpe**. We used to live together in Delhi. My e-mail: invincible_ric@yahoo.co.in

Michael and Christy, please contact Moni at CN614 via China Desk.

My name used to be Esther Sunshine (Danish), now Jenai. I was in the States during 84-85, where I stayed with **Malachi and Christina David**. I would like very much to get in touch with you. Please contact me: saeth@access.inet.co.th

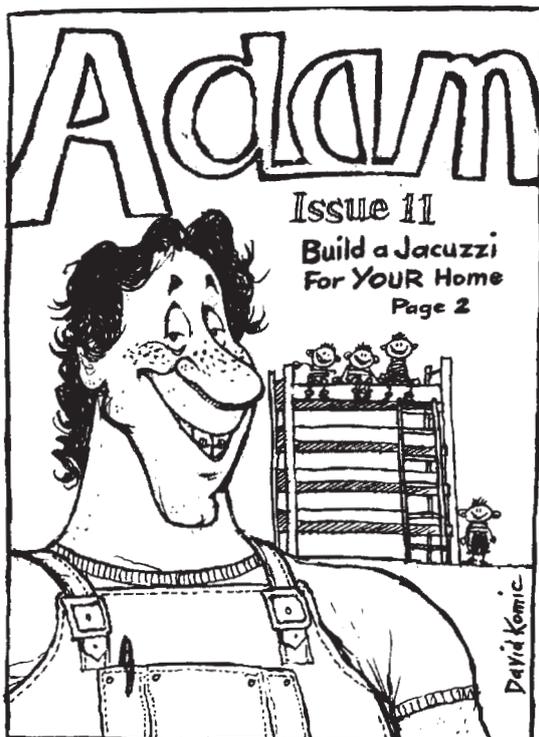
Shine On—December 2001

TEAMWORK	Per Adult	Total
SOUL SHINERS FOR DECEMBER 2001		
Faithy/Mark/Premika, India	3,562	24,937
Claire/Crystal/Daniel/Steven/Steven, India	2,289	13,736
Asaph/Charity/Joy/Tender, Pakistan	2,003	18,030
Samuel H. H., Mexico	2,000	4,000
Charity/Daniel/Happy, India	1,567	9,405
David/Alma, Mexico	1,376	6,880
Hyderabad DeafReach, India	1,286	10,293
Pablo/Hannah, Colombia	1,090	3,272
Andy/Maria/Irene, Colombia	1,072	7,505
Rachel/Andrei, Romania	1,070	3,210

POSTER SHINERS FOR DECEMBER 2001		
Ben/Meekness, Botswana	10,000	20,000
Claire/Maya Woods/Titus Wells, USA	3,000	18,000
Claire/Crystal/Daniel/Steven/Steven, India	2,416	14,500
Chris/Dulci/Pablo, Peru	2,400	12,000
David/Dove, United Kingdom	1,866	5,600
Eli/Tirzah, Japan	1,507	3,015
Charity/Daniel/Happy, India	1,433	8,600
Clare/Matthew/Philip, Taiwan	1,376	8,260
Lalo/Ruth/Faithy, Mexico	1,090	5,448
John/Victory, Thailand	1,037	2,075

TAPE SHINERS FOR DECEMBER 2001		
Jeho/Consuelo/Angel, Brazil	1,743	8,716
Ben/Meekness, Botswana	1,250	2,500
Joao/Clara, Brazil	864	3,456
Cedar Pioneer/Jason Pioneer, Mexico	728	2,185
Crystal/David/Joanna/Peter, USA	497	3,479
Ahlai/Alejandro/Dust/Joni/Paz, Mexico	489	4,890
Josue Siervo/Luz Siervo, Mexico	485	970
Ama/Ben/Juan/Maria/Samuel, Mexico	438	3,507
Maria/Mark/Nick, United Kingdom	420	2,100
Charity Austin/John Austin, USA	351	701

VIDEO SHINERS FOR DECEMBER 2001		
Jeho/Consuelo/Angel, Brazil	456	2,281
Svieta/Dove/Maria, Russia	43	304
Joao/Clara, Brazil	40	163
Daniel/Seth/Spring, Indonesia	40	200
Estrella C., Colombia	31	63
Chris/Ginny/Pablo/Solomon, USA	28	413
Esther/John/Simeon, Indonesia	27	136
Nehemiah/Meekness, United Kingdom	26	134
Daniel, Mexico	23	45
Susan/Peter, France	22	44



Build a Jacuzzi For YOUR Home - Here's How -

1. First clear out everything from your kitchen including stove, shelves, fridge, food-prep counter, sink etc.
2. All you'll now have left will be the 2 meter-wide crater in your kitchen floor from when you cooked that Salmon Supreme, Veal Casserole, Soufflé, Cream of Mushroom, Banana Lasagna. (See Adam Issue 10 for recipe.)
3. Lay ceramic bathroom tiles around the inside of the crater.

4. Install various functional hoses, vents, water-jets, spray nozzles etc.
5. Your Home's new JACUZZI is now ready to use. Great for relaxing in after a full day's OR. and FU! Or how about inviting a nearby Home over for a fun, fast-paced game of indoor water polo on a rainy day.

DON'T MISS next issue's Handyman Feature: Relocating Your Kitchen.

Cover Photo: SGA Ken of Tanya in Kenya praises the Lord after making a set of quadruple bunk beds for his four boys.